

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caribbean Fishery Management Council,
268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108,
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577;
telephone: (787) 766-5926; fax: (787)
766-6239.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold its 94th regular public meeting to discuss the Draft Amendment Number 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands for Establishing a Marine Conservation District. The Council will be taking final action on the establishing of a proposed "no-take" marine conservation district in the exclusive economic zone, U.S.V.I.

The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 11, 1998, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to discuss administrative matters regarding Council operation.

The Council will convene on Wednesday, August 12, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Thursday August February 13, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. till noon, approximately.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral and written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at the Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for address) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: July 20, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19990 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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

[I.D. 071498A]

Incidental Taking of Marine Mammals; Acoustic Harassment

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

ACTION: Notice of workshop on acoustic criteria.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that it will convene a panel of independent experts in marine acoustics to discuss various technical aspects of the problem of marine mammals and anthropogenic noise. While the proceedings are open to the general public for observation, the public's ability to interact with the expert panel will be limited to specified times during the proceedings.

DATES: The workshop will be held September 9 through September 11, 1998, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The Workshop will be held at the Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, NOAA Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Gentry or Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, telephone (301) 713-2055.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Anthropogenic sounds in the marine environment are increasing over the span of decades, with possible adverse impacts on the marine biota, in particular marine mammals. These sounds come from shipping, military (and civilian) explosives, seismic profiling (both oil and gas exploration and for seismic/geological hazards), government, commercial, and private sonars, dredging, drilling and pile driving, military activities, use of acoustic deterrence, and some scientific research. Some sounds may be loud enough to cause physical injury to marine mammals. The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) defines "take" to include "harass." Harassment includes a disturbance or a disruption of behavioral patterns, including migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (16 U.S.C. 1362(18)). While it is clear that certain takings (e.g., those that cause serious injury or mortality or result in large scale displacements of a marine mammal population) require an authorization under the MMPA (unless exempted), it is less clear what level of anthropogenic sounds might cause

behavioral modification or affect hearing sufficient to require authorizations under the MMPA and the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, at this time scientific data demonstrating that certain sounds result in the harassment of marine mammals are lacking, and it is not known to what extent NMFS should apply data from surrogate species to marine mammals.

The workshop will consist of experts in the fields of animal bioacoustics, underwater sound, and animal behavior. The workshop will consider whether different criteria are needed for explosions, pulsed sound, intermittent sound, and continuous sound, the preferred units in which to report these levels, and other approaches as alternatives to proximity for estimating the effects of sound on marine mammals.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19992 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 071598G]

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold joint meetings of its Habitat Committee and Coral Advisory Panel and its Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel.

DATES: The meetings will be held from August 11-13, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Town & Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC; telephone: (843) 571-1000.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

August 11, 1998, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Habitat Committee, Coral and Habitat & Environmental Protection Advisory Panels will hear an overview of the development of the Council's actions to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act regarding essential fish habitat, bycatch, overfishing and fishing communities, and an overview of further necessary action to meet these requirements, review comments received during public hearing and informal review comments on the Council's Habitat Plan and Habitat Comprehensive Amendment and the Sustainable Fisheries Act Amendment, and Review and provide advisory panel and committee comments on the Draft Calico Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

August 12, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The committee and advisory panels will review and provide comments to the Council on the following Council documents: the Draft Sargassum Plan, the Draft Habitat Plan, the Draft Habitat Amendment, and the Sustainable Fisheries Act Amendment. The advisory panels will then develop final advisory panel recommendations on these documents to the Council.

August 13, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

The committee and advisory panels will meet to develop final committee recommendations to the Council regarding the aforementioned documents in this Notice, and discuss other business.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by August 4, 1998.

Dated: July 20, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19991 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071598B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 782-1455

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Permit No. 782-1455, issued to Dr. Douglas P. DeMaster, Director, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, was amended. **ADDRESSES:** The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221); and Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of 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.*), the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The amendment authorizes the National Marine Mammal Laboratory to obtain and maintain northern fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*) scientific specimens collected from the native subsistence harvest, authorizes harassment of northern fur seals while collecting/necropsying dead pups throughout the duration of the Permit, and changes the due date of the annual reports from December 31 to March 31 every year the permit is active.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is

consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 20, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19988 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 980713169-8167-01]

Dissemination of Patent and Trademark Information on the PTO's Web Site

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) plans to expand the searchable database offerings on its World-Wide Web (Web) site by adding additional patent data and by including trademark data. This expansion will provide Web access to the full text of patents granted since 1976 and to the trademark text data for registered and pending marks. The PTO also plans to incorporate patent and trademark image data and trademark data for inactive marks as part of its expanded Web offering. The PTO requests public comments on its decision to expand its Web site offerings.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before August 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Attention: Wesley H. Gewehr, Administrator for Information Dissemination, Crystal Park 3, Suite 451, Washington, DC 20231; or fax to 703-306-2737; or e-mail to jane.myers@uspto.gov. Comments will be available for public inspection in the Office of Electronic Information Products, Crystal Park 3, Suite 441, 2231 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane S. Myers, Office of Electronic Information Products, by telephone at 703-306-2600; by fax at 703-306-2737;