

**Extension of Preliminary Results**

The Department initiated this administrative review on October 30, 1997 (62 FR 58705). Under section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, the Department may extend the deadline for completion of an administrative review if it determines that it is not practicable to complete the review within the statutory time limit of 365 days. Because of the complexity and novelty of certain issues in this case, it is not practicable to complete this review within the statutory time limit of 365 days. The Department, therefore, is extending the time limit for the preliminary results of the aforementioned review to August 3, 1998. See memorandum from Maria Harris Tildon to Robert S. LaRussa, which is on file in Room B-099 at the Department's headquarters. The deadline for the final results of this review will continue to be 120 days after publication of the preliminary results.

This extension of time limit is in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act and section 351.213(h)(2) of the Department's regulations.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

**Maria Harris Tildon,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, AD/CVD Enforcement Group II.*

[FR Doc. 98-13429 Filed 5-19-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Institute of Standards and Technology****Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of partially closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Tuesday, June 9, 1998 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology is composed of fifteen members appointed by the Director of NIST who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and International relations. The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute, its organization,

its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include an update on NIST programs, NIST Planning for International Standards and Recent Developments in international Standards, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and a laboratory tour. Discussions scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and to end at 9:10 a.m. on June 9, 1998, on staffing of management positions at NIST and the NIST budget, including funding levels of the Advanced Technology Program and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. and to end at 5 p.m. on June 9, 1998, will be closed.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene June 9, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 5 p.m. on June 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Employees Lounge (seating capacity 80, includes 38 participants), Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Chris E. Kuyatt, Visiting Committee Executive Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, telephone number (301) 975-6090.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on February 13, 1998, that portions of the meeting of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology which involve discussion of proposed funding of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Advanced Technology Program may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because those portions of the meetings will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of meetings which involve discussion of the staffing issues of management and other positions at NIST may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in those portions of the meetings is likely to reveal information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

**Robert E. Hebner,**

*Acting Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-13427 Filed 5-19-98; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 051398A]

RIN 0648-AH77

**Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Notice of Availability**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the Highly Migratory Species Management Division has prepared a final document considering the economic effects and potential alternatives to the 1997 quotas on the Atlantic large coastal shark fishery, as ordered by the Middle District Court of Florida, Tampa Division, on February 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the final document should be sent to Margo Schulze, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Margo Schulze or Karyl Brewster-Geisz, 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The fishery for Atlantic sharks is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean prepared by NMFS under authority of section 304(g) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended, and was implemented on April 26, 1993, through regulations found at 50 CFR part 678.

On April 2, 1997 (62 FR 16648), NMFS reduced the large coastal shark commercial quota and recreational bag limit by 50 percent as proposed, with an exception for an additional recreational allowance of two Atlantic sharpnose sharks per person per trip. The prohibition on possession of white sharks was modified to allow for a catch-and-release-only recreational fishery. Otherwise, all measures were implemented as proposed. Partly because NMFS received comments that indicated the proposed measures may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities and because it wanted to ensure that the impacts were thoroughly analyzed, NMFS prepared a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) that assessed the economic impacts of the regulation on small entities engaged in the Atlantic shark fishery in the final rule. In that FRFA, NMFS reaffirmed its

conclusion from the proposed rule stage that the 1997 quotas would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities engaged in the large coastal shark fishery.

On May 2, 1997, a coalition of commercial shark fishermen, dealers, and organizations sued the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to set aside the 1997 commercial shark quotas based on allegations of uncertainty in the data used in stock assessments, on lack of international management, and on NMFS' determination that there would be no significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities engaged in the Atlantic shark fishery. On February 27, 1998, Judge Steven D. Merryday, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, issued an amended order that found "that the Secretary acted within his regulatory discretion in setting the quotas but failed to conduct a proper analysis to determine the quota's economic effect on small businesses" (p. 1). Judge Merryday ordered that the agency submit further analyses on or before May 15, 1998, and retained jurisdiction over the case pending review of the analyses. The quotas are maintained until further order of the Court. On April 14, 1998, NMFS announced the availability of the draft consideration of the economic effects and potential alternatives to the 1997 quotas on the Atlantic large coastal shark fishery in response to the judicial order. Public comment was requested on the assumptions, analysis, and conclusions in the draft document. The comments received were considered and used to improve the document. A summary of the comments and NMFS response to each are contained within the document. This final document was submitted to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, on May 15, 1998.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 14, 1998.

**Gary C. Matlock,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-13352 Filed 5-19-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051498A]

#### Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Offshore Seismic Activities in the Beaufort Sea

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for a small take exemption; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from Western Geophysical/Western Atlas International of Houston, Texas (Western Geophysical) for an authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to conducting seismic surveys in the Beaufort Sea in state and Federal waters. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to authorize Western Geophysical to incidentally take, by harassment, small numbers of bowhead whales and other marine mammals in the above mentioned areas during the open water period of 1998.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than June 19, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the application should be addressed to Michael Payne, Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. A copy of the application, a 1996 environmental assessment (EA), and a list of references used in this document may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth R. Hollingshead, (301) 713-2055, Brad Smith, (907) 271-5006.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional taking 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 either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, notice of a proposed

authorization is provided to the public for review.

Permission may be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses and that the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking are set forth.

On April 10, 1996 (61 FR 15884), NMFS published an interim rule establishing, among other things, procedures for issuing incidental harassment authorizations under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for activities in Arctic waters. For additional information on the procedures to be followed for this authorization, please refer to that document.

#### Summary of Request

On April 15, 1998, NMFS received an application from Western Geophysical requesting an authorization for the harassment of small numbers of several species of marine mammals incidental to conducting seismic surveys during the open water season in the Beaufort Sea between Harrison Bay and Flaxman Island, AK. Weather permitting, the survey is expected to take place between approximately July 1 and October 20, 1998. A detailed description of the work proposed for 1998 is contained in the application (Western Geophysical, 1998) and is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### Description of Habitat and Marine Mammal Affected by the Activity

A detailed description of the Beaufort Sea ecosystem and its associated marine mammals can be found in the EA prepared for this authorization or in other documents (Minerals Management Service (MMS), 1992, 1996). This information is incorporated by reference and need not be repeated here. A copy of the EA is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### Marine Mammals

The Beaufort/Chukchi Seas support a diverse assemblage of marine mammals, including bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*), gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), belukha (*Delphinapterus leucas*), ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*), spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) and bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*). Descriptions of the biology and distribution of these species and of others can be found in several other documents (Western Geophysical, 1998; BPXA, 1996b, 1998; Lentfer, 1988;