

Dated: September 9, 1996.

Donald L. Powers,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.

[FR Doc. 96-23400 Filed 9-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090396A]

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 two letters of authorization to take bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities were issued on August 23 and 30, 1996, respectively, to the Amerada Hess Corporation and The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company, both of Houston, TX.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These letters of authorization are effective for 1 year from the date of issuance.

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 NMFS 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 August 21, 1996, from the Amerada Hess Corporation, and August 28, 1996, from The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company. These letters requested a take by harassment of a small number of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to the described 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: September 6, 1996.

Rennie S. Holt,

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

[FR Doc. 96-23403 Filed 9-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 090696A]

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The first meeting of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) will be held to address bycatch of large baleen whales, specifically the northern right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) and the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the following fisheries: The Gulf of Maine/U.S. mid-Atlantic lobster trap/pot fishery, the mid-Atlantic coastal gillnet

fishery, the southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fishery, and the Gulf of Maine sink-gillnet fishery. The bycatch of minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), and other large whales in these fisheries will also be discussed.

DATES: The first meeting of the team will be held on September 16-17, 1996 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Tara's Ferncroft Conference Resort, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA, 01923, (508) 777-2500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kathy Wang, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, (813) 570-5312, or Dr. Sal Testaverde, Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, (508) 281-9368, or Michael Payne, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 6, 1996, NMFS published notice of the establishment of the Atlantic Large Whale TRT (61 FR 40819). Section 118(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires NMFS to establish a TRT to prepare a draft Take Reduction Plan designed to assist in the recovery or prevent the depletion of each strategic marine mammal stock that interacts with certain fisheries.

NMFS has scheduled the first meeting (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES**). The TRT will be facilitated by Abby Dilley, The Keystone Center, Washington, DC. The TRT will hold at least four meetings to develop a TRP focusing on reducing bycatch in these fisheries.

TRTs are not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.). This meeting is open to the public and is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Wang at (813) 570-5312 by September 12, 1996.

Dated: September 6, 1996.

Rennie S. Holt,

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

[FR Doc. 96-23252 Filed 9-6-96; 3:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 090496A]

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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's Groundfish

Management Team will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 16 beginning at 1 p.m. and may go into the evening until business for the day is completed, and on September 17, 18 and 19 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Glock, Groundfish Fishery Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this meeting is to review the draft stock assessments, prepare the annual stock assessment and fishery evaluation document, prepare final recommendations for management of the groundfish fisheries in 1997, including review of sablefish and Pacific whiting management plans.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 5, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 96-23255 Filed 9-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 090596C]

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 Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of its salmon stock review team for Puget Sound chinook and Strait of Juan de Fuca coho salmon stocks.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 25, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Conference Center of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, 6700 Martin Way East, Olympia, WA; telephone: (360) 438-1180.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Coon, Fishery Management Coordinator (Salmon); telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to complete a review of the status of some Puget Sound chinook and Strait of Juan de Fuca coho stocks as required under the Council's salmon fishery management plan when a stock fails to meet its spawning escapement objective for 3 consecutive years. This is expected to be the final meeting of the group.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 6, 1996.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 96-23404 Filed 9-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 090696I]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of modification 5 to permit 848 (P507D) and modification 7 to permit 825 (P513).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued modifications to two permits that authorize takes of Endangered Species Act-listed species for the purpose of scientific research/enhancement, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) at Olympia, WA and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at Portland, OR (CRITFC).

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The modifications to permits were issued under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS

regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

Notice was published on July 19, 1996 (61 FR 37722) that an application had been filed by WDFW (P507D) for modification 5 to scientific research/enhancement permit 848. Modification 5 to permit 848 was issued to WDFW on September 6, 1996. Permit 848 authorizes WDFW annual takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with a supplementation program at the Tucannon River Fish Hatchery. For Modification 5, WDFW is authorized an increase in the number of hatchery smolts to be released annually in the upper watershed of the Tucannon River. Also for modification 5, WDFW is authorized to retain all of the adult, ESA-listed, natural-origin salmon that return to the hatchery adult trap each year for broodstock if the total annual adult returns to the trap is less than 105 fish. If the total annual adult returns to the trap is greater than or equal to 105 fish, WDFW is authorized to retain up to 70 percent of the adult, ESA-listed natural-origin salmon that return to the hatchery adult trap each year for broodstock and to release the remaining percentage of ESA-listed adult salmon above the hatchery trap for natural spawning. Modification 5 to permit 848 is valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 848 expires on March 31, 1998.

Notice was published on July 3, 1996 (61 FR 34800) that an application had been filed by CRITFC (P513) for modification 7 to scientific research permit 825. Modification 7 to permit 825 was issued to CRITFC on August 30, 1996. Permit 825 authorizes an annual take of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with several scientific research studies. For modification 7, CRITFC is authorized an annual take of juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with a study designed to monitor the extent of dissolved nitrogen gas supersaturation effects on outmigrating juvenile anadromous fish in the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest. Modification 7 is valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 825 expires on December 31, 1997.

Issuance of the permit modifications, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such actions: (1) Were requested in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the ESA-