

subsistence uses of bowhead whales. As SOI notes in its IHA application, there could be an adverse impact on the Inupiat bowhead subsistence hunt if the whales were deflected seaward (further from shore) in the traditional hunting areas north of Pt. Thomson in Camden Bay. NMFS believes that this could result in whaling crews being forced to travel greater distances to intercept westward migrating whales thereby creating a significant safety hazard for whaling crews (with a potential loss of life), limiting chances of successfully striking and landing bowheads, and/or not landing bowheads quickly before decomposition and spoilage occurs. Prior to issuing an IHA for activities that take place in Arctic waters, NMFS must ensure that the taking by the activity will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on subsistence uses of marine mammals. In 50 CFR 216.103, NMFS has defined an "unmitigable adverse impact" to mean:

an impact resulting from the specified activity: (1) That is likely to reduce the availability of the species to a level insufficient for a harvest to meet subsistence needs by: (i) Causing the marine mammals to abandon or avoid hunting areas; (ii) Directly displacing subsistence users; or (iii) Placing physical barriers between the marine mammals and the subsistence hunters; and (2) That cannot be sufficiently mitigated by other measures to increase the availability of marine mammals to allow subsistence needs to be met.

While SOI states that the potential impact will be mitigated by the application of mitigation procedures described in its application and implemented by a CAA between the SOI, the AEWC and the whaling captains' associations of Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Barrow, the IHA application does not contain suggested measures to mitigate impacts on the fall bowhead subsistence hunt. NMFS presumes that SOI preferred to not make these measures public while it continued discussions with the AEWC and affected whaling captains (see Plan of Cooperation). Mitigation measures suggested publicly include warm shutdown of drilling operations during the subsistence hunt and moving the drilling structures either further offshore or behind the barrier islands. Therefore, while SOI believes that the mitigation measures that will be implemented will minimize any adverse effects on whales and whalers, NMFS has not been provided an opportunity to make a similar determination. In its application, SOI states that it would provide results of its discussion of measures to reduce impacts to subsistence uses for bowhead whales this spring. NMFS encourages SOI to complete its negotiations quickly

to ensure NMFS being able to make the determinations necessary under the MMPA within the time frames provided by the MMPA.

Therefore, provided the mitigation measures contained in the CAA are agreed upon by the involved parties (which does not include NMFS) and provided publically during the public comment period, NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to SOI for conducting an offshore drilling program in the U.S. Beaufort Sea in 2007, provided the previously mentioned monitoring and reporting requirements are incorporated. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed activity would result in the harassment of small numbers of marine mammals; would have no more than a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal stocks; and, subject to development of mitigation measures during discussions with interested parties, would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of species or stocks for subsistence uses.

Dated: April 4, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E7-6753 Filed 4-9-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040507D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Ad Hoc Sector Omnibus Committee (Committee) in April, 2007, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500; fax: (978) 750-7959.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will continue development of sector programs and operational guidelines addressing the specific terms of reference issues provided by the Council.

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 this meeting. 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 Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 5, 2007.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E7-6715 Filed 4-9-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040507C]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Salmon Bycatch Workgroup will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, April 27, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Lupine Room, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W.

4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Stram, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Workgroup will receive background information on salmon bycatch patterns, stock of origin information and methodology for establishment of previous catch limits for salmon species in the Bering Sea Aleutian Island trawl fisheries. Plans for development of Workgroup recommendations for options of catch limits (hard caps and trigger caps) by species during the May Workgroup meeting.

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 this meeting. 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.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 5, 2007.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E7-6714 Filed 4-9-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040507E]

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Rock Shrimp Advisory Panel and Golden Crab Advisory Panel, in Charleston, SC.

DATES: The meetings will take place May 1-3, 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (800) 334-6660 or (843) 571-1000; fax: (843) 766-9444.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the Rock Shrimp Advisory Panel will meet from 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. on May 1, 2007, and from 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon on May 2, 2007.

The Rock Shrimp Advisory Panel will meet jointly with the Golden Crab Advisory Panel from 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. on May 2, 2007. The Golden Crab Advisory Panel will meet from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on May 3, 2007.

Both the Rock Shrimp and Golden Crab Advisory Panels (APs) will receive the following presentations: (1) an overview of the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), (2) deepwater coral habitats in the South Atlantic Region, and (3) Vessel Monitoring Systems and electronic logbooks currently in use by the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery. Following the presentations, advisory panel members will discuss and provide recommendations on the development of allowable gear zones and designations of deepwater coral areas as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) as alternatives to be included in the Council's Comprehensive Amendment to the FEP. The Rock Shrimp AP and Golden Crab AP will meet jointly to discuss common fishing areas.

In addition, the Rock Shrimp AP will provide recommendations regarding the current "Use it or Lose it" provision for the rock shrimp fishery. The provision, created as part of a limited access program for the rock shrimp fishery through Amendment 5 to the Shrimp Fishery management Plan (FMP) for the South Atlantic Region, states that if a limited access rock shrimp permit is "not active" during a 48 month period (4 calendar years) it will not be renewed and criteria will be applied to put the permit back in the limited access rock shrimp fishery. A rock shrimp limited access permit is defined as inactive when the vessel it is attached to has less

than 15,000 pounds of documented rock shrimp harvest from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) within the South Atlantic Council's area of jurisdiction in a calendar year. The Rock Shrimp AP will also provide a description of the rock shrimp fishery and the royal red shrimp fishery for inclusion in the FEP. The Golden Crab AP will provide a description of the golden crab fishery for the FEP as well.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meetings. Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: April 5, 2007.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E7-6716 Filed 4-9-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.040407A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 984-1814-01

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Terrie Williams, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Center for Ocean Health - Long Marine Laboratory, University of California, 100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA, 95060 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 984-1814.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review