

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tammy Adams or Laura Morse, (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests a five-year permit to conduct scientific research on spotted (*Phoca largha*), ringed (*Phoca hispida*), bearded (*Erignathus barbatus*), and ribbon seals (*Histiophoca fasciata*) in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas of Alaska. The purpose of this research is to monitor the status and health of all four species by analyzing samples from the subsistence harvest and by documenting movements and habitat use by tracking animals with satellite transmitters. In addition to sampling harvested seals, the applicant would capture up to 200 individuals of each species per year. Captured seals would be measured and sampled (e.g., blood, blubber, skin, muscle, and whisker), and a subsample of these (120 per year per species) will be fitted with transmitters. The applicant also requests permission to harass non-target seals of each species and authorization for a limited number of research-related mortalities. Results of these studies would be used to monitor the health and status of each of the four species' populations, improve population assessments, and develop mitigation measures to minimize disturbance to these species that are important to the indigenous people of Alaska for subsistence food, materials, and for cultural significance. Samples would be imported from Russia, Canada, Svalbard (Norway) and exported to Canada for analyses.

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 the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 29, 2011.

**P. Michael Payne,**

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-7956 Filed 4-1-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XA339**

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 15271

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that James T. Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039 has been issued a permit to conduct research on blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin (*B. physalus*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*) whales.

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

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

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426; and

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

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristy Beard or Amy Hapeman, (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 31, 2010, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 53271) that a request for a permit to conduct research on the species identified above had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has been issued 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 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of

endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The five-year permit authorizes research on large whale species off California, Oregon, and Washington; the primary research area is off the Southern California Bight, San Luis Obispo, Monterey Bay, and San Francisco. Researchers are authorized to approach whales for photo-identification and biopsy sampling. A subset of whales may be suction-cup tagged, dart-tagged, or tagged with small implantable tags. The permit also authorizes incidental harassment of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*), Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), Northern right whale dolphins (*Lissodelphis borealis*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) and short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*).

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities on the human environment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the permit would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination is documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on March 24, 2011.

As required by the ESA, issuance of this permit was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 29, 2011.

**P. Michael Payne,**

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-7954 Filed 4-1-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XA344**

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The review panel (Panel) for assessment methods for data-poor species will hold a work session that is open to the public.

**DATES:** The Review of Assessment Methods for Data-Poor Species will be held beginning at 8 a.m., Monday, April 25, 2011 and end at 5:30 p.m. or as necessary to complete business for the day. The Panel will reconvene on Tuesday, April 26 and will continue through Friday, April 29, 2011 beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. each day, or as necessary to complete business. The Panel will adjourn on Friday, April 29, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** The Review of Assessment Methods for Data-Poor Species will be held at the Santa Cruz Laboratory of the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 110 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; telephone: (831) 420-3900.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council), 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Stacey Miller, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center; telephone: (541) 961-8475; or Mr. John DeVore, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Review of Assessment Methods for Data-Poor Species is to review assessment methods for use on data-poor or data-limited stocks in the Pacific Council's Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and provide a list of endorsed methods to the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Stock assessment methods including Depletion-Corrected Average Catch (DCAC) and Depletion-Based Stock Reduction Analysis (DB-SRA) will be reviewed at the meeting. Several developments of these methods have been proposed, which could raise stocks from Category 3 (catch-based only) to Category 2 in the Groundfish FMP tier system. Category 2 stocks are those where a basic assessment model is fit to trend information.

No management actions will be decided by the Panel. The Panel's role will be development of recommendations and reports for consideration by the Pacific Council at its June meeting in Spokane, WA.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Panel participants for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Review Panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically

listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Panel participants' intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 30, 2011.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2011-7913 Filed 4-1-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

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

**RIN 0648-XA332**

**General Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission; Meeting Announcement**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces a meeting of the General Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on May 26, 2011, and a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) on May 25, 2011. Meeting topics are provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**DATES:** The meeting of the SAS will be held on May 25, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PDT (or until business is concluded), and the meeting of the GAC will be held on May 26, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PDT (or until business is concluded).

**ADDRESSES:** Both meetings will be held in the Large Conference Room (Room 370) at NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 3333 North Torrey Pines Court, La Jolla, California, 92037-1023. Please notify Heidi Hermsmeyer prior to May 6, 2011, of your plans to attend either meeting, or interest in a teleconference option.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Heidi Hermsmeyer, Southwest Region, NMFS at [Heidi.Hermsmeyer@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Hermsmeyer@noaa.gov), or at (562) 980-4036.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Tuna Conventions Act, as amended, the Department of State has appointed a General Advisory Committee (GAC) and a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) to the U.S. Section to the IATTC. The U.S. Section consists of four U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC and a representative of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries. The GAC and SAS support the U.S. Section to the IATTC in an advisory capacity; in particular, they provide advice on the development of U.S. policies, positions, and negotiating tactics. NOAA Fisheries Southwest Regional office administers the GAC and SAS in cooperation with the Department of State. The next annual meeting of the IATTC is scheduled for June 29-July 8, 2011, in La Jolla, CA. For more information on this meeting, please visit the IATTC's Web site: <http://www.iattc.org/HomeENG.htm>.

**Meeting Topics**

The SAS meeting topics will include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Relevant stock status updates, including yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore tunas; (2) updates on bycatch mitigation measures; (3) evaluation of the IATTC's recommended conservation measures, U.S. proposals, and proposals from other IATTC members; (4) input to the GAC; and (5) other issues as they arise.

The GAC meeting topics will include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Relevant stock status updates, including yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore tunas; (2) U.S. regulatory changes that could affect tuna fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean; (3) updates on international agreements that could affect the IATTC; (4) the upcoming meeting of the five tuna regional fishery management organizations (also known as Kobe III); (5) the status of U.S. legislation to implement the Antigua Convention; (6) outcomes of the IATTC Capacity Working Group meeting; (7) input from the SAS; (8) input and advice from the GAC on issues that may arise at the upcoming 2011 IATTC meetings, including the IATTC's recommended conservation measures, potential U.S. proposals, and potential proposals from other IATTC members; and (9) other issues as they arise.

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting location is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language