

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: May 14, 1997.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051297B]

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

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

**ACTION:** Public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 1997, at 10 a.m. and on Thursday, May 29, 1997, at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the King's Grant Inn, Route 128 and Trask Lane, Danvers, MA. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (617) 231-0422.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (617) 231-0422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### May 28, 1997

The May 28 session will begin with reports from the Council's oversight committees. The Interspecies Committee will discuss coordinating vessel replacement and upgrading measures with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and protocols for opening areas now closed to most fishing activities.

Representatives from Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans will present an overview of their management measures for Georges Bank and reopening of the Atlantic Canada cod fisheries. The Council's Herring Committee will review the status of the resource, management issues, and research recommendations, in addition to identifying scoping issues associated with the development of a fishery management plan for herring. The Responsible Fishing Committee will recommend a code of conduct for New England fishermen and discuss licensing for all fishermen. The Monkfish Committee will brief the Council on its efforts to develop management measures for inclusion in an amendment to the Multispecies FMP.

#### May 29, 1997

The May 29 session will begin with the Council's Groundfish Committee's proposed actions on two framework adjustments to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. Initial action concerning the bag limit for recreational anglers under the framework for abbreviated rulemaking procedure contained in 50 CFR 648.82 will be considered. The action would make rules for bag limits consistent for all recreational fishermen. The Groundfish Committee also intends to propose final action on a framework adjustment to the Multispecies FMP that would exempt gillnet vessels in the trip boat category from bringing their monkfish gillnets to port when fishing under a days-at-sea allocation. The Groundfish Committee also will discuss issues associated with implementation of a cod trip limit. A report from the Scallop Committee will follow. There will be a presentation on the effectiveness of the sea scallop management program, a report on the development of a fishing effort consolidation program and discussion of reopening the Georges Bank closed areas to scalloping. The Large Pelagics Committee will report on the recent NMFS Shark Operations Team meeting. The Habitat Committee will provide an update on the development of Council comments on the Essential Fish Habitat proposed rule concerning requirements for fishery management plans. The Gear Conflict Committee will brief the Council on several problems in the Gulf of Maine. The Council meeting will conclude with reports from the Council Chairman; Executive Director; Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS; representatives from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard and the Mid-Atlantic Council.

### Announcement of an Experimental Fishery Application

There will be a discussion and opportunity to comment on a proposal for an experimental fishery to be conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to evaluate the selectivity and efficiency of 6-inch (15.24-cm) mesh scallop trawls.

#### 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 date.

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

Dated: May 15, 1997.

**Bruce Morehead,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050697A]

#### Marine Mammals

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of scientific research permit no. 850-1342 (File No. 850-1342)

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Ms. Lucy W. Keith, Boston University Marine Program, Broderick House/MBL, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543, has been issued a permit to "take" by Level A and Level B harassment, Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4016); and

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Area Office, Southwest Region, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/973-2987).