

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

RIN 0648–XI12

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plans; Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle

AGENCIES: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce; Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, NMFS and USFWS, announce the availability of the revised Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The revised recovery plan includes specific recovery objectives and criteria to be met in order to delist this species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

ADDRESSES: The Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle is available on the Internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery/plans.htm#turtles> or <http://www.fws.gov/northflorida>. Copies also may be obtained by contacting NMFS Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13657, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (telephone 301–713–1401) or USFWS North Florida Field Office, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256 (telephone 904–731–3336).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Schroeder (ph. 301–713–1401, fax 301–713–0376, e-mail barbara.schroeder@noaa.gov) or Sandy MacPherson (ph. 904–731–3328, fax 904–731–3045, e-mail sandy_macpherson@fws.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (15 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that NMFS and USFWS develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species under their jurisdiction, unless it is determined that such plans would not promote the conservation of the species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires us to provide a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. We made the draft

revision of the Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle available for public comment from May 30, 2008, through July 29, 2008 (73 FR 31066, May 30, 2008). We considered information we received during the public comment period and information from peer reviewers in our preparation of this final revised recovery plan.

The plan discusses the natural history, current status, and the known and potential threats to the loggerhead turtle in the Northwest Atlantic. The plan lays out a recovery strategy to address the potential threats based on the best available science and includes recovery goals and criteria. The plan is not a regulatory action, but presents guidance for use by agencies and interested parties to assist in the recovery of loggerhead turtles. The plan identifies substantive actions needed to achieve recovery by addressing the threats to the species. Recovery of loggerhead turtles in the Northwest Atlantic is a long-term effort and will require cooperation and coordination of Federal, state, and local government agencies, and the community, as well as international cooperation.

Dated: January 9, 2009.

James H. Lecky,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Dated: January 6, 2009.

Jeffrey M. Flemming,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E9–982 Filed 1–15–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODES 3510–22–S, 4310–55–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XL89

Incidental Takes of Marine Mammals During Specified Activities; Marine Geophysical Survey in Southeast Asia, March–July 2009

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental take authorization; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On December 22, 2008, the NMFS announced notice of its proposed issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (L-DEO), a part of Columbia University, to take small

numbers of marine mammals, by harassment incidental to conducting a marine seismic survey in Southeast Asia during March–July 2009. Written comments were due by January 21, 2009. Under the unique circumstances of the timing of the publication of the **Federal Register** notice relative to several Federal holidays, NMFS has decided to extend the public comment period by 15 days, to February 5, 2009.

DATES: The public comment period for this action has been extended from January 21 to February 5, 2009. Written comments and information must be received no later than February 5, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation, and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3225. The mailbox address for providing email comments is PR1.0648-XL89@noaa.gov. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed 10–megabyte file size.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Goldstein, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301–713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 22, 2008 (73 FR 78294), the NMFS announced notice of its proposed issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to L-DEO, a part of Columbia University, to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to conducting a marine seismic survey in Southeast Asia during March–July 2009. Under the unique circumstances of the timing of the publication of the **Federal Register** notice relative to several Federal holidays, NMFS had decided to extend the public comment period by 15 days, to February 5, 2009. The **Federal Register** notice published three days before the Christmas holiday, which fell on Thursday, December 25, 2008. The following day, Friday, December 26, 2008 was declared a Federal holiday for executive branch departments and agencies. New Year's Day, a Federal holiday, was the following Thursday, January 1, 2009. In recognition of the fact that the timing of these three holidays led many workers to be away for much of the two-week period and some non-government organizations closed their offices during that period, NMFS' public comment period for this proposed action is hereby extended to February 5, 2009. NMFS is also aware that the proposed action is for a new geographical area rather than a renewal of a prior action, where the associated

documents are lengthy and would likely not be familiar to many interested parties. Finally, NMFS does not anticipate that the comment period extension will delay its decision of whether to issue an IHA.

Background information concerning the proposed IHA can be found in the **Federal Register** notice and is not repeated here. For additional information about the IHA application and associated EA, please visit the website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>

Dated: January 12, 2009.

James H. Lecky,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM73

National Marine Fisheries Service; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public workshop.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold a workshop for participants that are required to submit an Economic Data Report for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program.

DATES: The workshop will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2009, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the Pacific Seafood Processors Association office, 1900 W. Emerson Place, 1205, Seattle, WA 98119.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Garber-Yonts; (206) 526-6301 or brian.garber-yonts@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization Program requires any owner or leaseholder of a vessel or processing plant that harvested or processed crab in certain BSAI fisheries to submit an Economic Data Report (EDR) for the previous calendar year. NMFS staff will hold a workshop with BSAI crab industry members to review current crab EDR data documentation and data quality findings. Workshop participants will also discuss the development of best practices guidelines for completing crab EDR forms and discuss possible revisions to

the current crab EDR forms. For further information on the Crab Rationalization Program, please visit the NMFS Alaska Region website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov>.

Special Accommodations

This workshop is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations should be directed to Brian Garber-Yonts (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 working days before the workshop date.

Dated: January 13, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E9-921 Filed 1-15-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM70

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

DATES: The meetings will be held Monday, February 2 through Tuesday, February 10, 2009. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, 515 Madison Street, Seattle, WA.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4 continuing through Tuesday, February 10, 2009. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, February 2 and continue through Friday, February 6. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, February 2 and continue through Wednesday, February

4, 2009. The Ecosystem Committee will meet Tuesday, February 3, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Enforcement Committee will meet Tuesday, February 3, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the. The Comprehensive Data Collection Committee may also meet this week at the hotel, time TBA. All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports
Executive Director's Report
NMFS Management Report
NMFS Enforcement Report
Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report

U.S. Coast Guard Report
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Report
International Pacific Halibut Commission Report

Protected Species Report (update on schedule of Steller Sea Lion (SSL) draft Status Quo Biological Opinion (BiOp) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) Pacific cod split.

2. American Fisheries Act (AFA)
Cooperative reports: Receive reports from BSAI Pollock cooperatives.

3. Arctic Fishery Management Plan (FMP): Final action to adopt FMP for the Arctic region.

4. Salmon Bycatch: Review Inter-Cooperative Agreement (ICA) incentive proposals and Bycatch Committee Report.

5. Amendment 80: Initial review of analysis for Amendment 80 Cooperative Formation.

6. BSAI Fixed Gear: Initial review of BSAI fixed gear parallel fisheries analysis.

7. Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Sideboards: Discussion paper on GOA Sideboards for AFA catcher vessels; Initial review of GOA Pacific cod sideboards for crab vessels.

8. BSAI Crab Issues: Initial review BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief; Receive Committee report; Receive proposed workplan and timeline for crab analysis/discussion papers for changes to the program, and action as necessary; Receive progress report on Crab Economic Data Report (EDR) surveys.

9. Marine Protection Act Nomination Process: Review NMFS letter and discuss next steps (T).

10. Halibut/Sablefish Issues: Review/Rescind previous action to remove inactive Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) shares; Review halibut catch sharing plan discussion papers (SSC only): (i)