

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

[I.D. 030101E]

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Administrative Committee will hold a meeting.

DATES: The Administrative Committee will convene on Wednesday, March 28, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, located at 8000 Tartak Street, Isla Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico 00979.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Administrative Committee will hold a public meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Budget Status
- Retirement Plan
- Scientific and Statistical Committee/Advisory Panel Membership
- Other Business

The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, 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 and any issues arising after publication of this notice 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón,

Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone: (787) 766-5926. at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 5, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-5870 Filed 3-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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

[I.D. 030101C]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) committee formed to study reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) for Steller sea lion protection in Alaska fisheries will meet.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 26, and will continue through Wednesday, March 28.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, in the Denali Room, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will discuss recommendations for open and closure areas for the groundfish fisheries for the second half of 2001, and continue development of RPA alternatives for 2002 and beyond.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, 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 and any issues arising after publication of this notice 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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: March 5, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-5869 Filed 3-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Science Advisory Board; Notice of Open Meeting**

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA, DOC.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on long- and short-range strategies for research, education, and application of science to resource management. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, March 20 2001, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 21, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Thursday, March 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting on Tuesday, March 20 and Thursday, March 22 will be held at the Department of Commerce Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenues, Washington, DC. On Wednesday, March 21, the meeting will be held at the NOAA Science Center, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with two 30-minute time periods set aside for direct verbal comments or questions from the public. The SAB expects that public statements

presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments (at least 35 copies) should be received in the SAB Executive Director's Office by March 12, 2001, in order to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after March 12 will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Approximately thirty (30) seats will be available for the public including five (5) seats reserved for the media. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Matters to be Considered: The meeting will include the following topics: (1) National Undersea Research Program Strategic Plan, (2) Reviews of the Office of Global Program's September 2000 Panel Meeting, the Report of the Panel Review of the National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service's (NESDIS) Office of Research and Applications and the Report of the Panel on Strategies for Climate Monitoring, (3) the National Science Foundation's Geosciences Programs, (4) the National Sea Grant College Program, (5) Public Input Sessions with SAB discussion, (6) SAB Sub-Committee and Working Group Reports, (7) NOAA's Long-term Climate Monitoring Council, and (8) the U.S. Weather Research Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael Uhart, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Rm. 11142, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-713-9121, Fax: 301-713-3515, E-mail: Michael.Uhart@noaa.gov); or visit the NOAA SAB website at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

Dated: March 5, 2001.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

[FR Doc. 01-5871 Filed 3-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KD-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030501B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (1299); NMFS has issued modification #2 to permit 1190.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): NMFS has received an application for a scientific research permit from Dr. Raymond Carthy, of the Florida Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit; NMFS has issued modification #2 to permit 1190 to the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region (NMFS-SWR) (1190).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on April 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment: For permits 1299, 1190: Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (phone: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Scientific research and/or enhancement permits are issued under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS

regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice:

Sea turtles

Threatened and endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Endangered Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Endangered Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*)

Endangered Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Threatened Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Threatened and endangered Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

New Applications Received

Application 1299

The applicant requests a 3-year permit to take juvenile and adult turtles along the St. Joseph Peninsula, in St. Joseph Bay, Florida. The applicant proposes to examine the inter-nesting movements and habitat usage of adult loggerhead turtles along the northwestern coast of Florida, while also examining species composition, population densities and habitat utilization in coastal bays in the same area.

Permits and Modified Permits Issued

Permit #1190

Notice was published on August 31, 2000 (65 FR 52988) that the Regional Administrator, NMFS-SWR had applied for a modification to scientific research permit #1190. The modification request asked for an increase in the authorized take of all five listed turtle species. The increases were necessary due to higher numbers of turtles expected to be handled by observers expected under court mandated requirements. On August 4, 2000 a court order was issued and filed in U.S. District Court, District of Hawaii, requiring the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to increase its observer coverage to over 20% for the Hawaii longline fishery (historically, NMFS has had a 3%-5%