

Dated: July 1, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-17795 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070799I]

#### Application for Commercial Fisheries Exemption Under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

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

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before September 13, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Vicki Cornish, Office of Protected Resources (F/PR2), Room 13700, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2322, ext. 125.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the taking of marine mammals except under permit or exemption. Section 118 of the Act authorizes an exemption for commercial fisheries provided that fishers in Category I and II fisheries (those with the most likely interactions with marine mammals) to register for a certificate of exemption that will protect the fisher from

prosecution for violating the moratorium on the taking of marine mammals.

##### II. Method of Collection

Respondents must submit a form with a registration fee.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0293

*Form Number:* None

*Type of Review:* Regular submission

*Affected public:* Business and other for-profit, individuals

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 22,400

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 15 minutes

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 5,600

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$616,000

##### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and /or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 1, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-17797 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070799H]

#### New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint public meeting of its Research Steering and Experimental Fisheries Committee on July 29, 1999 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on July 29, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Council office,

5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01960-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The committee will establish procedures, approve projects and forward recommendations concerning the one percent Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set-aside earmarked for sea scallop fishery research.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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 listed 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 Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: July 8, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-17793 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070799F]

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at Hawthorn Suites, 9th Avenue and L Street, Anchorage, AK 99501.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council staff, phone: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council and Board will meet July 27, 1999, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and concluding by 4:00 p.m., to discuss the following issues:

1. Review of Council's June meeting in Kodiak, AK.
2. Consultation on the Board's recent action with regard to a trawl stand-down.
3. Review of the Council and Board's joint protocol and discussion of possible improvements.

Although the meeting is open to the public the Board and Council do not plan to take oral public comment at this meeting. Written comments received at the Council office by Thursday,

July 22, will be copied and provided to Council and Board members at the meeting.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this 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 the meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed 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 Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 8, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-17791 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

##### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 070799G]

##### **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 (Council) Ad-Hoc Observer Program Implementation Committee (Observer Committee) will hold a working meeting which is open to the public.

**DATES:** The Observer Committee working meeting will begin Tuesday, July 27, 1999 and continue through Wednesday, July 28, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council Conference Room, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

*Council address:* 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 purpose of the meeting is to continue development of an observer program proposal for 2000. The program proposal will be presented to the Council at its September 13-17, 1999 meeting in Portland, OR.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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 agenda.

#### **Special Accommodations**

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

Dated: July 8, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-17792 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

##### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 061599B]

##### **Marine Mammals; File No. 486-1506**

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Brent S. Stewart, Ph.D., J.D. (Principal Investigator), Senior Research Biologist, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute 2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego, CA 92109, has been issued a permit to take pinnipeds for purposes of scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 3, 1999, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 23607) that a request for a scientific research permit to take northern elephant seals, northern fur seals, harbor seals, and California sea lions and to incidentally harass Steller sea lions and Guadalupe fur seals had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), 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 regulations governing endangered species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

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.