

the tools through the use of the automated feedback forms, "Feedback Forms for NIST WebMetrics", which are accessible from the NIST WebMetrics web site. The feedback forms allow users to comment on any problems they had with using the tools, the helpfulness of the tools, and suggestions for the functionality of the tools. Users are not obligated to provide comments in order to access and use the tools. Comments are strictly voluntary.

## II. Method of Collection

Applicants will submit information to NIST via the NIST WebMetrics web site.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit, individuals or households, Federal Government, state or local government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* The estimate of the total annual cost to submit this information for fiscal year 1998 and future years is \$0. There is no cost since no capital expenditures are required. The only cost is a person's time.

## 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 costs) 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 will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Department Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-19910 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Coastal Zone Management: Federal Consistency Appeal by Rick Bellew From an Objection by the State of Alabama

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of appeal and request for comments.

By letter dated November 17, 1997, Mr. Rick Bellew (Appellant), filed with the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) a notice of appeal pursuant to section 307(c)(3)(A) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*, and the Department of Commerce's implementing regulations, 15 C.F.R. Part 930, Subpart H. The appeal is taken from an objection by the State of Alabama (State) to the Appellant's consistency certification for a permit to dredge a ten-foot wide by 420-foot long channel to a three-foot depth. According to a survey submitted by Appellant, approximately 185 linear feet of the proposed channel is vegetated by shoalgrass.

The CZMA provides that a timely objection by a state precludes any federal agency from issuing licenses or permits for the activity unless the Secretary finds that the activity is either "consistent with the objectives" of the CZMA (Ground I) or "necessary in the interest of national security" (Ground II). Section 307(c)(3)(A). To make such a determination, the Secretary must find that the proposed project satisfies the requirements of 15 CFR 930.121 or 930.122.

The Appellant requests that the Secretary override the State's consistency objections based on Ground I. To make the determination that the proposed activity is "consistent with the objectives" of the CZMA, the Secretary must find that: (1) the proposed activity furthers one or more of the national objectives or purposes contained in §§ 302 or 303 of the CZMA, (2) the adverse effects of the proposed activity do not outweigh its contribution to the national interest, (3) the proposed activity will not violate the Clean Air Act or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and (4) no reasonable alternative is available that would permit the activity to be conducted in a manner consistent with the State's coastal management program. 15 CFR 930.121.

Public comments are invited on the findings that the Secretary must make as set forth in the regulations at 15 CFR 930.121. Comments are due within 30 days of the publication of this notice and should be sent to Ms. Pamela Lawrence, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of comments will also be forwarded to the Appellant and the State.

All nonconfidential documents submitted in this appeal are available for public inspection during business hours at the offices of the State and the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services.

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Pamela Lawrence, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2967.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog No. 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Assistance)

Dated: July 14, 1998.

**Monica Medina,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 98-19911 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071598H]

#### Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Administrative Committee will hold meetings.

**DATES:** The Council meetings will be held on August 12-13, 1998. The Administrative Committee meeting will be on August 11, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held at the Windward Passage Hotel, in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

**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]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

**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