

These additional projections are based on assumptions of juvenile red snapper shrimp trawl bycatch mortality and natural mortality suggested by an outside biologist which differ from the assumptions used by NMFS. The outside biologist has proposed that the shrimp trawl bycatch mortality is lower, and the natural mortality is higher, than those used in the NMFS red snapper stock assessments. The results of these analyses will initially be presented by NMFS at the November 13–17, 2000, Council meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi, and may subsequently be reviewed by the RFSAP if requested by the Council. The analyses must be peer reviewed by the RFSAP before they can be used as a basis for changing the red snapper total allowable catch.

Although non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the RFSAP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the RFSAP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: November 14, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00–29637 Filed 11–17–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111500A]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the New England Fishery Management Council's Joint Dogfish Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2000, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton International Hotel, BWI Airport, 7032 Elm Road, Baltimore, MD; telephone 410–859–3300.

Council Address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904. New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, The Tannery — Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone 302–674–2331, ext. 19, or Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone 978–465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to develop recommendations to the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils for management measures for the spiny dogfish fishery for the 2001–2002 fishing year based on recommendations of the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee.

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

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at 302–674–2331 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 15, 2000

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00–29640 Filed 11–17–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 103000C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 821–1588

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Texas A&M University, Department of Marine Biology, 5007 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 776551, (Principal Investigator: Dr. Randall W. Davis), has applied in due form for a permit to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before December 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713–2289);

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702–2432 (813/570–5312); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213 (562/980–4001).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson and Simona Roberts, 301/713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 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 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–227).

The application has three different projects: PROJECT I. — Hunting Behavior and Energetics of Weddell Seals: Up to 40 Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) will be captured, tagged, handled, annually. The study will investigate the behavioral and energetic adaptations that enable Weddell seals to forage in the Antarctic fast-ice environment. Hypotheses on general

foraging strategies, searching behavior, searching mechanics, modes of swimming, metabolic costs of foraging and foraging efficiency for different environmental conditions and prey type will be tested. Activities will occur in Antarctica.

PROJECT II — Stock Assessment: Up to 28 species of cetaceans will be taken by photo-id/photogrammetry, behavioral observation, biopsy sampling and satellite tagging. The goals of this research are to study cetacean behavior through direct observation and by attaching SLTDRs and video camera/data recorders to certain species.

PROJECT III — Physiological Adaptations and Genetics Using Tissues of Marine Mammals: Import/export specimen materials from South Africa, Canada, and other locations as specimens may become available. This study of diving adaptations of marine mammals muscle, skeletal material, and other related samples will be obtained from South Africa, Canada, and possibly other locations.

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 activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

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: November 7, 2000.

Ann D. TerBush,

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

[FR Doc. 00-29638 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110300C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 731-1509-01

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Robin Baird, Ph.D., 2 Supanee Court, French's Road, Cambridge CB4 3LB, UNITED KINGDOM, has requested an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 731-1509-01.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before December 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6426);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213, (562/980-4021); and

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, Federal Building, Room 461, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska 99802, (907/586-7235).

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at 301/713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Lewandowski, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 731-1509-01, issued on November 24, 1999 (64 FR 67563-67564) 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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered

and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 731-1509-01 authorizes the applicant to conduct radio tagging via suction-cup attachment, photo-identification, and behavioral observations of species of cetaceans in the waters of Washington, Southeast Alaska, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and the Mediterranean and Ligurian Seas in order to study diving behavior of the subject cetacean species. The authority of this permit expires on July 31, 2004.

The applicant is now forwarding three requests. (1) Increase suction cup tagging takes of Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in Hawaii from 15 to 35 annually. (2) Increase harassment takes incidental to suction cup tagging of Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in Hawaii from 25 to 50 annually. (3) Allow for biopsy sampling of cetacean species in the following waters:

(a) Mediterranean and Ligurian Seas- 30 takes for each species of Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), Short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*); 15 takes for Fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*); and 45 takes for Sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*).

(b) Hawaii- 60 takes for each species of Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), Melon-headed whale (*Peponocephala electra*), False killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*), Pygmy killer whale (*Feresa attenuata*), Spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*), Pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), Rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*), Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia simus*), Pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*), Bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon sp.*), Baird's beaked whale (*Berardius bairdii*), Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), Blainville's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon densirostris*), Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*); and 45 takes for each species of Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), and Northern right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*).

(c) California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska- 60 takes for each species of Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Short-