

the pending Fishing Capacity Reduction Program.

Abbreviated Rulemaking—Atlantic Sea Scallops

At the recommendation of its Scallop Committee, the Council will consider final action on Framework Adjustment 7 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP under the framework for abbreviated rulemaking procedure contained in 50 CFR 650.40. The Council proposes to extend the current rule specifying a maximum crew size of seven until a plan amendment allows the consolidation of days-at-sea now allocated to individual scallop vessels, or until the Council changes the crew size through other action.

Abbreviated Rulemaking Action—Northeast Multispecies

The Council will consider final action on Framework Adjustment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP under the framework for abbreviated rulemaking procedure contained in 50 CFR 651.40. The action is intended to further reduce the bycatch of harbor porpoise in the Gulf of Maine sink gillnet fishery by initiating time-area closures in the mid-coast and southern New England regions during the spring.

The Council will consider public comments at a minimum of two Council meetings prior to making any final recommendations to the Director, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Director), under the provisions for abbreviated rulemaking cited above. If the Regional Director concurs with the measures proposed by the Council, he will publish them as a final rule in the Federal Register.

January 26, 1996

If necessary, the Council will begin the January 26 session with further discussion of Amendment 7 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. Other items of business involving groundfish management include NMFS consultation with the Council concerning decisions on small mesh fisheries certification as defined in the Northeast Multispecies FMP and initial discussion of a program to consolidate fishing effort in the groundfish fleet.

The afternoon agenda will conclude with reports from the Council Chairman, Council Executive Director, NMFS Regional Director, Northeast Fisheries Science liaison, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaison, and representatives from the Department of State, Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Any other outstanding business will be addressed at this time.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Douglas G. Marshall (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 19, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[I.D. 011796B]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet the week of January 29, 1996, in Anchorage, AK. The Council will also hold a joint meeting with the Alaska Board of Fisheries (ABOF) on January 30. Other committee and workgroup meetings may be held on short notice during the week; notices will be posted at the meeting site. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council executive sessions to discuss personnel issues, international issues, and litigation.

DATES: The Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on January 29, 1996, and continue through January 31. The Council will meet jointly with the ABOF on January 30, tentatively set to begin at 10:30 a.m., and begin their normal plenary session at 8:00 a.m. on January 31, 1996, continuing into February 4.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the joint meeting of the Council and the ABOF on January 30, 1996, includes the following subjects.

1. Reports on the North Pacific Fisheries Research (Observer) Plan, crab stocks 1995/96 fishery updates, and an update on Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands (BSAI) crab research.

2. A report on the use of length base-analysis to estimate Bristol Bay red king crab abundance.

3. Discussion of Council action on Bering Sea trawl closures to protect crab.

4. Discussion of Tanner crab bycatch cap transfers between Zones 1 and 2 in the BSAI.

5. Proposals before the Board of Fisheries that require Council consultation.

6. Report on plans by the State of Alaska for managing groundfish and scallops in 1996.

The agenda for the Council's plenary session, beginning on January 31, 1996 includes:

1. Report from NMFS on domestic fisheries and the Sablefish and Halibut Individual Fishery Quota (IFQ) fisheries.

2. Review of management actions under the Sablefish and Halibut IFQ program, including:

(a) Final review of a "buydown" amendment.

(b) Initial review of a "sweep-up" amendment.

3. Under the Council's Comprehensive Rationalization Plan, the Council will discuss:

(a) Further consideration of pollock IFQs.

(b) Further development of a work plan and alternatives for vessel bycatch allowances.

4. Discussion of Council operations.

5. Discussion of any issues on crab raised during the joint Council/ABOF meeting.

6. Final review of research priorities.

7. Status reports on the analytical efforts toward improved retention and utilization amendments.

8. The following amendments and groundfish management issues will also be discussed:

(a) Initial review of overfishing definition amendments.

(b) Final action on a halibut gridsorting amendment.

(c) Final action on pollock trimester allocations in the Gulf of Alaska.

(d) Council direction to staff for analysis of a change in the opening date for the BSAI pollock "B" season.

(e) A report on activities of the Salmon Foundation.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language

interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 19, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-1148 Filed 1-22-96; 1:37 pm]

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[I.D. 011796D]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public meetings of its Advisory Panel Selection, Snapper-Grouper, Mackerel, and Shrimp Committees; Wreckfish Advisory Panel; and a Council session.

DATES: The meetings will be held from February 12 to February 14, 1996. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Ponce de Leon, 4000 U.S. Highway 1 North, St. Augustine, FL 32095; telephone: (800) 228-2821.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

February 12, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Mackerel Committee;

The Mackerel Committee will review public hearing comments and NMFS informal review comments for Draft Amendment 8 to the fishery management plan (FMP) for Coastal Migratory Pelagics. The Committee will develop recommendations that the Council will discuss at the April 8-12, 1996 Council meeting in Jekyll Island, GA. In addition, the Committee will develop recommendations for daily commercial trip limits for Atlantic group king mackerel. The Council will consider the options included in the public hearing draft of Amendment 8. Trip limits will be discussed and action

will possibly be taken at this meeting. Options for the trip limit in Monroe County, FL, range from 50 to 125 fish. Should the Council approve a trip limit at the February Council meeting, the Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, Dr. Andrew Kemmerer, has indicated that the trip limit could be implemented by the start of the fishing year on April 1, 1996.

February 13, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Wreckfish Advisory Panel (AP) and Snapper Grouper Committee;

The Snapper-Grouper Committee will meet with the Wreckfish AP to review the wreckfish stock assessment. The AP and the Committee will make recommendations concerning the total allowable catch (TAC) for the upcoming 1996-97 fishing year. The Council may also consider changes to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), acceptable biological catch (ABC), trip limits, minimum size limits, gear restrictions, and seasonal or area closures as allowed by the framework procedure included in the FMP.

February 13, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Shrimp Committee;

The Shrimp Committee will review public hearing comments and NMFS informal review comments for Draft Amendment 2 (Bycatch) to the Shrimp FMP. The Committee will develop final recommendations for the Council for approval of Draft Amendment 2.

February 13, 1996, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Advisory Panel (AP) Selection Committee;

February 14, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Council session;

The Council will hear a report from the AP Selection Committee and will appoint AP members during a closed session.

February 14, 1996, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Council session;

The Council will convene and receive reports from the Mackerel, Snapper-Grouper, and Shrimp Committees. The Council will set TAC and make any other necessary changes for wreckfish, and it may take final action on Atlantic group king mackerel trip limits. The Council will also take final action on Shrimp Amendment 2 (Bycatch) for formal submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by February 5, 1996.

Dated: January 19, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-1147 Filed 1-24-96; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 011896B]

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for a scientific research permit (P598).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Jim Darling, P.O. Box 384, Tofino, British Columbia, CANADA VOR ZZO has applied in due form for a permit to take by harassment up to 200 humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in waters off Maui, Hawaii for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before February 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak, Permits Division, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested 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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR parts 217-222).

The permit application requests authorization to take up to 200