

detonation to a distance equal to the caution zone radius plus 300 ft (91 m) dropped down to the level of ambient noise.

Due to the similarity of the geophysical structure and rock substrate between Port of Miami and Port Sutton, the Corps believes the adoption of the Port of Miami pressure measurements to establish safety zones at Port Sutton provides a conservative level of protection for marine mammals. Therefore, the Corps proposes to modify the safety zone radius to the radius of the calculated caution zone plus 300 ft (91 m). This modification will reduce the area of safety zones and make marine mammal monitoring more effective.

(4) Marine mammal monitoring shall begin at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled start of blasting to identify the possible presence of manatees and dolphins. The monitoring shall continue until at least one half-hour after detonations are complete.

Marine mammal monitoring will consist of a minimum of six observers. Each observer will be equipped with a two-way radio that shall be dedicated exclusively to the watch. Extra radio should be available in case of failures. Observers will also be equipped with polarized sunglasses, binoculars, a red flag for backup visual communication, and a sighting log with a map to record marine mammal sightings.

In addition to monitoring from two small boats and from a draw barge, marine mammal monitoring will also include a continuous aerial survey to be conducted by aircraft, as approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.

(5) Detonation events will be halted if an animal is spotted within 300 ft (91 m) of the perimeter of the caution zone (i.e., the safety zone). The blasting event shall not take place until the animal moves out of the area under its own volition, or 30 minutes after the last sighting of the animal.

Endangered Species Act

The Corps is currently working with the USFWS on an ESA section 7 consultation regarding potential take of Florida manatees incidental to the proposed action. No ESA-listed species under NMFS jurisdiction will be affected.

Preliminary Conclusions

NMFS believes that the Corps' proposed modification to the proposed action would not increase the incidental take of marine mammals from its original proposal by number or severity. The newly available information that was used for the proposed modification

would provide a better assessment on the potential impacts on marine mammals, and therefore provides more effective mitigation and monitoring measures. NMFS retains its preliminary determination made in its previous **Federal Register** notice (70 FR 48541, August 18, 2005) that the Corps' proposed action and subsequent modification, including mitigation measures to protect marine mammals, may result, at worst, in the temporary modification in behavior by small numbers of bottlenose dolphins, including temporarily vacating the Port Sutton Channel area to avoid the blasting activity and potential for minor visual and acoustic disturbance from dredging and detonations. This action is expected to have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock of marine mammals. In addition, no take by injury or death is anticipated, and harassment takes will be at the lowest level practicable due to incorporation of the mitigation measures described in this document and the August 18, 2005, **Federal Register** notice (70 FR 48541).

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to the Corps for the harassment of small numbers of bottlenose dolphins incidental to expanding and deepening the Port Sutton Channel in Tampa Harbor, FL, provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements, along with the proposed modifications, are incorporated.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments and information concerning this proposed modification to the proposed project and NMFS' preliminary determination of issuing an IHA (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: July 11, 2006.

James H. Lecky,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) was established by the Secretary of Commerce to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, its amendments, and such other appropriate matters that the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held Monday, August 14, 2006, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Tuesday, August 15, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: The Hotel Captain Cook, 4th and K Streets, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; Telephone: 907-276-6000 or 800-843-1950. The times and agenda topics are subject to change. Refer to the HSRP Web site listed below for the most current meeting agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Captain Steven Barnum, NOAA, Designated Federal Official (DFO), Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service (NOS), NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; Telephone: 301-713-2770, Fax: 301-713-4019; e-mail:

Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov or visit the NOAA HSRP Web site at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public and public comment periods will be scheduled at various times throughout the meeting. These comment periods will be part of the final agenda that will be published before the meeting date on the HSRP Web site listed above. Each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments (at least 30 copies) should be submitted to the DFO by August 4, 2006. Written comments received by the DFO after August 4, 2006, will be distributed to the HSRP, but may not be reviewed before the meeting date. Approximately 25 seats will be available for the public, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Matters to be Considered: (1) Deliberations on issues relevant to: (1) Alaska shipping, cruise industry, coastal resources management, ocean policy, and recreational boating; (2) geodesy and shoreline mapping; (3) navigational services program updates; (4) historical overview and status update on the reauthorization of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act; (5) Panel deliberations on the "NOAA Hydrographic Survey Priorities;" and (6) public statements.

Dated: July 7, 2006.

Steven R. Barnum,

Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070306B]

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of open public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). This will be the second of two meetings held in fiscal year 2006 to review and advise NOAA on management policies for living marine resources. Agenda topics are provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. All full Committee sessions will be open to the public.

DATES: The meetings will be held July 25, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 27, 2006, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Seattle Downtown/Lake Union, 925 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109, (206) 213-0100.

Requests for special accommodations may be directed to MAFAC, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway #9508, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurel Bryant, MAFAC Executive Director; telephone: (301) 713-2379 x171.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, notice is hereby given of meetings of MAFAC. MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on February 17, 1971, to advise the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. This committee advises and reviews the adequacy of living marine resource policies and programs to meet the needs of commercial and recreational fisheries, and environmental, state, consumer,

academic, tribal, governmental and other national interests.

Matters to be Considered

July 25, 2006

The meeting will begin with opening remarks and introductions from Dr. William T. Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries and representatives of the Northwest Regional Office and Fisheries Science Center. The Committee will receive a review of the inaugural Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards held in June 2006, which the Committee helped to establish, and receive a presentation and request for input on a long term seafood information and outreach product the agency intends to launch on the internet within the next year. Next, the committee will receive an update on offshore aquaculture legislation, receive a presentation of aquaculture research occurring within the region, and discuss the overall direction and future of domestic and global aquaculture.

The afternoon will include discussing the scope, focus and strategy for producing a public document intended to outline the roadmap of issues to be addressed in fisheries in the next 20 years.

July 26, 2006

No full Committee meeting will take place. Subcommittees will meet 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The full Committee will then visit a regional research facility in Manchester, WA.

July 27, 2006

The Subcommittees will meet from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The full committee will reconvene from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to receive, discuss, and take final actions and votes.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Laurel Bryant, MAFAC Executive Director; telephone: (301) 713-2379 x171.

Dated: July 11, 2006.

William T. Hogarth,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040704A]

Endangered Fish and Wildlife; National Environmental Policy Act; Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Regulations; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold three public hearings in August 2006, to receive public comments on the North Atlantic right whale ship strike reduction strategy and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in Boston, MA; Baltimore, MD; and Jacksonville, FL.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** under the heading \geq Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations \geq for the dates and locations of the public hearings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessica Gribbon, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; telephone: (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 7, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the DEIS for implementation of the operational measures of the Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy for public comment and review. The public comment period on the DEIS is from July 7, 2006, to September 5, 2006. The public has the opportunity to submit comments on the document using following methods:

(1) E-mail: ShipStrike.EIS@noaa.gov.

(2) Mail: Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Attn: Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy DEIS, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

(3) Facsimile (fax) to: 301-427-2522, Attn: Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy DEIS.

(4) Public Hearings: Submit oral or written comments at public hearings for the DEIS.

NMFS has scheduled three public hearings on the DEIS. The purpose of these hearings is to provide an opportunity for the public to submit oral or written comments on the DEIS. The DEIS and information on these hearings can be found at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/shipstrike/>.