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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Hapeman or Jaclyn Daly,
(301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–226).

The Whale Center of New England requests a 5–year scientific research permit to continue population monitoring of humpback, fin, and sei whales in North Atlantic waters of the northeastern and mid-Atlantic U.S. Research would help determine baleen whale population status and trends, assess prey availability and whale-prey interactions, and help develop a technique to age whales from biopsy samples. The applicant is requesting to harass 400 humpback, 250 fin, and 100 sei whales by close approach for vessel surveys and photo-identification annually. The applicant also requests to biopsy sample 75 humpback and 75 fin whales annually, up to 20 of which for each species may be young calves. The applicant also requests to suction-cup tag 40 humpback, 20 fin, and 25 sei whales greater than six months of age annually. With this new permit application, the request for an amendment to Permit No. 605–1607–02, published on April 7, 2004 (69 FR 18357), has been withdrawn.

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: February 28, 2007.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E7–3900 Filed 3–6–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030107E]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 26 – 30, 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites, 570 Scenic Gulf Drive, Destin, FL 32550.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

Thursday, March 29, 2007

8:30 a.m. – The Council meeting will begin with a review the agenda and minutes.

8:45 a.m. – 9 a.m. – Public testimony on exempted fishing permits (EFPs), if any.

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – The Council will hold an Open Public Comment Period regarding any fishery issue or concern. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card prior to the comment period.

The Council will then review and discuss reports from the previous three day's committee meetings as follows:

1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management;

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Reef Fish Management;

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – CLOSED SESSION for Advisory Panel (AP) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Section Committees and Reef Fish Committee;

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – NMFS Public Scoping Session on guidance for use of the annual catch limits.

Friday, March 30, 2007

8:30 a.m. – The Council meeting will reconvene to continue reviewing and

discussing reports from the previous three day's committee meetings as follows:

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. – Mackerel

Management;

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum;

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. – Budget/Personnel;

9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m. – Data Collection;

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Administrative Policy; and

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Other Business items.

Committees

Monday, March 26, 2007

1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – CLOSED SESSION – The AP Selection Committee will meet to appoint AP members.

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. – CLOSED SESSION – The SSC Selection Committee will meet to appoint SSC, Stock Assessment Panel (SAP) and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) members.

5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – The Budget/Personnel Committee will meet to discuss the State Liaison Budget Increases.

Tuesday March 27, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. – The Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committee will meet to review Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) Analyses Runs. The Committee will also review the current Public Hearing Draft of Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14 and the SSC's recommendations; the NMFS' FEIS and Interim Rule for Red Snapper; the SEFSC Report on Release Mortality in Relation to Depth and Dolphin Predation, the Framework Action to Revise the List of Allowable bycatch reduction devices (BRDs); NMFS Interim Rule for Red Snapper; and an Options Paper for Reef Fish Amendment 31/Shrimp Amendment 15.

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – The Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committee continues.

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 12 noon – The Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to discuss the updates on Reef Fish Amendment 29; the Ad Hoc Grouper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) AP recommendations for an IFQ program; the Guidelines for a Referendum for Grouper/Tilefish IFQ; the Scoping Document for Amendment 30; PARTIALLY CLOSED SESSION – the formation of an Ad Hoc Recreational Red Snapper AP for developing new ideas to manage recreational and for-hire red snapper fisheries.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - The Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Committees will meet to discuss the Status Report on a Public Hearing Draft for the Generic Aquaculture Amendment and SSC Recommendations on completing a Red Drum SEDAR Stock Assessment.

2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. - The Administrative Policy Committee will meet to discuss the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) Requirements for Annual Catch Limits.

4 p.m. - 5 p.m. - The Data Collection Committee will meet to discuss a paper for an Amendment to Require Trip Tickets for Recreational-For-Hire Sector.

5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - The Mackerel Management Committee will meet to reconsider the Joint Mackerel Management Committee report from its September 18 & 19, 2006 meeting.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - NMFS will provide an update on the Red Snapper IFQ program and there will be a Question and Answer Session.

The committee reports will be presented to the Council for consideration on Thursday March 29, and on Friday, March 30, 2007.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency. 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. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: March 2, 2007.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E7-3954 Filed 3-6-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 0612242656-7046-01]

Public Telecommunications Facilities Program: Closing Date

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, P. L. 110-5, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce, announces the solicitation of applications for planning and construction grants for public telecommunications facilities under the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP). The PTFP assists, through matching grants, in the planning and construction of public telecommunications facilities in order to: (1) Extend delivery of services to as many citizens as possible by the most cost-effective means, including use of broadcast and non-broadcast technologies; (2) increase public telecommunications services and facilities available to, operated by, and controlled by minorities and women; (3) strengthen the capability of existing public television and radio stations to provide public telecommunications services to the public.

DATES: Applications must be received prior to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (Closing Time), April 6, 2007, (Closing Date). Applications submitted by facsimile are not acceptable. If an application is received after the Closing Date due to (1) carrier error, when the carrier accepted the package with a guarantee for delivery by the Closing Date and Closing Time, (2) significant weather delays or natural disasters, or (3) delays due to national security issues, NTIA will, upon receipt of proper documentation, consider the application as having been received by the deadline. NTIA will not accept applications posted on the Closing Date or later and received after this deadline.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a printed application package, submit completed applications, or send any other

correspondence, write to PTFP at the following address (please note the new room number): NTIA/PTFP, Room H-4812, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Application materials may be obtained electronically via the Internet at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ptfp> or www.Grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Cooperman, Director, Public Broadcasting Division, telephone: (202) 482-5802; fax: (202) 482-2156.

Information about the PTFP can also be obtained electronically via the Internet at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ptfp>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

The full funding opportunity announcement for the PTFP FY 2007 grant cycle is available through www.Grants.gov or by contacting the PTFP office at the address noted above.

Funding Availability

The Congress has appropriated \$20 million for FY 2007 PTFP awards. For FY 2006, NTIA awarded \$19.2 million in PTFP funds to 94 projects, including 49 radio awards, 40 television awards and 5 nonbroadcast awards. The radio awards ranged from \$8,000 to \$902,393. The television awards ranged from \$48,712 to \$1,000,000. The nonbroadcast awards ranged from \$67,455 to \$253,782.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 390-393, 397-399(b). The PTFP operates pursuant to rules (1996 Rules) which were published on November 8, 1996 (61 FR 57966). Copies of the 1996 Rules (15 CFR part 2301) are posted on the NTIA Internet site at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/Rules/currentrules.htm> and NTIA will make printed copies available to applicants upon request.

Supplemental Policies

The following supplemental policies will also be in effect:

(A) Applicants may file emergency applications at any time.

(B) Applicants may file requests for Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorizations with the FCC after the PTFP Closing Date. Grant applicants for Ku-band satellite uplinks may submit FCC applications after a PTFP award is made. NTIA may accept FCC authorizations that are in the name of an organization other than the PTFP applicant.