

ACTION: Notice of Public Hearings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public hearings to solicit comments on draft Amendment 26 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that contains alternatives to establish an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the commercial red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico that has been declared to be overfished and undergoing overfishing.

DATES: The public hearings and workshops will be held from October 17 through October 26 at 8 locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. For those who are unable to attend one of these meetings, a conference call number will be available on Wednesday, October 19, 2005. For specific dates and times see

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

ADDRESSES: The public hearings and workshops will be held in the following locations: Brownsville, Galveston, and Port Aransas, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Pascagoula, Mississippi; Orange Beach, Alabama; and Panama City and Tampa, Florida. For specific dates and times (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public hearings to solicit comments on Draft Amendment 26 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that contains alternatives to establish an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the commercial red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico that has been declared to be overfished and undergoing overfishing. The IFQ program is being considered to address existing and emerging problems resulting from overcapitalization in this fishery while it recovers. Actions being considered as part of the IFQ program include: its duration; eligibility for shares; initial allocation of shares; potential caps and/or restrictions on shares; and transferability of shares. Other actions being considered include: whether or not shares must be used; how adjustments to the commercial quota will affect allocations and shares; the possible requirement of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) on participating vessels; and a cost recovery plan.

The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude no later than 10 p.m. at each of the following locations:

Monday, October 17, 2005, National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408, (850) 234-6541;

Tuesday, October 18, 2005, Hilton Garden Inn Orange Beach, 23092 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach, AL 36561, (251) 974-1600;

Wednesday, October 19, 2005, LaFont Inn, 2703 Denny Avenue, Pascagoula, MS 39567, (228) 762-7111;

Wednesday, October 19, 2005, Tampa Marriott Westshore, 1001 North Westshore Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33607, (813) 287-2555;

Thursday, October 20, 2005, Sheraton Baton Rouge, 102 France Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 242-2600;

Monday, October 24, 2005, Four Points by Sheraton, 3777 North Expressway, Brownsville, TX 78520, (956) 547-1500;

Tuesday, October 25, 2005, University of Texas Marine Science Institute Auditorium, 750 Channel View Drive, Port Aransas, TX 78373, (361) 749-6711;

Wednesday, October 26, 2005, Holiday Inn Galveston, 5002 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77550, (409) 740-3581.

Individuals interested in participating in the public hearing process but are unable to attend any of the scheduled hearings, may participate during the October 19, 2005 hearing via telephone. Interested parties should call (800) 547-5078 from any phone at 6 p.m. EDT. A copy of the amendment and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at (813) 348-1630. These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: October 6, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E5-5593 Filed 10-12-05; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 100605D]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; public meeting; public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet to discuss measures for reducing interactions between seabirds and longline fishing.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2005, at 12 noon HST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via telephone conference call at the Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522-8220; fax: (808) 522-8226. The call-in number for the conference call is: (866) 867-8289, and the passcode is: 1683776.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kitty M. Simonds, Council Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the Council meeting's agenda are as follows:

1. Pelagic Fisheries.

On April 6, 2005, the Council transmitted to NMFS an amendment to the Council's Fishery Management Plan for Pelagic Fisheries in the Western Pacific (FMP), that recommended new measures for mitigating interactions between pelagic longline vessels and seabirds. This amendment would require all Hawaii-based longline fishing vessels to either (a) side-set (deploy longline gear from the side of the vessel rather than from the stern), or (b) use a combination of other mitigation measures to prevent seabirds (e.g., Laysan and black-footed albatrosses), from being accidentally hooked or entangled during fishing operations in certain areas. These measures would also reduce the potential for fishery interactions with endangered short-tailed albatrosses that are known to be in the area in which the fishery operates. On July 13, 2005, NMFS published a proposed rule (70 FR 40302) with a request for public comments. Comments received indicated that modification of some aspects of the proposed measures should be considered, based on recent observer and experimental observations.

Under the proposed rule, seabird mitigation measures would be required everywhere for Hawaii-based vessels using shallow-set longline fishing gear, and north of 23°N latitude for Hawaii-based vessels using deep-set longline fishing gear. Operators of shallow-setting longline vessels that elect not to side-set would continue to be required

to use thawed, blue-dyed bait, to start and complete the setting process during the night (specifically to begin deployment of the gear no earlier than one hour after local sunset and to finish deployment no later than local sunrise), and to strategically discard fish offal (i.e., on the opposite side from where the longline is being set). Under the proposed rule, they would also be required to employ a bird scaring device, or tori line, in addition to the above measures.

Public comments received on the proposed rule questioned the need to deploy tori lines on shallow-setting vessels. Also, recent analyses of information collected by Federal observers (required on all Hawaii-based shallow-setting longline vessels) in the first half of 2005 found that seabird interaction rates during this time period were less than 10% of the historical average. This appears to result from the night-setting requirement established in 2004, and is consistent with earlier research results. The Council will, therefore, consider action to modify the proposed rule to remove the tori line requirement for these vessels.

Under the proposed rule, 60 g (2.1 oz) weights would be required within one meter of each hook when side-setting. Public comments received during the development of the amendment and on the proposed rule indicated that there were serious safety concerns about the required use of these relatively large weights, although such weights are currently used on some vessels. Commenters stated that fishery participants can be and have been seriously injured or killed when struck by longline weights ricocheting from snapped lines. Although the original trials which led to the development of the amendment employed 60 g weights, subsequent research found that the sink times of 40g and 60 g weights differ by only a tenth of a second, suggesting that the 45 g weights, which are most commonly employed in the Hawaii-based longline fishery, would not affect the efficacy of side-setting in minimizing seabird interactions. Therefore, the Council will also consider action to require weights of 45 g or heavier when side-setting, instead of the 60 g weights included in the proposed rule.

A public hearing will be held during the Council meeting to give the public opportunity to comment before the Council takes action on this agenda item.

2. Other Business.

Although non-emergency issues that are not contained in this agenda may

come before the Council 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 document and to any issue arising after publication of this document that requires emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that 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 Kitty M. Simonds, telephone: (808) 522-8220, fax: (808) 522-8226, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 6, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E5-5592 Filed 10-12-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092905C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1078-1796

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that The Georgia Aquarium, 2451 Cumberland Parkway, Suite 3639, Atlanta, GA 30339-6157 [Jeffery S. Swanagan, Responsible Party] has been issued a permit to import two beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) for public display.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review 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)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Skidmore or Kate Swails, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 5, 2005, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 38658) that a request for a public display permit to import two male, adult beluga whales from Grupo Empresarial Chapultepec, S.A. DE C.V., Mexico City, Mexico to the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, GA had been submitted by the above-named organization. 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.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Dated: October 6, 2005.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 05-20553 Filed 10-12-05; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Petition Requesting Amendment to Ban on Infant Pillows (Petition HP 05-1)

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission or CPSC) has received a petition (HP 05-1) requesting that the Commission amend the ban on infant pillows to permit the use of such pillows if they are designed, intended and promoted for nursing, and when such pillows are requested by a pediatrician or board certified lactation consultant. The Commission solicits written comments concerning the petition.

DATES: The Office of the Secretary must receive comments on the petition by December 12, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the petition may be filed by e-mail to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments may also be filed by facsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by mail, preferably in five copies, to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission,