

issues concerning access to the current Georges Bank groundfish closed areas for scallop fishing.

Monday, March 22, 1999, 9:30 a.m.— Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street (Rt. 1 North), Peabody, MA 01960, Phone: (978) 535-4600; Fax: (978) 535-8238.

The panel will review draft proposals and analysis for Framework Adjustment 29 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and advise the Groundfish Committee on a preferred alternative for consideration by the Council at its April 14-15 meeting. Framework Adjustment 29 would modify the FMP regulations pertaining to closed areas on Georges Bank and the Nantucket Lightship area to allow controlled access by scallop dredge vessels. The panel will also review and advise the committee on draft proposals for Framework Adjustment 30, for Council consideration at its April meeting, to reduce the fishing mortality rate on Georges Bank cod to below the management target level. The panel will also discuss and advise the committee on issues and measures to be included in a public hearing document for Amendment 13 to the FMP, including but not limited to: action to rebuild all stocks in the fishery management unit as needed under new overfishing definitions; managing fleet fishing capacity, including possible implementation of a two-tier permit system to address latent fishing permits; proposals for industry support systems involving scientific research and conservation engineering programs; modification of the annual adjustment schedule and possible change to the fishing year; and other issues that may be identified during the scoping process.

Tuesday, March 23, 1999, 9:30 a.m.— Groundfish Committee Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street (Rt. 1 North), Peabody, MA 01960, Phone: (978) 535-4600; Fax: (978) 535-8238.

Review of draft proposals and analysis for Framework Adjustment 29 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and recommendation of a preferred alternative for consideration by the Council at its April 14-15 meeting. Framework Adjustment 29 would allow controlled access by scallop dredge to closed areas on Georges Bank and the Nantucket Lightship area. The committee also will review and draft proposals and analysis for Framework Adjustment 30, and recommend a preferred alternative for Council consideration at its April meeting

Framework Adjustment 30 will reduce the fishing mortality rate on Georges Bank cod to below the management target level. The committee will also discuss and take public comment on the scope of issues to be considered and possible measures to be included in a public hearing document for Amendment 13 to the FMP, including but not limited to: action to rebuild all stocks in the fishery management unit as needed under new overfishing definitions; managing fleet fishing capacity, including possible implementation of a two-tier permit system to address latent fishing permits; proposals for industry support systems involving scientific research and conservation engineering programs; modification of the annual adjustment schedule and possible change to the fishing year; and other issues that may be identified during the scoping process.

*Thursday, March 25, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—*Whiting Advisory Panel Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA 02048, Phone: (508) 339-2200; Fax: (508) 339-1040

Discussion of possible bycatch and/or discard issues associated with the measures in Amendment 12 (for whiting, offshore hake, and red hake) as well as possible framework action for any other unresolved issues that emerged during the development of Amendment 12; review and discussion of data and information needs in the context of the first Whiting Monitoring Committee meeting (October/November 2000) and the Year 4 default measure (May 1, 2002); discussion of the potential for industry-based gear research and information collection.

Friday, March 26, 1999, 9:30 a.m.— Whiting Committee Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA 02048, Phone: (508) 339-2200; Fax: (508) 339-1040

Discussion of possible bycatch and/or discard issues associated with the measures in Amendment 12 (for whiting, offshore hake, and red hake) as well as possible framework action for any other unresolved issues that emerged during the development of Amendment 12; review and discussion of data and information needs in the context of the first Whiting Monitoring Committee meeting (October/November 2000) and the Year 4 default measure (May 1, 2002); discussion of the potential for industry-based gear research and information collection.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of

formal discussion during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed 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 Paul J. Howard (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: February 12, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-4138 Filed 2-18-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021299C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research permits (1199, 1200); Issuance of a scientific research permit (1180) and a modification to a scientific research permit (1162)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has received permit applications from: Guam Department of Agriculture (GDA) (1199) and Mr. David J. Stiers, Director of Springfield Science Museum (SSM) (1200); NMFS has issued a permit to Thomas R. Payne and Associates (TRPA) (1180); and NMFS has issued a modification to a scientific research permits to Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) (1162).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications must be received on or before March 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

For permits 1162 and 1180: Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528 (707-575-6066).

For permit 1199: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species

Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-1401).

For permit 1200: Protected Resources Division, F/SER3, 9721 Executive Center Dr., St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-570-5312).

All documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permits 1162 and 1180: Dan Logan, Protected Resources Division, (707-575-6066).

For permit 1199: Karen Salvini, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

For permit 1200: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the 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. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to parts 217-222 of Title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are covered in this notice:

Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*): Central California coast (CCC), Southern Oregon/northern California coast (SONCC).

Steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*): Southern California coast (SCC).

New Applications Received

GDA (1199) requests a 5-year permit to take green and hawksbill sea turtles, record biological data, take sample tissue and run DNA analysis according to NMFS sampling protocols. A few of the turtles will be satellite-tagged. The purpose of the research is to: 1) Collect baseline population size structure (age and sex) and genetic information for sea turtles in and about Guam, 2) survey Guam's beaches for sea turtle nesting activity for both species throughout the nesting period, and 3) establish a Guam based sea turtle working group of stakeholders in the management of sea

turtles and ensure they have an active voice and opportunity to support recovery efforts.

SSM (1200) requests a 5-year permit to maintain up to five endangered shortnose sturgeon in captivity for educational purposes. The sturgeon will be captive sturgeon received from the Conte Anadromous Research Center that have been classified as "non-releasable" by NMFS.

Permits and Modifications Issued

Notice was published on November 17, 1998 (63 FR 63910) that NMFS issued Permit 1162 to SPAWN, authorizing takes of juvenile, threatened, CCC coho salmon associated with fish population studies on San Geronimo Creek and its tributaries. On January 19, 1998, SPAWN requested a modification to Permit 1162 to authorize fish rescue activities for adult CCC coho salmon. The rescue would occur at Roy's Dam on San Geronimo Creek, which is currently impassable by the salmon. Without intervention, adult CCC coho will be prevented from reaching available spawning habitat present upstream of the dam. As the health of these salmon was threatened and no reasonable alternative was available to the applicant, the 30-day public comment period was waived in accordance with 50 CFR 222.24(e). This modification was issued on February 11, 1999, and is valid for the duration of the permit which expires on June 30, 2003.

Notice was published on October 21, 1998 (63 FR 56148), that an application had been filed by TRPA for a scientific research permit. Permit 1180 was issued to TRPA on February 11, 1999, and authorizes takes of adult and juvenile, threatened CCC and SONCC coho salmon, and adult and juvenile, endangered SCC steelhead associated with fish population and habitat studies throughout these ESUs in California. ESA-listed fish may be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. Indirect mortalities are also authorized. Permit 1180 expires on June 30, 2004.

Dated: February 12, 1999.

Kevin Collins,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Dominican Republic

February 11, 1999.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 18, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being increased for carryover and recrediting unused carryforward.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the **CORRELATION:** Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Also see 63 FR 63297, published on November 12, 1998.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

February 11, 1999.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on November 5, 1998, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in the Dominican Republic and exported during the twelve-month