

1, 1993 through March 31, 1994 review period.

Following the methodology outlined in section B.4 of the agreement, the Department preliminarily determines that, for the period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1994, a negative adjustment may be made to the provisional export charge rate in effect. The adjustments will equal the difference between the provisional rate in effect during the review period and the rate determined in this review, plus interest. This rate, established in the notice of the final results of the eighth administrative reviews of the suspension agreement, was 5.52 percent. *See Certain Refrigeration Compressors from the Republic of Singapore; Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 57 FR 46540 (October 9, 1992). The GOS may refund or credit, in accordance with section B.4.c of the agreement, the difference, plus interest, calculated in accordance with section 778(b) of the Tariff Act, within 30 days of notification by the Department. The Department will notify the GOS of these adjustments after publication of the final results of this review.

If the final results of this review remain the same as these preliminary results, the Department intends to notify the GOS that the provisional export charge rate on all exports to the United States with Outward Declarations filed on or after the date of publication of the final results of this administrative review shall be 2.22 percent of the f.o.b. value of the merchandise.

The agreement can remain in force only as long as shipments from the signatories account for at least 85 percent of imports of the subject refrigeration compressors into the United States. Information on the record of this review indicates that the two signatory companies accounted for 100 percent of imports into the United States from Singapore of this merchandise during the review period.

Parties to the proceeding may request disclosure of the calculation methodology and interested parties may request a hearing not later than 10 days after the date of publication of this notice. Pursuant to 19 CFR 355.38(c), interested parties may submit written comments in case briefs on these preliminary results within 30 days of the date of publication. Rebuttal briefs, limited to arguments raised in case briefs, may be submitted seven days after the time limit for filing the case brief. Any hearing, if requested, will be held seven days after the scheduled date for submission of rebuttal briefs. Copies of case briefs and rebuttal briefs must be

served on interested parties in accordance with 19 CFR 355.38(e).

Representatives of parties to the proceeding may request disclosure of proprietary information under administrative protective order no later than 10 days after the representative's client or employer becomes a party to the proceeding, but in no event later than the date the case briefs are due.

The Department will publish the final results of this administrative review, including the results of its analysis of issues raised in any case or rebuttal brief, or at a hearing.

This administrative review and notice are in accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Tariff Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)(1)) and 19 CFR 355.22.

Dated: June 4, 1996.

Paul L. Joffe,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 96-14623 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 960322092-6159-02; I.D. 032596B]

RIN 0648-ZA19

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Disaster Program

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

ACTION: Final notice of availability of Federal assistance.

SUMMARY: NMFS establishes a Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Disaster Program (Program) that will provide \$5 million in financial assistance to commercial fishermen who suffered uninsured fishing vessel or gear damage or loss caused by hurricanes, floods, or their aftereffects. Assistance will be in the form of a discretionary grant only; this notice does not create an entitlement program.

DATES: Applications must be received by close of business October 7, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be sent to Charles L. Cooper, Program Leader, Financial Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments regarding the burden-hour estimate or any other aspect of the collection-of-information requirement contained in this notice should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles L. Cooper, Program Leader, (301) 713-2396.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 2, 1995, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) declared fisheries disasters in the Pacific Northwest, New England and the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). The Secretary stated that the Gulf disaster arose from hurricanes and floods, and their aftereffects, occurring from August 23, 1992, through December 31, 1995. Commercial fishing vessels and gear were damaged or lost either as a direct result of these events or through contact with underwater hazards created by the storms and floods. Under the authority of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)), as amended, a total of \$5 million in Federal financial assistance is available to commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico for uninsured losses due to vessel or gear loss or damage due to the natural disasters covered by the August 2, 1995, disaster declaration.

On behalf of the Secretary, NMFS published a Notice of Proposed Program on April 1, 1996 (61 FR 14293), to solicit public comments. In addition, the NOAA Office of Sustainable Development and Intergovernmental Affairs conducted three town meetings in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, respectively, in order to solicit public comment on the proposed program.

Comments received in writing or from public meetings in response to the proposed program are summarized and responded to in this document.

During the comment period, Congress amended the IFA to provide NMFS with more program flexibility. Pursuant to these amendments, fishermen may now recover up to 100 percent of their uninsured loss, and fishermen who earn less than \$2 million in net revenues annually from commercial fishing are now eligible to participate in the program.

Comments and Responses

NMFS received 11 written responses to the proposed program. In addition, several points were raised on the record during the public meetings. In total, NMFS identified the following 10 distinct comments on the proposed program.

Comment: Eight commenters suggested expanding the area eligible for assistance beyond the Gulf of Mexico to include other Florida coastal areas affected by the weather events that were the subject of the declared fisheries disasters.

Response: The IFA provides for assistance to fishermen affected by declared fisheries disasters. The

Secretary's disaster declaration limited the weather-related fisheries disasters to the Gulf of Mexico, which NMFS has defined as bordered on the east by the Florida Dade/Monroe County line and including Florida Bay and the Florida Keys. Consequently, weather-related losses in other areas are not eligible for assistance at this time.

Comment: One commenter suggested that vessel damage be eligible for compensation.

Response: NMFS proposed to limit assistance for eligible weather-related damage to fishing gear only because commercial insurance was available for vessel losses. However, information from Federal and state officials, as well as compelling public testimony, indicates a significant amount of vessel damage caused by the declared disasters. Therefore, NMFS has determined that assistance may also be provided for uninsured vessel loss or damage. Individual uninsured losses will be compensated for the amount of the uninsured loss, or for an amount not to exceed \$7,500, whichever is less.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that economic and property losses suffered by commercial fisheries support industries should be eligible for compensation.

Response: The IFA limits assistance "to persons engaged in commercial fisheries * * *." NMFS interprets this to mean only persons engaged in actual fishing or operation of a charter boat or head boat operation. Consequently, losses suffered by support industries are not eligible for assistance.

Comment: One commenter suggested that damage caused by tropical storms be eligible for assistance.

Response: The IFA provides that Federal assistance will be available only to commercial fishermen for harm arising from Hurricane Hugo, Hurricane Andrew, Hurricane Iniki, or any other natural disaster. The Secretary limited the definition of disasters of the magnitude foreseen by the IFA to hurricanes, as well as the devastating Mississippi River floods of 1993 and 1994, and their aftereffects. Consequently, damage due to tropical storms is ineligible under this program.

Comment: One commenter suggested that a 45-day application period is too short, given the time elapsed since some of the eligible disasters and the fishermen's difficulty in assembling application information pertaining to these disasters.

Response: NMFS agrees. The application period is increased to 120 days.

Comment: Many commenters at the public meetings in Texas, Louisiana,

and Florida stressed that the scale of damage from eligible causes was so great that a cap of \$5,000 on compensation on individual applications and \$15,000 on aggregate applications from a single entity is inadequate.

Response: NMFS agrees. Individual uninsured losses will now be compensated for the amount of the uninsured loss or for an amount not to exceed \$7,500, and up to \$22,500 in the aggregate, whichever is less.

Comment: Six commenters suggested that the program include charter boat owners or operators.

Response: Because the program will now include vessel damage or loss, NMFS has decided to extend financial assistance to charter or head boat owners or operators. Therefore, the definition of "fisherman" now includes those persons providing a vessel for hire that carries recreational fishermen to engage in fishing for a fee.

Comment: Many commenters at the public meetings felt the program should compensate for the fishermen's cost of labor since most fishermen repair their own gear.

Response: While NMFS recognizes that many fishermen repair their own gear and vessels, labor cost would be difficult to document and would present significant verification concerns. In the interests of fair and efficient administration of the program, labor costs will not be reimbursed. Fishermen may recover, however, the costs of material used to repair their vessel or gear, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in this notice.

Comment: Many commenters at the public meetings felt that the program application requires too much information.

Response: In order to avoid fraud and abuse of the program, applicants must provide sufficient documentation to prove all circumstances necessary to qualify for assistance. Therefore, NMFS requires the information requested in order to make accurate assessments of each alleged uninsured loss. However, the program allows for provision of alternative documentation if certain information cannot be obtained by the applicant. It is within the NMFS Financial Services Division's discretion to determine whether the documentation will be considered.

Comment: One commenter suggested that financial assistance should be limited only to Hurricane Andrew victims.

Response: Pursuant to the IFA, the Secretary announced that emergency aid would be available for persons engaged in commercial fishing who suffered

from the declared fishery resource disasters arising from hurricanes, floods, or their aftereffects. Therefore, this assistance cannot be limited to victims of Hurricane Andrew.

I. Definitions

Application means an application under this program.

Applicant means an applicant under this program.

Award means an approved grant under this program.

Day means a calendar day.

Division means the Financial Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Eligible cause means any hurricane or flood, or its aftereffects, during a period from August 23, 1992, through December 31, 1995 (including, but not limited to: Wind, waves, rising waters, and the debris or other obstructions caused by them or carried by them).

Eligible waters means all state, Federal, and estuarine waters in the Gulf of Mexico, which is bounded in the east by the Florida Dade/Monroe County line and includes Florida Bay and the Florida Keys.

Fisherman means any natural or legal person who (1) Owns or leases a fishing vessel and/or fishing gear, or provides a vessel for hire that carries recreational fishermen to engage in fishing for a fee, (2) derives more than 50 percent of annual income from fishing, (3) has net revenues of less than \$2 million annually from commercial fishing, and (4) is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien.

Fishing means the legal harvesting of all types of aquatic animal and plant life (except marine mammals and birds) for the purpose of selling those catches into normal commercial distribution channels with the intent of earning a profit, or the provision of a vessel for hire that carries recreational fishermen to engage in fishing for a fee.

Gear means all legal fishing gear and equipment including, but not limited to, nets, winches, and motor parts, and fixed gear such as pots, traps, and pound nets.

Ineligible causes means any causes other than eligible causes, including (but not limited to) negligence.

Loss means damage to or loss of gear or damage to vessels caused by eligible causes in eligible waters for which compensation has not been received, or will not be received, from insurance companies, state, or Federal programs

(other than this program), or any other sources.

Loss gear means the gear for the loss of which an applicant is submitting an application under this program.

Loss trip means the trip of the loss vessel during which the loss actually occurred (or, in the case of fixed gear, both the trip in which the loss gear was deployed and the trip in which the loss gear's loss was first discovered).

Loss vessel means the vessel that was lost or damaged or from which the loss gear was, or last had been, deployed at the time of its loss.

Negligence includes, but is not limited to, failure to: (1) Remain outside any navigation safety zone established around any offshore energy activities or other obstructions by any Federal or state authority; (2) avoid obstructions recorded on nautical charts or in the Notice to Mariners in effect at least 15 days before the loss or marked by a buoy or other surface marker (casualties occurring within a one-quarter mile (0.4 kilometer) radius of obstructions so recorded or marked are presumed to involve the negligence or fault of the claimant); (3) abide by established Coast Guard navigational rules; or (4) use due care and diligence to avoid or mitigate the damage or loss.

Notice means this final notice of availability of Federal assistance.

Program means this program under the notice.

Repair cost means the cost (at the time of loss) of repairing loss gear or vessel, including material costs for fishermen repairing their own gear.

Replacement cost means the cost (at the time of loss) of replacing loss gear.

Vessel means any fishing vessel, boat, or other water craft documented under the laws of the United States or registered under the laws of any state of the United States and used for fishing or activities directly related to fishing.

II. Eligibility

The Program is available only to fishermen for the repair cost or replacement cost of fishing vessels and/or fishing gear loss in eligible waters due to eligible causes.

III. Documentation Requirements

Applicants must provide sufficient documentation to prove all circumstances necessary to qualify for assistance (including, but not limited to, documentation evidencing that loss was more likely than not due to eligible causes). Specific types of documentation requested are identified in Section VIII below. Other documentation considered to be relevant by applicants may also be

submitted. It will be within the Division's discretion to determine whether the documentation will be considered.

IV. Amount

Each award shall be for up to 100 percent of the uninsured loss, except that (1) no award will exceed \$7,500 and (2) no applicant will receive aggregate awards from multiple applications totaling more than \$22,500.

V. Who May Apply

Only U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens who meet the definition of fisherman as set out in this notice, and who owned or leased the loss gear or vessel at the time the loss or damage occurred may apply. Lessors may not apply unless they bore the risk of the vessel or gear's loss.

VI. When to Apply

Applications will be accepted during a 120-day period that begins on the date of publication of the final notice in the Federal Register. Applications received after this period will not be considered.

If applications are sent by U.S. mail, their submission dates are the same as their postmark dates. If applications are sent any other way, their submission dates are the dates the Division receives them. All applications will be considered on a first-come/first-serve basis from the date of acceptance.

VII. Where to Apply

Applicants must send applications to the Division (see **ADDRESSES**). All other correspondence or questions about this program or applications under it must also be addressed to the Division.

VIII. Application Contents

Applicants must submit applications on forms provided by the Division. Proprietary information submitted by applicants will only be disclosed to Federal officials who are responsible for the program unless otherwise required by court order or other applicable law. All information submitted is subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Applicants may receive application forms (and NOAA Federal Assistance Application Kits) by calling or writing the Division (see **ADDRESSES**). All applications must include at least the following items:

(1) The applicant's name, social security number, tax identification number, mailing address, telephone number, citizenship, and whether the applicant owned or leased the loss gear and/or loss vessel during the loss trip.

(2) If the loss vessel is documented under Federal law, a copy of the loss

vessel's Certificate of Documentation (U.S. Coast Guard Form 1270).

(3) If the loss vessel is registered under state law, a copy of the registration or title document issued by the registering state.

(4) If the loss vessel is leased, a copy of the lease and the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the loss vessel's lessor (the legal owner from which the applicant leased the loss vessel). Loss vessel lessees must establish that they bore the risk of the loss vessel's loss.

(5) If the loss gear is leased, a copy of the lease and the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the loss gear's lessor (the legal owner from which the applicant leased the loss gear.) Loss gear lessees must establish that they bore the risk of the loss gear's loss.

(6) A description of the loss vessel's fishing type, size, and capacity.

(7) A full description of the loss gear and how such gear is normally deployed and operated.

(8) If the loss was observed, the date and time of loss.

(9) If the loss was unobserved, the date and time the applicant last saw the loss gear or loss vessel in good condition and the date and time the applicant first discovered the loss gear or vessel's loss.

(10) A full statement of why the applicant believes it is more likely than not that the loss was caused by an eligible cause. The applicant should include in this statement all known evidence relevant to the most likely cause of the loss gear or vessel's loss. The level of detail in this statement must, together with all other information required in this section, be sufficient to clearly and accurately depict all known circumstances relevant to the loss. Photographs and videos of the damage may be submitted in support of the statement. The Division will deem statements that do not meet this criterion to be incomplete. If the time and place of loss are not consistent with the time at which a hurricane or a flood directly affected that place, then the applicant must carefully explain why the applicant believes the loss was more likely than not caused by the aftereffects of a hurricane or flood rather than by other factors (unrelated to hurricanes or floods) normally responsible for such a loss in such a place.

(11) When the loss vessel first left port on the loss trip and when it first returned to port at the end of the loss trip.

(12) Where applicable, the loss vessel's direction, speed, and other

activities immediately before, during, and after the loss.

(13) The name, current mailing address, and telephone number of each person serving during the loss trip as a crew member of the loss vessel (if unavailable, state why).

(14) A sworn, written statement from each loss trip crew member describing his or her knowledge of the loss and the conditions surrounding it and his or her activities immediately before, during, and after the time of the loss (if unavailable, state why).

(15) The location where the loss occurred in Loran C coordinates (or, if the loss vessel did not have Loran C capability, the next most accurate method of position fixing available).

(16) The fullest description possible of the nature and type of any obstruction, debris, or other item involved in causing the loss.

(17) The total purchase cost or total lease cost of the loss vessel or loss gear.

(18) A detailed inventory of all components of the loss gear and the nature of the loss with respect to each component.

(19) Proof of the date, place, and cost of having acquired all loss gear (sales receipts, copies of leases, or other satisfactory evidence).

(20) Evidence that the loss vessel was fishing on the three most recent loss-vessel trips before the loss trip. This evidence may consist of trip tickets for the three trips before the loss trip.

(21) Proof of having replaced or repaired the loss gear or loss vessel (sales receipts, repair invoices, copies of leases, or other satisfactory evidence).

(22) A copy of the applicant's Federal income tax return (including all business schedules) for the year in which the loss occurred (or, if the loss trip occurred in a year for which the applicant has not yet filed a return and the deadline for doing so has not yet passed, then a copy of a return for the latest year for which the filing deadline has passed).

(23) A copy of any state or Federal fishing license, permit, or gear tag receipts, or other state or Federal fishing authorization required for the loss vessel's operation during the loss trip.

(24) Evidence of the applicant's having complied with state or Federal requirements (if any) for reporting the catch results during the loss trip.

All applications will be submitted, and all statements in them made, under a penalty of perjury. A false statement on the application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

It will be within the Division's discretion to accept other documentation that applicants may submit in support of the application-content requirements. The Division may engage in pre-award negotiations with applicants to enable the Division to make a determination concerning acceptable application-content documentation.

IX. Application Processing

(a) *Ineligible or incomplete applications.* The Division will not accept ineligible or incomplete applications. The Division will return these to the applicants with an explanation of why the applications are unacceptable. Any applicant who wishes to have his or her returned application reconsidered for acceptance must respond within 30 days from the date of the Division's letter returning the application. If reconsideration responses render the applications complete, they will be accepted as newly submitted applications with the date of response serving as the submission date for chronological ranking for funding purposes.

(b) *Submission dates for reconsideration responses.* If reconsideration responses are sent by U.S. mail, their submission dates are the same as their postmark dates. If these responses are sent any other way, their submission dates are the dates on which the Division receives them.

X. Determinations

(a) *Chronological precedence.* Chronological precedence for assistance will be determined by application submission dates. Assistance will be made available on a first-come/first-serve basis until the \$5 million available for this program has been depleted.

(b) *Delays.* Determinations will be made as soon as possible, but personnel considerations may result in significant processing delays.

(c) *Division disapproval.* If the Division disapproves an application, it will return the application to the applicant and state the reason for its disapproval.

(d) *Approval and disbursement of funds.* If the Division approves an application, it will forward the application to the NOAA Grants Management Division for final approval. If the NOAA Grants Management Division approves the application, it will issue an award and notify the applicant of the award amount and any further requirements upon which the award is contingent.

(e) *Finality.* All Division and NOAA Grants Management Division

determinations will be final and conclusive.

XI. Administrative Requirements

All applicants are subject to as much of the following grants administration requirements as may be applicable to these grants.

Applicants to whom awards will be made must submit a Standard Form 424B, "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs" and Form CD-511, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying." These documents are included in the NOAA Federal Assistance Application Kit.

Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR 26.105) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension," and the related section of the certification form CD-511 applies.

Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR 26.605) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)," and the related section of the certification form CD-511 applies.

Any applicant who has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required by law (31 U.S.C. 1352, as amended).

Grant recipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and Commerce policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

Applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the recipient have been convicted of, or are presently facing, criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters that significantly reflect on the recipient's management, honesty, or financial integrity. A false statement on the application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt or fine until: (a) The delinquent account is paid in full; (b) a negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received; or (c) other arrangements satisfactory to Commerce are made.

Applicants are hereby notified that they are encouraged, to the extent

feasible, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding under this program.

If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of Commerce to cover pre-award costs.

If an application is selected for funding, Commerce has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award.

Classification

This program has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of E.O. 12866.

Applications under this program are subject to E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

The program is listed in the "Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance" under No. 11.452, Unallied Industry Projects.

This program contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The collection of this information has been approved by OMB (OMB control number 0648-0082). Public reporting burden for preparation of the claim application is estimated to be 10 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the documentation, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to NMFS (see ADDRESSES). Other requirements mentioned in the notice include Forms 424B and LLL, which are cleared under OMB Control Numbers 0348-0040 and 0348-0046, respectively.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: Public Law 99-659 (16 U.S.C. 4107 *et seq.*); Public Law 102-396.

Dated: June 4, 1996.

Gary Matlock,
Program Management Officer, National
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-14591 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-W

[I.D. 053096E]

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Bottlenose Dolphins and Spotted Dolphins

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of letters of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that letters of authorization to take bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities were issued on May 31, 1996, to Chevron U.S.A., 935 Gravier Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, and Samedan Oil Corporation, 350 Glenborough, Houston, TX 77067.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The letters of authorization are effective from May 31, 1996 through May 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The applications and letters are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and the Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2055 or Charles Oravetz, Southeast Region (813) 570-5312.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if the Secretary of Commerce finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the

species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities in the Gulf of Mexico were published on October 12, 1995 (60 FR 53139) and remain in effect until November 13, 2000.

Summary of Request

NMFS received requests for letters of authorization on May 8, 1996, from Chevron U.S.A., and on May 17, 1996, from Samedan Oil Corporation. These letters request a take by harassment of a small number of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to the above mentioned activity. Issuance of these letters of authorization is based on a finding that the total takings will have a negligible impact on the bottlenose and spotted dolphin stocks of the Gulf of Mexico.

Dated: June 4, 1996.

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

[FR Doc. 96-14592 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 052496B]

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) from July 17 to July 19, 1996.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. July 17, 1996, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
2. July 18, 1996, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
3. July 19, 1996, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Silver Spring Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to MAFAC, Office of Management Information, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Wheeler, Executive Secretary; telephone: (301) 713-2252.