

DATES: The public hearings will be held from Thursday, August 1 through Friday August 15, 2013 at ten locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and will conclude no later than 9 p.m. The first public hearing will be a “call-in session” for Reef Fish Amendment 39—Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper, Thursday, August 1, 2013; instructions will be available on our Web site. For specific dates and locations see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The public hearings will be held in the following locations: St. Petersburg, Key West, and Panama City, FL; Grand Isle and Baton Rouge, LA; D’ Iberville, MS; Mobile, AL; Corpus Christi and Texas City, TX.
Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Douglas Gregory, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348–1630; fax: (813) 348–1711; email: doug.gregory@gulfcouncil.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the public hearings are as follows:

Public Hearings: Reef Fish Amendment 39—Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper

1. Consider the delegation of authority for some aspects of red snapper management to the states or regions.
2. Apportioning the federal recreational red snapper quota among states or regions.
3. Management measures which may be modified at state or regional level including season structure, bag limits, size limits, closed areas, and sub-allocations.
4. Process and requirements for delegation, including default management measures.
5. Under regional management, red snapper would remain a federally managed species subject to federal conservation goals, and the Council would continue to oversee management of the stock.

Public Hearings: Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendments 19 and 20—Sale and Permit Provisions and Modifications to the CMP Zone Management

1. Amendment 19 addresses sale and permit provisions for Gulf of Mexico Spanish and king mackerel.
2. Amendment 20 addresses season length, transit provisions, allocation,

and framework procedures for coastal migratory pelagics.

The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at the end of public testimony or no later than 9 p.m. at the following locations:

Thursday, August 1, 2013, call-in session; visit www.GulfCouncil.org for instructions.

Monday, August 5, 2013, Courtyard Marriott, 11471 Cinema Drive, D’ Iberville, MS 39540, telephone: (228) 392–1200.

Tuesday, August 6, 2013, (CMP only) Holiday Inn Select, 2001 N. Cove Boulevard, Panama City, FL 32405, telephone: (850) 769–0000.

Wednesday, August 7, 2013, (Regional Management only) Holiday Inn Select, 2001 N. Cove Boulevard, Panama City, FL 32405, telephone: (850) 769–0000.

Thursday, August 8, 2013, Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602, telephone: (251) 438–4000.

Monday, August 12, 2013, Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Parkway, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, telephone: (727) 540–0050; Hilton Garden Inn, 6717 South Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, telephone: (361) 991–8200.

Tuesday, August 13, 2013, Hampton Inn & Suites, 2320 Gulf Freeway South, League City, TX 77573, telephone: (281) 614–5437.

Wednesday, August 14, 2013, (Regional Management only), DoubleTree, 4964 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, telephone: (225) 925–1005.

Thursday, August 15, 2013, (CMP only) Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Lab, 195 Ludwig Lane, Grand Isle, LA 70358, telephone: (985) 787–2163; (CMP only) Harvey Government Center, 1200 Truman Avenue, Key West, FL 33040, telephone: (305) 292–4431.

Copies of the public hearing documents can be obtained by calling (813) 348–1630 or visiting www.GulfCouncil.org.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these hearings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 12, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2013–17115 Filed 7–16–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA122

Marine Mammals; File No. 14330

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Tribal Government, Ecosystem Conservation Office, St. Paul Island, AK, has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 14330–01.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before August 16, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting “Records Open for Public Comment” from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 14330 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–0376; and Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; phone (907) 586–7221; fax (907) 586–7249.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by

facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 14330-01 is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 14330, issued on August 17, 2009 (74 FR 44822), authorized the permit holder to conduct activities to fulfill their Biosampling, Disentanglement, and Island Sentinel program responsibilities as established under the co-management agreement between NMFS and the Aleut Communities. The activities would result in incidental disturbance of northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during (1) disentanglement events, (2) the collection of biological samples from dead stranded and subsistence hunted marine mammals, and (3) haulout and rookery observations, monitoring, and remote camera maintenance. Samples may be exported to researchers studying the decline of northern fur seals. Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) may be disturbed during the course of these activities. The permit also allowed research-related mortality of northern fur seals.

The permit was amended upon request of the permit holder on March 29, 2011 (76 FR 329), to include authorization for harassment of additional Steller sea lions and harbor seals on St. Paul, St. George, Otter, and Walrus Islands, and Sea Lion Rock, all of the Pribilof Island group in the Bering Sea. The amendment was to annually harass the following during collection of scat samples to be used for characterizing the diet of marine mammals in the region: 100 adult female Steller sea lions, 500 adult male

Steller sea lions, 1400 juvenile male Steller sea lions, 100 male and female Steller sea lion pups, 100 adult female harbor seals, 100 adult male harbor seals, 100 male and female juvenile harbor seals, and 100 male and female harbor seal pups. The amendment is valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on August 31, 2014.

The permit holder is requesting a second amendment to: (1) Add new habitat use studies; (2) increase numbers of animals taken by incidental disturbance; (3) consolidate existing takes of certain age and sex categories and for studies with similar types of incidental disturbance; and (4) extend the permit for one year. The amendment would add harassment takes of 6,450 non-pup northern fur seals and 1,600 northern fur seal pups annually.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are consistent with the Preferred Alternative in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Steller Sea Lion and Northern Fur Seal Research (NMFS 2007), and that issuance of the permit amendment would not have a significant adverse impact on the human environment.

As established under the Preferred Alternative, NMFS proposes to authorize annual cumulative research-related mortality (under this permit in combination with any others for research on Steller sea lions) of up to 15 percent of the Potential Biological Removal levels for each stock. These annual allowances would include observed and unobserved mortalities, and be calculated based on the nature of the research. The numbers of research-related mortalities permitted for this amendment may be higher or lower than those requested by the applicant, based on NMFS calculations using the methods outlined in the PEIS.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: July 12, 2013.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2013-17151 Filed 7-16-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC541

Marine Mammals; File No. 17411

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Dr. Jennifer Burns, University of Alaska Anchorage, Biology Department, Anchorage, AK, to conduct research on marine mammals.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)427-8401; fax (301)713-0376; and Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Amy Sloan, (301)427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 8, 2013, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 14984) that a request for a permit to conduct research on Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit allows: capture of adult female Weddell seals of known-age and known-reproductive history in the Erebus Bay, Antarctica region for health assessments during reproductive and molt periods each year, to include blood samples, muscle/blubber/skin biopsies, morphometric measurements, and attachment of VHF/TDR/GPS tags; recapture of animals to retrieve instruments and collect additional measurements or samples; ground surveys of the population for molt status and demographic models; incidental harassment of crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) during surveys; mortality of adult female Weddell seals and dependent pups; and import of samples for analysis. The permit is valid through June 1, 2018.