

Commissioner, with a copy to Catherine Corson (see **ADDRESSES**). All persons wishing to be considered for the U.S. Commissioner's recommendation to the Department of State concerning the composition of the delegation should ensure that nominations are received by this date. Prospective Congressional advisers to the Delegation should contact the Department of State directly.

April 23, 1998: 2:00 p.m., Room 1863, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC: Tentative Interagency Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 1998 IWC annual meeting.

April 27 to May 9, 1998 (Oman): IWC Scientific Committee Meeting.

May 11 to 20, 1998 (Oman): IWC 50th Annual Meeting.

Special Accommodations

Department of Commerce meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Catherine Corson at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 17, 1998.

Patricia Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-4364 Filed 2-17-98; 3:44 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398A]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Bottomfish and Crustaceans Plan Teams in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The Bottomfish Plan Team (BPT) meeting will be held on March 11-13, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day. The Crustaceans Plan Team (CPT) meeting will be held on March 17-19, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day.

ADDRESSES: Both meetings will be held at the Council office conference room, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BPT will discuss and may make recommendations to the Council on a draft comprehensive amendment to implement new Sustainable Fishery Act (SFA) requirements (bycatch, fishing sectors, fishing communities, overfishing, essential fish habitat); a draft amendment with management options to restore overfished Main Hawaiian Island (MHI) onaga and ehu, or address the situation in other ways; and draft island-area modules for the 1997 bottomfish annual report. Other agenda items that the BPT will discuss and may take action on include:

1. State and Federal research on MHI overfished bottomfish;
2. Possible addition of generic level management unit species to the fishery management plan;
3. Improvements to annual report modules, including reconsideration of geographic reporting of overfishing indicator;
4. Update on the status of the draft amendment for the limited access program for the Mau Zone in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI); and
5. Other business as required.

The CPT will discuss and make recommendations to the Council on a draft comprehensive amendment to implement new SFA requirements (bycatch, fishing sectors, fishing communities, overfishing, essential fish habitat); the draft 1997 NWHI lobster annual report; and the addition of new areas (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and U.S. Possessions) to Permit Area 3.

Other agenda items that the CPT will discuss and may take action on include:

1. Research and data collection plans for 1998;
2. Determination of the 1998 harvest guideline, including estimation of exploitable population size and establishment of separate bank quotas;
3. Status of framework regulatory changes: Vessel Monitoring System vessel transit of 50 mile closed area, announce harvest guideline 28 February, add May to closed season for MHI Federal waters; and
4. Other business as required.

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

specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: February 13, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-4365 Filed 2-19-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021298A]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Christopher W. Clark, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 875-1401.

ADDRESSES: The amendment 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 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 23, 1997, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 61093) that an amendment of Permit No. 875-1401, issued September 8, 1997 (62 FR 48611) had been requested by the above-name individual. The requested amendment has been granted 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.*), and the provisions of § 222.25 of the

regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

The requested amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 875-1401 currently authorizes the harassment of several species of marine mammals during the conduct of research to study the effects of low-frequency sound produced by the Navy's Surface Towed Array Surveillance System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) system on the behavior of blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) feeding in the Southern California Bight during September/October of 1997 and/or 1998. It was amended on December 10, 1997 to provide for the conduct of playback experiments using a SURTASS LFA sound source to study behavioral responses of gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) to SURTASS LFA signals, radio tagging via suction cup attachment of up to 14 gray whales, and harassment of individuals of several other species of cetaceans, pinnipeds, and possibly sea turtles, may be taken (*i.e.*, by harassment or auditory temporary threshold shift) during the studies on gray whales. Permit No. 875-1401 has now been amended to authorize the conduct of playback experiments using the SURTASS LFA sound source to study behavioral responses of breeding and nursing humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and foraging sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in Hawaii from mid-February through mid-April of 1998. Individuals of several other cetacean, pinniped, and sea turtle species may be taken (*i.e.*, by harassment or auditory temporary threshold shift) during the proposed experiments.

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: February 12, 1998.

Art Jeffers,

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

[FR Doc. 98-4366 Filed 2-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Technical Information Service

NTIS Advisory Board Meeting

AGENCY: National Technical Information Service, Technology Administration, U.S. 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 National Technical Information Service Advisory Board (the "Board") will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The session from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will be closed to the Public.

The Board was established under the authority of 15 U.S.C. 3704b(c), and was Chartered on September 15, 1989. The Board is composed of five members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce who are eminent in such fields as information resources management, information technology, and library and information services. The purpose of the meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policies and operations of NTIS, including policies in connection with fees and charges for its services. The agenda will include a progress report on NTIS activities, an update on the progress of FedWorld, and a discussion of NTIS' long range plans. The closed session discussion is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. on March 10, 1998. The session will be closed because premature disclosure of the information to be discussed would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of NTIS' business plans.

DATES: The meeting will convene on March 10, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 2029 Sills Building, National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting will be open to public participation from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 10, 1998. Approximately thirty minutes will be set aside on March 10, 1998, for comments or questions from the public. Seats will be available for the public and for the media on a first-come, first-served basis. Any member of the public may submit written comments concerning the Board's affairs at any time. Copies of the minutes of the open session meeting will be available within

thirty days of the meeting from the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Lucas, NTIS Advisory Board Secretary, National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, Telephone: (703) 605-6400; Fax (703) 487-4093.

Dated: February 17, 1998.

Donald R. Johnson,

Director.

[FR Doc. 98-4362 Filed 2-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-04-M

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Public Information Collection Requirement

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Renew Information Collection #3038-0005: Rules Pertaining to the Operations and Activities of Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors and to Monthly Reporting by Futures Commission Merchants.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is planning to renew information collection 3038-0005, Rules Pertaining to the Operations and Activities of Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors and to Monthly Reporting by Futures Commission Merchants, which is due to expire on April 30, 1998. The information collected pursuant to this rule provides a basis for determining compliance with Part 4 of the Commission's regulations which pertains to Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors.

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Commission solicits comments to:

(1) evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 21, 1998.