

quantify their habitat utilization from the geographical position data, (2) to produce a geographic information system (GIS) database of benthic habitats and subsequently map the habitat types within the study area, and (3) to test for habitat preferences of Kemp's ridley turtles in this region by comparing the amount of time a turtle spends in a given habitat relative to the availability of all other habitat types.

Permits and Modified Permits Issued

Permit #1298

Notice was published on March 5, 2001 (66 FR 13305), that Ms. Melissa Salmon, of Riverbanks Zoological Park applied for an enhancement permit (1298). The applicant has requested a 5-year permit to continue to maintain eleven adult shortnose sturgeon received from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in 1996 for education purposes. NMFS believes that captive maintenance of endangered shortnose sturgeon for enhancement purposes is to the benefit of the species as a whole. The source for the captive display are shortnose sturgeon maintained in hatchery settings that have been deemed non-releasable by NMFS. Because these cultured sturgeon have been deemed non-releasable at this time by NMFS, alternatives to sacrifice were needed. The recovery team for shortnose sturgeon felt that these cultured fish provided an excellent opportunity to educate the public and increase awareness of the species and its plight. These fish are used in research activities and, as recommended by the recovery team, in enhancement activities such as public education. Permit 1298 was issued on May 4, 2001, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1298 expires May 31, 2006.

Permit #1266

Notice was published on October 19, 2000 (65 FR 62709), that John Glass, of REMSA, Inc. applied for a research/enhancement permit (1266). The applicant requested a 5-year permit to take leatherback, green, loggerhead, Kemp's ridley and green turtles from the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico in conjunction with US Army Corps of Engineer Dredging projects for scientific research and enhancement purposes. Permit 1266 was issued on May 8, 2001, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1266 expires April 30, 2006.

Dated: May 15, 2001.

Phil Williams,

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

[FR Doc. 01-12747 Filed 5-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051401C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research and Enhancement Permit (PHF# 116-1477)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that SeaWorld of Texas, 10500 Sea World Drive, San Antonio, Texas, 78251, has applied in due form for an amendment to Permit No. 116-1477 to take Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 20, 2001.

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

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit amendment 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 part 222.23).

Permit No. 116-1477 authorizes the permit holder to permanently transfer ten (10) captive, unreleasable female Hawaiian monk seals from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Kewalo Research Facility to SeaWorld of Texas for research and enhancement purposes. The primary objective of the Permit is to make the seals available for scientific research on an opportunistic basis in order to benefit the wild population of Hawaiian monk seals. As provided for in the Permit, the permit holder requests authorization to conduct research studies on the ten captive female Hawaiian monk seals now permanently held at SeaWorld of Texas. The research study involves systematic feeding of certain prey to the captive seals and subsequent comparison of fatty acid composition of blubber samples with the fatty acid composition of the food consumed. The goal is to determine whether the assessment of fatty acid signatures in blubber samples of free-ranging Hawaiian monk seals may be an appropriate and reliable method for qualitative and quantitative assessment of their diet. This study is aimed at reducing or eliminating adverse interactions between current and anticipated fishing operations with free-ranging Hawaiian monk seals.

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 activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this amendment application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors. The application and related documents are available for review in the following office(s):

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

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

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

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Room 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 973-2935; fax (808) 973-2941.

Dated: May 15, 2001.

E. Ruth Johnson,

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

[FR Doc. 01-12746 Filed 5-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050901E]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council and its advisory entities will meet June 10-15, 2001. The Council meeting will begin on Tuesday, June 12, at 8 a.m., reconvening each day through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 8 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 12 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Park Plaza Hotel, 1177 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, CA 94010; telephone: 650-342-9200.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: (503)326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order. All items listed are subject to potential Council action.

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks, Introductions,
2. Roll Call

3. Executive Director's Report
4. Approve Agenda
5. Approve March 2001 and April 2001 Minutes

B. Salmon Management

1. NMFS Report
2. Sequence of Events and Status of Fisheries

C. Groundfish Management

1. NMFS Report
2. Sablefish Three-Tier Program Qualification with Setnet Landings
3. Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey Update
4. Status of the 2001 Stock Assessment Review Panel Meetings
5. Stock Assessment Priorities for 2002
6. Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Applications
7. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Permit Stacking and Season for 2001 and beyond
8. Incidental Pacific Halibut Harvest Restrictions for the Primary, Limited Entry Longline Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, Washington
9. Strategic Plan Implementation
10. Rebuilding Plans for Canary Rockfish, Cowcod, Pacific Ocean Perch, Bocaccio, Lingcod, Widow Rockfish, and Darkblotched Rockfish
11. Preliminary Harvest Levels for 2002
12. American Fisheries Act Management Measures
13. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments
14. Full Retention Measures

D. Habitat Issues

Essential Fish Habitat Issues

E. Marine Reserves

1. Review of West Coast Marine Reserves Efforts
2. Marine Reserves in the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary

F. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. International Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Discussions and Actions
2. Public Review Draft of the HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
3. Draft FMP Public Hearing Schedule

G. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

1. Exempted Fishing Permit Applications
2. Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline and Other Specifications for 2002
3. Market Squid Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) Methodology Review Workshop

H. Administrative and Other Matters

1. Report of the Budget Committee

2. Status of Legislation
3. Appointments to Advisory Bodies or Other Council Positions
4. Council Staff Work Load Priorities
5. September 2001 Council Meeting Draft Agenda

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2001

Scientific and Statistical Committee Highly Migratory Species Subcommittee 10 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2001

Council Secretariate 7 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.
Scientific and Statistical Committee 8 a.m.
Budget Committee 10 a.m.
Habitat Steering Group 1 p.m.
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001

Council Secretariate 7 a.m.
California State Delegation 7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.
Scientific and Statistical Committee 8 a.m.
Habitat Steering Group 8 a.m.-noon
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.-noon
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team: As necessary
Enforcement Consultants: Immediately following Council Session
Groundfish FMP EIS Scoping Meeting 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2001

Council Secretariate 7 a.m.
California State Delegation 7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel: As necessary
Groundfish Management Team: As necessary
Enforcement Consultants: As necessary

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2001

Council Secretariate 7 a.m.
California State Delegation 7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team: As necessary
Enforcement Consultants: As necessary

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2001

Council Secretariate 7 a.m.
California State Delegation 7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.