

(a) To measure the levels and other characteristics of the horizontally-propagating seismic survey sounds as a function of distance and aspect relative to BPX's seismic source vessel.

(b) To measure acoustic transmission loss vs. frequency, distance, and propagation direction in and near the Northstar Unit, based on transmission and reception of standardized acoustic signals having a source level of about 165 dB re 1 μ Pa @ 1 m. Transmissions will not be done if bowheads are seen within 2,130 ft (650 m) of the seismic array.

(c) To obtain additional site-specific ambient noise data, which determine signal-to-noise ratios for seismic and other acoustic signals at various ranges from their sources.

In addition, data on ambient noise and on characteristics of seismic pulses will be obtained from sonobuoys dropped and monitored from the survey aircraft after September 1, 1996.

For a more detailed description of planned monitoring activities, please refer to the application and supporting document (LGL 1996).

Reporting

BPX will provide an initial report to NMFS within 90 days of the completion of the seismic program. This report will provide dates and locations of seismic operations, details of marine mammal sightings, estimates of the amount and nature of all takes by harassment, and any apparent effects on accessibility of marine mammals to subsistence users.

A final technical report will be provided by BPX within 20 working days of receipt of the document from the contractor, but no later than April 30, 1996. The final technical report will contain a description of the methods, results, and interpretation of all monitoring tasks.

Consultation

Under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, NMFS has begun consultation on the proposed issuance of this authorization. Consultation will be concluded upon completion of the comment period and consideration of those comments in the final determination on issuance of an authorization.

National Environmental Policy Act

In conjunction with this notice, NMFS has released an EA that addresses the impacts on the human environment from issuance of the authorization and the alternatives to the proposed action. A copy of the EA is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

Conclusions

NMFS has preliminarily determined that the short-term impact of conducting seismic surveys in the Northstar Unit of the Beaufort Sea will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by certain species of cetaceans. While behavioral modifications may be made by these species of cetaceans to avoid the resultant noise, this behavioral change is expected to have a negligible impact on the animals.

As the number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals (which vary annually due to variable ice conditions and other factors) in the area of seismic operations, due to the distribution and abundance of marine mammals during the projected period of activity and the location of the proposed seismic activity in waters generally too shallow and distant from the edge of the pack ice for most marine mammals of concern, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be small. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment will be avoided through incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned above.

Because bowhead whales are east of the seismic area in the Canadian Beaufort Sea until late August/early September, seismic activities are not expected to impact subsistence hunting of bowhead whales prior to that date. After September 1, 1996, BPX will initiate aerial survey flights for bowhead whale assessments. Appropriate mitigation measures to avoid an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence needs will be the subject of consultation between BPX and subsistence users.

Also, while summer seismic exploration in the Northstar Unit has some potential to influence seal hunting activities by residents of Nuiqsut, because (1) the peak sealing season is during the winter months, (2) the main summer sealing is off the Colville delta (west and inshore of Northstar), and (3) the zone of influence by seismic sources on belukha and seals is fairly small, NMFS believes the Northstar seismic survey will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an incidental harassment authorization for the 1996 Beaufort Sea open water season for a seismic survey within the Northstar

Unit provided the above mentioned mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements are incorporated. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed seismic activity would result in the harassment of only small numbers of bowhead whales, gray whales, and possibly belukha whales, bearded seals, and largha seals; will have a negligible impact on these marine mammal stocks; and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, information, and suggestions concerning this request (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: May 17, 1996.

Patricia A. Montanio,
Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-13287 Filed 5-23-96; 10:02 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 051796D]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Committee Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet the week of June 10, 1996 in Portland, OR. Other committee and workgroup meetings may be held on short notice during the week; notices will be posted at the meeting site. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council executive sessions to discuss personnel, international issues, and litigation. An executive session is tentatively scheduled for noon on June 13.

ADDRESSES: Red Lion Hotel Portland Downtown, 310 S.W. Lincoln, Portland, OR. Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

DATES: The Advisory Panel (AP) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin meeting at 9:00 a.m. on June 10. The SSC will conclude their meeting by June 12, and the AP will conclude their meeting on June 13. The Council will begin their meeting on June 11, at 8:00 a.m. and conclude mid-day on June 16. The Council will meet in joint session with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 11.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Council staff, telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The agenda for the meeting will include the following subjects:

1. Reports from NMFS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the current status of the fisheries off Alaska, and enforcement reports from the U.S. Coast Guard and NMFS.
2. Final review of a regulatory amendment to raise ownership caps for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) halibut quota share holders.
3. Final decision on gear allocations for BSAI Pacific cod fishery.
4. Final decisions on BSAI crab bycatch management measures, including proposed closures and prohibited species limits.
5. Initial review of an amendment package for measures to improve retention and utilization of groundfish species.
6. A report on a proposal to ban night trawling for Pacific cod and discussion of whether to proceed with an amendment analysis.
7. Final decision on proposed revisions to the Gulf of Alaska and BSAI groundfish overfishing definitions.
8. Review and approval of a Request for Proposals for analysis of management measures for the halibut charterboat industry off Alaska.

The agenda for the Council's joint meeting with the IPHC includes the following discussion items:

1. IPHC Area 4 biomass distribution.
2. Gridsorting.
3. Bycatch compensation by area.
4. Bycatch limits.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 20, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-13285 Filed 5-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 051796C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (P466C)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Mr. Scott D. Kraus, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110-3399, has applied in due form for a permit to take by harassment up to 4,000 harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Gulf of Maine during the course of acoustic playback experiments for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 21, 1996.

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

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

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508/281-9250).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit 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 applicant seeks authorization to take by harassment up to 4,000 harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Gulf of Maine during the course of underwater acoustic playback experiments. The proposed research is a continuation of work previously authorized in 1992, and will provide data on porpoise responses to various acoustic stimuli used as acoustic deterrent devices in commercial fishing gear.

Dated: May 17, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 96-13286 Filed 5-22-96; 3:24 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**Sunshine Act Meeting**

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 30, 1996.

LOCATION: Room 410, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Closed to the Public.

MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED:

Compliance Status Report

The staff will brief the Commission on the status of various compliance matters.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway., Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-0800.

Dated: May 22, 1996.

Sadye E. Dunn,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-13446 Filed 5-23-96; 2:51 pm]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

[CPSC Docket No. 96-C0006]

Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corp., a Corporation; Provisional Acceptance of a Settlement Agreement and Order

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Provisional acceptance of a settlement agreement under the Consumer Product Safety Act.

SUMMARY: It is the policy of the Commission to publish settlements which it provisionally accepts under the Consumer Product Safety Act in the Federal Register in accordance with the terms of 16 CFR Section 1605.13. Published below is a provisionally-accepted Settlement Agreement with Burlington Coat Factory Corp., a corporation.

DATES: Any interested person may ask the Commission not to accept this agreement or otherwise comment on its contents by filing a written request with the Office of the Secretary by June 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to comment on this Settlement Agreement should send written comments to the Comment 96-C0006, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William J. Moore, Jr., Trial Attorney, Office of Compliance and Enforcement,