

Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to JoAnna Grable, (301) 713-1364, or at [JoAnna.Grabble@noaa.gov](mailto:JoAnna.Grabble@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

In 2003, NOAA awarded approximately 600 grants for sponsored fishery-related activities involving about \$350 million in Federal funds. About 60% of the total number of fishery grant awards (360) were made on a noncompetitive basis. Many of these noncompetitive grants provide pass through funds to states and other entities to support such ongoing activities as: fisheries research and data collection, participation in international fisheries commissions, fishery management council operations, and the operation of fish hatcheries.

This information collection will provide noncompetitive grant applicants and recipients with standardized guidance on information required by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in a project narrative (as part of a grant application) and the information required in interim and final performance reports. The information collection will assist NOAA and NMFS staff in the review and management of the noncompetitive grants.

Currently, NMFS does not require grant applicants and recipients of noncompetitive grants to provide standardized information in the project narratives (application) and performance reports. Applicants for and recipients of noncompetitive grants provide information they deem appropriate, or information prescribed by their particular organization. NMFS requests applicants to provide standardized information in project narrative to aid Agency staff in determining whether proposed activities are: allowed under the funding authority; considered technically sound; investigators qualified; and budget costs correlate to proposed work activities. Similarly, NMFS requests recipients of noncompetitive grants to provide standardized information about ongoing or completed grant activities to assist staff in evaluating and certifying whether the recipient is meeting or has met the goals and objectives established in the award agreement.

**II. Method of Collection**

The Agency will send a letter or e-mail to noncompetitive grant applicants

and include a written format describing what information is required in the project narrative portion of a grant application. When the application is approved for funding, the Agency will include interim and final performance report formats as a special award condition to the grant agreement. These report formats will prescribe all information that must be included by the recipient in performance reports.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* State, Local or Tribal Government; not-for-profit institutions; business or other for profit organizations; and household or individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 360.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 10 hours for a Project Narrative; 5 hours for a Progress Report; and 15 hours for a Final Report.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 12,600.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$21,960.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-93 Filed 1-2-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 122903F]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

**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 (Council) and its Demersal Species Committee (meeting as a Council committee of the whole together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board), Ecosystems Committee, and Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, through Thursday, January 22, 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Old Town Holiday Inn Select, 480 King Street, Old Town Alexandria, VA, telephone: 703-549-6080.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone: 302-674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On Tuesday, January 20, the Demersal Species Committee meeting as a Council Committee of the Whole with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board will meet from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Wednesday, January 21, The Ecosystems Committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee will meet from 10 a.m. to noon. Council will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Thursday, January 22, Council will meet from 8 a.m. until approximately 3 p.m.

Agenda items for the Council's committees and the Council itself are: Address Framework 5 multi-year specification action for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass; Address how to deal with rebuilt stocks, and review essential fish habitat (EFH) issues and develop comments on NMFS EFH final rule, address use of habitat areas of particular concerns and marine

protected areas in Mid-Atlantic exclusive economic zone and consider renaming the Ecosystem Committee; Finalize issues to be addressed for Amendment 9 public hearing draft and address issues to be included in Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish fishery management plan; Receive briefing from NMFS officials on its fishery dependent data collection systems (recreational and commercial) and receive comment on the proposed regulations for electronic dealer reporting; Receive update on NMFS bycatch activities; Receive report on cooperative research activities involving National Fisheries Institute-SMC, Rutgers University, Northeast Fisheries Science Center; Receive report on most recent Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Research Committee process; Receive and hear committee and organizational reports, and act on any new and/or continuing business, e.g., reinitiation of tilefish limited entry system.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these 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 actions to address such emergencies.

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 the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

[FR Doc. E4-196 Filed 01-02-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122903E]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Social Sciences Advisory Committee in January, 2004 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 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

*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 (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Social Science Advisory Committee will review progress on the development of Amendment 1 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) including social and economic data and analytical approaches being utilized in the Herring Amendment 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS).

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 (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

[FR Doc. E4-197 Filed 01-02-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122303J]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 1048-1717

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Peter J. Stein, Scientific Solutions, Inc., Nashua, New Hampshire, has been issued a permit to take the marine mammals listed below for purposes of scientific research.

**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)713-0376, [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res); and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tammy Adams or Steve Leathery, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 5, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 62563) that a request for a scientific research permit to take gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), endangered blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*), endangered fin whales (*B. physalus*), endangered humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), minke whales (*B. acutorostrata*), endangered sei whales (*B. borealis*), endangered sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), northern right whale dolphins (*Lissodelphis borealis*), killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), Baird's beaked whales (*Berardius bairdii*), mesoplodont beaked whales (*Mesoplodon spp.*), Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), threatened Guadalupe fur seals (*Arctocephalus*