

incidental impacts on ESA-listed sea turtles will be minimized. NCDMF would use a variety of adaptive fishery management measures and restrictions through their state proclamation authority to reduce sea turtle mortality.

The EA package includes a draft EA and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which concludes that issuing the incidental take permit is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. Three Federal action alternatives have been analyzed in the EA, including: (1) the no action alternative (deny the ITP); (2) issue the ITP; and (3) close this area to shrimp fishing.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereof to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the NEPA regulations and section 10 (a) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed sea turtles under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: June 11, 2001.

Phil Williams,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060601B]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panels will hold consecutive

work sessions to review assessment information for shortspine thornyhead/ Dover sole, and for sablefish. These meetings are open to the public.

DATES: The STAR Panel for shortspine thornyhead and Dover sole will meet beginning at 8 a.m., July 9, 2001 and continue through July 12, 2001. The STAR Panel for sablefish will meet beginning at 8 a.m., July 13, 2001 and continue through July 16, 2001. The STAR Panels will meet each day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The STAR Panel meetings will be held in the Marilyn Potts Guin Library, at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University, 2030 South Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chuck Tracy or Dan Waldeck, Staff Officers; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Two meetings will be held consecutively, the first from July 9-12, 2001; the second from July 13-16, 2001. The purpose of the first meeting is to review assessments of shortspine thornyhead and Dover sole. The purpose of the second meeting is to review assessments of sablefish. The STAR Panels will work with stock assessment teams to make necessary revisions to assessment documents and produce STAR Panel reports for use by the Council family and other interested persons.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in STAR Panel agendas may come before the STAR Panel for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Panel action during this meeting. STAR Panel 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Panel's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: June 12, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060501D]

Marine Mammals; File No. 775-1600-01

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Permit No. 775-1600, issued to Dr. Micheal P. Sissenwine, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543-1026, has been amended to include takes of 28 species of cetacean for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before July 18, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The amended permit 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); and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508) 281-9250; fax (508) 281-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tammy Adams or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 27, 2000, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 64432) that a request for a scientific research permit to take seven species of baleen whale, 21 species of odontocetes, and four species of pinnipeds had been submitted by the above-named organization.

The requested permit was issued for the four species of pinniped only, 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), pending completion of a consultation on the proposed activities on the species of cetacean listed as endangered, as