

from outside of the Gulf region, including two provided by the University of Miami's Center for Independent Experts. Based on the results of the Assessment Review Workshop, a final version of the yellowtail snapper stock assessment was prepared, along with recommendations of the Assessment Review Workshop on the status of the stock and selection of status determination criteria (maximum fishing mortality rate, minimum stock size threshold, and optimum yield). These recommendations were presented to the Gulf Council's Socioeconomic Panel on September 10–12, 2003. The yellowtail snapper stock assessment, recommendations of the SEDAR Assessment Review Panel, and Socioeconomic Panel will be presented during the joint AP/SSC session on October 28, 2003. Afterwards, the AP and SSC will meet separately on October 29, 2003, to discuss the issues and make recommendations to the Gulf Council.

Red grouper were declared overfished by NMFS in October 2000, based on a 1999 assessment plus additional analyses conducted in 2000. A 2002 stock assessment by NMFS found that the red grouper stock was back above its minimum stock size threshold, but it had been below the threshold in 1999, confirming the need for a rebuilding plan to restore the stock to a level capable of producing maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis. In May 2003, the Council submitted Reef Fish Secretarial Amendment 1 to NMFS that called for approximately a 10 percent reduction in harvest, to be achieved through a reduction in the commercial shallow-water grouper quota, replacing the February 15 to March 15 commercial closed season on gag, red and black grouper with a shallow-water grouper trip limit, and a recreational bag limit of no more than two red grouper (out of the 5 aggregate grouper bag limit). The rebuilding plan also proposed a reduction in the deep-water grouper quota and setting of a tilefish quota in order to discourage effort shifting to those stocks. NMFS has reviewed the plan as submitted by the Gulf Council and has made revisions to it. These revisions will be presented during the joint AP/SSC session on October 28, 2003. The AP and SSC will then meet separately on October 29, 2003, to discuss the issues and make recommendations to the Gulf Council.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP/SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of

formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP/SSC will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Copies of the agendas of these meetings and the stock assessments can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813–228–2815 (toll-free 888–833–1844). Additional materials, including the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel report and the Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) report, can also be obtained from the Council office or downloaded from the Council website (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) but the SEP report may not be available until just prior to the meetings. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 17, 2003.

Dated: October 06, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03–25819 Filed 10–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100603G]

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Special Coral Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on October 27 and 28, 2003.

DATES: The Council's Coral SSC will convene at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2003 and conclude by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, 2225 Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL; telephone: 813–877–6688.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S.

Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813–228–2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC will convene to discuss the current status and trends with coral reef resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and issues that concern the health of coral reefs. Some of the issues to be discussed include: diseases, oceanographic phenomena, global climate change, human interactions, and marine reserves. The Coral SSC will also consider funding priorities for future coral research projects and develop any recommendations for the Council.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Coral SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. The Coral SSC actions 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 MSFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Copies of the agendas of these meetings and the stock assessments can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813–228–2815 (toll-free 888–833–1844).

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 20, 2003.

Dated: October 7, 2003.

Peter H. Fricke,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03–25820 Filed 10–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090903B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 782–1702

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that National Marine Mammal Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, NAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, (Dr. Sue Moore, Principal Investigator), has been issued a permit to take California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) in California, Washington and Oregon for purposes of scientific research. Samples may be imported/export from/to Canada for analysis under this Permit or Permit No. 782-1694.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426; and Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Amy Sloan (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 4, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 33477) that a request for a scientific research permit to take the species identified above had been submitted by the above-named organization]. 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.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The purposes of the authorized research to conduct aerial, ground, and vessel surveys annually for stock assessment of harbor seals, California sea lions, and northern elephant seals. Harbor seals, California sea lions, and northern elephant seals will be captured, tagged, and branded for long-term identification of individuals and information on reproductive success, survival and longevity; blood sampling for disease screening; blubber biopsy for contaminant analysis; tissue sampling for genetics and for fatty acid analysis; some seals will be instrumented with VHF radio transmitters and/or Time-Depth Recorders (TDR) or satellite tags or sonic tags to document movements,

activity and foraging patterns. In addition, harbor seals will be blood and biopsy sampled for contaminant analysis and tissue sampled for genetic analysis. Harbor seals and California sea lions will be instrumented with VHF radio transmitters and/or time-depth recorders or satellite tags to document movements activity and foraging patterns.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,
Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-25821 Filed 10-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Air Force****Air University Board of Visitors; Notice of Meeting**

The Air University Board of Visitors will hold an open meeting on 16-19 November 2003. The first business session of each meeting will begin in the Air University Commander's Conference Room at Headquarters Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama (5 seats available). The purpose of the meeting is to give the board an opportunity to review Air University educational programs and to present to the Commander, a report of their findings and recommendations concerning these programs.

For further information on this meeting, contact Dr. Dorothy Reed, Chief of Academic Affairs, Air University Headquarters, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112-6335, telephone (334) 953-5159.

Pamela D. Fitzgerald,
Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 03-25770 Filed 10-9-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Air Force****HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board**

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the forthcoming meeting of the 2003 Science and Technology Review. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the SAB leadership to assess the quality and long-term relevance of AFRL Materials

research. Because classified and contractor-proprietary information will be discussed, this meeting will be closed to the public.

DATES: October 27-31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Major Dwight Pavek, Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Secretariat, 1180 Air Force Pentagon, Rm 5D982, Washington DC 20330-1180, (703) 697-4811.

Pamela D. Fitzgerald,
Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 03-25766 Filed 10-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Air Force****HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board**

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the forthcoming meeting of the 2003 Science and Technology Review. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the SAB leadership to assess the quality and long-term relevance on Human Effectiveness research. Because classified and contractor-proprietary information will be discussed, this meeting will be closed to the public.

DATES: October 20-24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Major Dwight Pavek, Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Secretariat, 1180 Air Force Pentagon, Rm 5D982, Washington DC 20330-1180, (703) 697-4811.

Pamela D. Fitzgerald,
Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 03-25767 Filed 10-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Air Force****HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board**

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the forthcoming meeting of the 2003