

5. January 29, 2013: Doubletree Cocoa Beach, 2080 North Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931; phone: 321/783-9222.

6. January 30, 2013: Holiday Inn Key Largo, 99701 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo, FL 33037; phone: 305/451-2121.

Council Address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone 843/571-4366 or toll free 866/SAFMC-10; FAX 843/769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion are as follows:

Scoping: Amendment 5 to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP

1. This amendment would revise: the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC); the Annual Catch Limit (ACL), including sector ACLs; sector allocations; and recreational Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for dolphin and wahoo based on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) estimates.

2. Additionally, the amendment would: revise the accountability measures for dolphin and wahoo; modify the dolphin sector allocations; and revise the framework procedure in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP.

3. Written comments may be directed to Bob Mahood, Executive Director, SAFMC (see Council address) or via email to: DWAmend5ScopingComments@safmc.net. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on February 4, 2013.

Public Hearing: Amendment 27 to the Snapper Grouper FMP

1. This amendment would: extend management responsibility of Nassau grouper in Gulf of Mexico waters to the SAFMC; increase the number of allowable crew members on dual-permitted snapper grouper vessels; and address captain and crew bag limit retention of snapper grouper.

2. Additionally, the amendment would: modify snapper grouper framework procedures to allow ABC levels, ACLs and ACTs to be adjusted via **Federal Register** notice; and modify management measures for blue runner.

3. Written comments may be directed to Bob Mahood, Executive Director, SAFMC (see Council address) or via email to: SGAmend27Comments@safmc.net. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on February 4, 2013.

Council staff will present an overview of the amendments and will be available for informal discussions and to answer

questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to go on record at any time during the meeting hours to record their comments on the public hearing and scoping topics for consideration by the Council. Local Council representatives will attend the meetings and listen to public comment. 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 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 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. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see **ADDRESSES**) three (3) days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 9, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-00601 Filed 1-14-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XX69

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 14451, 14353, and 13846

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of applications for permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Joseph Mobley, Jr., University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2528 McCarthy Mall, Honolulu, HI 96816; Ann Zoidis, Cetos Research Organization, 33 Echo Ave., Suite 5, Oakland, CA 94611; and Jim Darling, Ph.D., Whale Trust, P.O. Box 384, Tofino, BC V0R2Z0, Canada, have applied for amendments to Scientific Research Permit Nos. 14451, 14353, and 13846, respectively.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before February 14, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting the appropriate File No. from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 944-2200; fax (808) 973-2941.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristy Beard or Carrie Hubbard, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendments are 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).

Permit No. 14451, issued on July 14, 2010 (75 FR 43151), authorizes the permit holder, Joseph Mobley, Jr., to study cetaceans off the east and west coast of the United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and the Mariana Islands. Researchers target numerous cetacean species including endangered blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whales (*B. physalus*), humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), sei whales

(*B. borealis*), and sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), during aerial and vessel surveys for photo-identification, videography, and behavioral observations. The permit includes authorization under the MMPA to take 205 false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) in Pacific waters off of Hawaii. Insular Hawaiian false killer whales were listed as endangered under the ESA in November 2012; therefore, the permit holder now requires authorization under the ESA to take Insular Hawaiian false killer whales. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to allocate 180 of the false killer whale takes currently authorized under the MMPA to Insular Hawaiian false killer whales.

Permit No. 14353, issued on July 14, 2010 (75 FR 43151), authorizes the permit holder, Ann Zoidis, Cetos Research Organization, 33 Echo Ave., Suite 5, Oakland, CA 94611, to conduct scientific research on humpback and minke (*B. acutorostrata*) whales in Hawaiian waters. Research occurs annually from January through March. Humpback whale research is focused in the Au'au Channel near Maui. Research activities include photo-identification, behavioral observations, passive acoustic recording, and underwater photo/videography. Suction cup tags are deployed on humpback whales. Minke whales are approached for photo-identification anywhere within the main Hawaiian islands. The permit includes authorization under the MMPA for the incidental harassment of up to 1,000 false killer whales during activities in Pacific waters off of Hawaii. Insular Hawaiian false killer whales were listed as endangered under the ESA in November 2012; therefore, the permit holder now requires authorization under the ESA to take Insular Hawaiian false killer whales. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to include ESA authorization for the incidental harassment of Insular Hawaiian false killer whales and to expand the geographic area throughout the Hawaiian Islands, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) chain.

Permit No. 13846, issued on July 14, 2010 (75 FR 43151), authorizes the permit holder, Jim Darling, Ph.D., Whale Trust, P.O. Box 384, Tofino, BC V0R2Z0, Canada, to study humpback whales in Hawaii (primarily off west Maui) and humpback and Eastern gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*) whales along the coastlines of Washington and Alaska. Researchers may conduct photo-identification, passive acoustic recording, behavioral observation (by vessel, underwater and aerial),

videorecording, collection of sloughed skin, photogrammetry, biopsy sampling, playback experiments, and/or suction cup and implant tagging of target whales. The permit includes authorization under the MMPA for the incidental harassment of up to 150 false killer whales during playback experiments in Pacific waters off Hawaii. Insular Hawaiian false killer whales were listed as endangered under the ESA in November 2012; therefore, the permit holder now requires authorization under the ESA to take Insular Hawaiian false killer whales. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to include ESA authorization for the incidental harassment of Insular Hawaiian false killer whales.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are consistent with the Proposed Action Alternative in the Environmental Assessment for the Issuance of Scientific Research Permits for Research on Humpback Whales and Other Cetaceans (NMFS 2010). Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the permits would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination is documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on July 14, 2010. The EA and FONSI are available upon request.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-00612 Filed 1-14-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC439

Marine Mammals; File No. 17005

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Peter Rogers, Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology, Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, Atlanta, GA 30332, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on cetacean

species not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before February 14, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 17005 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices: See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Hapeman or Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

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).

Dr. Rogers proposes to conduct scientific research on cetacean species in Atlantic and Pacific coastal areas of the contiguous United States. In cooperation with local marine mammal stranding networks, researchers would use an ultrasound-based system for non-invasively determining the low frequency elastic properties of cetacean head tissues. The ultrasound system is intended to provide parameters needed to model the response of the head to sound, and may provide diagnostic capabilities for use by marine mammal stranding responders. Up to 10 individuals each of any non-ESA-listed cetacean species would be tested annually for five years. The research also would allow researchers to: (1) Determine any short term changes in soft tissue elasticity if an animal dies during the stranding response, and (2) assess differences between intact and