

(1) Verify the impact of research vessels during boat based behavioral follows, (2) further understand how female-calf pairs use breeding ground habitat, potentially identifying key resting regions and establishing the degree to which female-calf pairs circulate within vs. move between specific favored female-calf regions, and (3) further document the behavioral dynamics of newly-independent yearlings within breeding regions. The amended permit would expire on June 30, 2013.

A draft supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit. The draft SEA is available for review and comment simultaneous with the scientific research permit application.

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 15, 2011.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-30013 Filed 11-18-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA837

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on December 13, 2011 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: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane

Boston, MA 02210; *telephone:* (617) 385-4000; *fax:* (617) 385-4001.

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 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will discuss the 2012 SSC calendar and tasks, social science issues including socioeconomic considerations in setting acceptable biological catches (ABCs); improving SSC outreach, research priorities, advisory panel input in the process for making ABC recommendations, SSC liaison assignments to Council Plan Development Teams, using Council advisory panel information in developing ABC recommendations; risk policy development, 2012 National SSC Workshop recommendations and NRCC Assessment Workgroup recommendations.

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: November 16, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-29950 Filed 11-18-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA829

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Administrative Committee will hold meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on December 13-14, 2011. The Council will convene on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Administrative Committee will meet from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Council will reconvene on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at Marriott Frenchman's Reef Hotel, 5 Estate Bakkeroe, St. Thomas, USVI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1920; *telephone:* (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 141st regular Council meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

December 13, 2011—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Call to Order.
- Adoption of Agenda.
- Consideration of the 140th Council Meeting Verbatim Transcriptions.
- Executive Director's Report.
- Catch Share Project Update—Flavia Tonioli.
- Parrotfish Size and Bag Limit—Mike Larkin.
- USVI Traps Reduction Project Report.
- SSC Meeting Report:
 - ERAFF.
 - Legal Opinion SSC Role.
 - Other Issues.

Public Comment Period—(5) Five-Minutes Presentations

December 13, 2011—5:15 p.m.–6 p.m.

- Administrative Committee Meeting (Closed Session):
 - Budget Update FY 2011/12.
 - International Queen Conch Initiative Conference 2012 (IQCI).
 - Other Business.

December 14, 2011—8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

- SAFMC Information and Education Overview—Utilizing the Advisory Panel Process and Partnerships—Kim Iverson.

- Encouraging Effective Stakeholder Participation in the Fisheries Management Process—Emily Muelhston.

- Yellowtail Update and Report on Data Relevant to ACLs in St. Thomas—St. John—David Olsen.

- Queen Conch Compatibility Issues.
- Compatibility Issues among Bajo de Sico, Tourmaline and Abril la Sierra.

- Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Update—Peter Cooper and Delisse Ortíz:

- Amendment 4–6 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

- HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting System (eDealer).

Enforcement Reports

- Puerto Rico—DNER.

- U.S. Virgin Islands—DPNR.

- NOAA/NMFS.

- U.S. Coast Guard.

- Administrative Committee Recommendations.

- Meetings Attended by Council Members and Staff.

Public Comment Period (5-Minutes Presentations)

- Other Business.

- Next Council Meeting.

The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. To further accommodate discussion and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Special Accommodations

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be subjects for formal action during this meeting. Actions 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 that 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. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1920, telephone (787) 766–5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 16, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–29997 Filed 11–18–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XA792

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Physical Oceanographic Studies in the Southwest Indian Ocean, January Through February, 2012

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received an application from the United States Navy (Navy) for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting physical oceanographic studies in the southwest Indian Ocean, January through February, 2012. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to the Navy to incidentally harass, by Level B harassment only, 29 species of marine mammals during the specified activity.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than December 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The mailbox address for providing email comments is ITP.Magliocca@noaa.gov. NMFS is not responsible for email

comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

An electronic copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document may be obtained by writing to the above address, telephoning the contact listed here (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) or visiting the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>.

In accordance with Executive Order 12114, the Navy has prepared a draft Overseas Environmental Assessment (OEA), which is also available on the Internet. Documents cited in this notice may be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Magliocca, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to authorize, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals of a species or population stock, by United States citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for the incidental taking of small numbers of marine mammals shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant). The authorization must set forth the permissible methods of taking, other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat, and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring