

published a notice on September 4, 2001, describing the Ocean Exploration Program and soliciting proposals in support of its mission (66 FR 46260). The program description, funding guidance, submission procedures, evaluation criteria, selection process, and background are in that notice and are not repeated here. The original notice's independent peer mail review procedure defined a requirement for receipt of 3 mail-in reviews before panel review. This requirement is beyond the agency's control and ability to attain within the time available to commence the 2002 field season. The Office hereby revises the mail-in review requirements (page 46262, column 3, section XII, first sentence) to read as follows: "Proposals will be evaluated by an independent peer mail review, i.e., each proposal will be reviewed, by *at least two* qualified scientific and/or technical peers * * *".

Applications under this solicitation will be subjected to both a mail review and a panel review.

Program authority: 33 U.S.C. 883d; (CFDA No. 11.460)—Special Oceanic and Atmospheric Projects.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 02-6250 Filed 3-14-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031102A]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notification of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS and the NPFMC will hold a workshop March 25–26, 2002, to discuss effects of fishing on habitat, mitigation tools and fishery descriptions. The NPFMC will hold an essential fish habitat (EFH) committee meeting on March 27, 2002.

DATES: The workshop will be on Monday, March 25, 2002, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2002. The EFH committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The workshop and committee meeting will be in Seattle,

WA, in Building 9, at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Western Regional Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.

Questions should be addressed to NMFS, Habitat Conservation Division, ATTN: Cindy Hartmann, 709 West 9th, Suite 801, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cindy Hartmann, NMFS, (907) 586-7585, e-mail:

Cindy.Hartmann@noaa.gov; or Cathy

Coon, NPFMC, (907) 271-2809, e-mail:

Cathy.Coon@noaa.gov. To facilitate security clearance at the NOAA facility the public is requested to contact Cindy by March 22, 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The focus of the workshop will be a discussion of the effects of fishing on EFH including the following: (1) A discussion of the criteria on what is a minimal and what is a temporary impact on EFH; (2) Review of the scientific studies on gear impacts pertinent to Alaska fisheries; (3) Discussion of a set of tools for mitigating adverse impacts and to what situations they apply; (4) Description of Alaska fisheries. The discussion of criteria for a minimal and temporary impact, review of scientific studies on gear impacts pertinent to Alaska fisheries and an initial discussion of mitigation tools and to what situations they apply is planned for Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, participants will break into four workgroups to revise fishery descriptions, discuss potential adverse effects of their specific fisheries and discuss mitigation tools and their application to their fisheries.

For further information about the EFH supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), see the notice of intent to prepare an SEIS published in the Proposed Rules section of the **Federal Register** (66 FR 30396, June 6, 2001). For further information on the preliminary alternative approaches for the designation of EFH and habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) see 67 FR 1325, January 10, 2002.

On March 27, 2002, the EFH Committee meets to: review fishery descriptions; discuss potential mitigation tools from each subgroup and any other group products; develop committee recommendations for the April NPFMC meeting; and plan for future EFH Committee tasks and meetings.

The NPFMC EFH committee was formally established by the NPFMC's acting executive director in May 2001.

The committee was established in response to the need to prepare an SEIS for the EFH fishery management plan amendments. The function of the committee is to serve as a steering committee in facilitating input to NMFS on the SEIS for EFH submitted by the industry, conservation community, Council, and general public and the involvement of the NPFMC in the SEIS. The Committee will work to provide input as appropriate, and submit periodic updates to the Council on the environmental impact statement for EFH. Further information on the EFH Committee can be found on the NPFMC web site at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Committees/EFH/efh.htm>.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during the meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cindy Hartmann, (907) 586-7235, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 11, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 02-6182 Filed 3-14-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030802A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a research and enhancement permit (1368).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following action regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): NMFS has received an application for a research/enhancement permit from Dr. John Hunter, of the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center of the (SFSC).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on April 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the new application should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The application and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2289, fax: 301-713-0376).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lillian Becker, Silver Spring, MD (phone: 301-713-2319, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Lillian.Becker@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Scientific research and/or enhancement permits are issued under section 10 (a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice:

Mollusks

Endangered White Abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*)

Application 1368

The applicant proposes to breed and reintroduce white abalone in southern California. The applicant wants to collect up to 50 white abalone per year for five years in order to breed, grow out and reintroduce the progeny to the wild. Wild abalone will be collected using ROVs and divers. The animals will be transported to the laboratory and induced to spawn using H₂O₂ or the thermal shock method. The progeny will be grown to 15-100mm before introduction. Precautions will be taken to avoid disease and inbreeding.

Dated: March 11, 2002.

Ann Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 02-6311 Filed 3-14-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012302D]

Marine Mammals; File No. 751-1614-00

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Ocean Alliance/Whale Conservation Institute, 191 Weston Road, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773 [Dr. Celine Godard, Principal Investigator] has been issued a permit to take 13 species of odontocete whale and eight species of baleen whale for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Ruth Johnson, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 8, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 30885) that a request for a scientific research permit

to take 13 species of odontocete whale and eight species of baleen whale for purposes of scientific research 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), 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 parts 222-226).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249;

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

Protected Species Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm. 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 973-2935; fax (808) 973-2941;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978) 281-9200; fax (978) 281-9371; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727) 570-5301; fax (727) 570-5320.

Dated: March 11, 2002.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 02-6310 Filed 3-14-02; 8:45 am]

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