

reasons why a hearing on the application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore or Sara Young (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to Permit No. 21217 is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 21217, issued on November 6, 2017 (82 FR 60968; December 26, 2017), authorizes the permit holder to import biological samples from up to 30 harp seals (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*) and 30 hooded seals (*Cystophora cristata*) from Canada to study the effects of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) on the fitness and immune function in two species of phocid seals. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to increase the number of samples imported from each species from 30 to 60 individuals and to include the import of samples collected during the 2019 field season in Canada. All other aspects of the permitted activities would not change.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the proposed activities are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of these applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: July 31, 2018.

**Julia Marie Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2018-16719 Filed 8-3-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG365**

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting (webinar).

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Salmon Technical Team (STT), Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), and Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will hold a joint meeting to discuss and make recommendations on issues on the Pacific Council's September 2018 agenda. This meeting will be held via webinar and is open to the public.

**DATES:** The webinar will be held Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at 2 p.m. and will end when business for the day has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. A public listening station is available at the Pacific Council office (address below). To attend the webinar, use this link: <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar> (click "Join a Webinar" in top right corner of page). (1) Enter the Webinar ID: 493-298-571. (2) Enter your name and email address (required). You must use your telephone for the audio portion of the meeting by dialing this TOLL number 1-415-930-5321. (3) Enter the Attendee phone audio access code 706-308-295. (4) Enter your audio phone pin (shown after joining the webinar). *Note:* We have disabled Mic/Speakers as an option and require all participants to use a telephone or cell phone to participate. Technical Information and System Requirements: PC-based attendees are required to use Windows® 7, Vista, or XP; Mac®-based attendees are required to use Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer; Mobile attendees are required to use iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet (see <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/ipad-iphone-android-webinar-apps>). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at [Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at 503-820-2280, extension 411 for technical assistance.

**Council address:** Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robin Ehlke, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2410.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Major topics include, but are not limited to, Salmon Methodology Review, Salmon Rebuilding Plan update, and preliminary Pacific halibut management for 2019. The groups may also address one or more of the Council's scheduled Administrative Matters and Ecosystem topics. Public comments during the webinar will be received from attendees

at the discretion of the STT, SAS, and MEW Chairs.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

The public listening station is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt ([kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov); (503) 820-2411) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 31, 2018.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2018-16698 Filed 8-3-18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG374**

#### Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold its 163rd meeting in August to discuss the items contained in the agenda in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on August 28-30, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at The Buccaneer Hotel located at 5007 Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**August 28, 2018, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.**

- New Council Members Oath
- Election of New Officers
- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Consideration of 162nd Council Meeting Verbatim Transcriptions
- Executive Director's Report
- Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)) Meeting Report—Richard Appeldoorn
- Island-based Fishery Management Plans
  - Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statements:
    - Puerto Rico
    - St. Thomas/St. John
    - St. Croix
  - Council selection of preferred alternatives
  - Council decision as to whether to take DEIS to public hearings
- Spiny Lobster Control Rule Public Comment Period (5-minute presentations)

**August 28, 2018, 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.**

- Administrative Issues
- Closed Session

**August 29, 2018, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.**

- Outreach and Education Report—Alida Ortiz
- Lionfish Project Report—Dr. J. Tookes
- Puerto Rico Fisheries Socio-Economic Project Update—Dr. T. Seara
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WEC AFC)
  - Overview and Status of Working Groups
  - Proposal for a Regional Fishery Management (RFMO)—DOS
- 2018 Okeanos Expedition to PR and the USVI—Daniel Wagner

**August 29, 2018, 1 p.m.–6 p.m.**

- Field Trip to Visit St. Croix Fishing Communities

**August 30, 2018, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.**

- Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) Summary of Applications and Status
- Emergency Location and Removal of Lost Fishing Gear in Puerto Rico: Avoiding Long Term Impacts of Ghost Gear—Raimundo Espinoza.
- Enforcement Issues:
  - Puerto Rico-DNER
  - U.S. Virgin Islands-DPNR
  - U.S. Coast Guard
  - NMFS/NOAA
- Meetings Attended by Council Members and Staff
- Other Business
- Public Comment Period (5-minute presentations)
- Next Meeting

The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the

completion of agenda items. The meeting will begin on August 28, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. Other than the start time, interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated. In addition, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1903, telephone: (787) 766–5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 31, 2018.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2018–16710 Filed 8–3–18; 8:45 am]

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

**RIN 0648–XF370**

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Sand Point City Dock Replacement Project in Sand Point, Alaska**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) previously issued to ADOT&PF to incidentally take nine species of marine mammal, by Level A and Level B harassment, during construction activities associated with the Sand Point City Dock Replacement Project in Sand Point, Alaska. ADOT&PF reported that the project has been delayed. The IHA issued on October 13, 2017 has effective dates of August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019. ADOT&PF requested that a new IHA be issued to conduct their work between May 31, 2019 and May 30, 2020. NMFS is, therefore, issuing a second IHA to cover the incidental take

analyzed and authorized in the first IHA. The authorized take numbers would be the same as authorized previously, and the required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting would remain the same as authorized for the 2018 IHA referenced above. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is notifying the public about the issuance of an IHA to ADOT&PF to incidentally take marine mammals, by Level A and Level B harassment only, during the specified activity.

**DATES:** The IHA is valid May 31, 2019, through May 30, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** An electronic copy of the final Authorization previously issued for 2018–2019, ADOT&PF's application, and related documents may be obtained by visiting <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rob Pauline, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon 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 either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.