

their technical expertise and experience, established records of distinguished professional service, and their knowledge of issues affecting the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. In addition, the Chairperson of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC) serves in an ex-officio capacity on the Committee. The Committee assesses:

- Trends and developments in the science and engineering of earthquake hazards reduction;
- The effectiveness of NEHRP in performing its statutory activities (improved design and construction methods and practices; land use controls and redevelopment; prediction techniques and early-warning systems; coordinated emergency preparedness plans; and public education and involvement programs);
- Any need to revise NEHRP; and
- The management, coordination, implementation, and activities of NEHRP.

Background information on NEHRP and the Advisory Committee is available at <http://nehrp.gov/>.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app., notice is hereby given that the ACEHR will hold a meeting via teleconference on Friday, June 1, 2012, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Eastern Time. There will be no central meeting location. Interested members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting from remote locations by calling into a central phone number. The primary purpose of this meeting is to finalize the Committee's draft annual report to the NIST Director. Any draft meeting materials will be posted on the NEHRP Web site at <http://nehrp.gov/>.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the Committee's affairs are invited to request detailed instructions by contacting Michelle Harman on how to dial in from a remote location to participate in the meeting. Michelle Harman's email address is michelle.harman@nist.gov, and her phone number is 301-975-5324. Approximately fifteen minutes will be reserved from 2:45 p.m.-3 p.m. Eastern Time for public comments; speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received, but is likely to be about 3 minutes each. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated,

and those who were unable to participate are invited to submit written statements to the ACEHR, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive MS 8604, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8604, via fax at (301) 975-5433, or electronically by email to info@nehrp.gov.

All participants of the meeting are required to pre-register. Anyone wishing to participate must register by close of business Friday, May 25, 2012, in order to be included. Please submit your name, email address, and phone number to Michelle Harman. After registering, participants will be provided with detailed instructions on how to dial in from a remote location in order to participate. Michelle Harman's email address is michelle.harman@nist.gov, and her phone number is (301) 975-5324.

Dated: May 3, 2012.

David Robinson,

Associate Director for Management Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Whiting Oversight Committee on May 29, 2012 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 at 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200; fax: (508) 339-1040.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Whiting Committee will review public

comments on and analyses of the potential effects of raising the silver hake (whiting) possession limit from 30,000 lbs. to as high as 40,000 lbs. in all or part of the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Exemption Areas. The Committee will consider making a recommendation to the Council for a final alternative. Other small-mesh multispecies management issues may also be discussed.

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 listed in this notice 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 final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at 978-465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 7, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-11279 Filed 5-9-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Public Hearing; Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a supplemental public hearing to solicit Scoping comments on Draft Amendment 19 to the Northeast Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

DATES: The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The Council will take comments at the public hearing at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street,

Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

The written comment period has been extended and should be sent to Paul Howard, Executive Director, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Comments may also be sent via fax to (978) 465-3116 or submitted via email to comment@nefmc.org with "Comment on Small Mesh Multispecies Amendment 19" in the subject line. Requests for copies of the public hearing document and other information should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492. The public hearing document is also accessible electronically via the Internet at <http://www.nefmc.org/mesh/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Council staff will provide information on the status of Amendment 19 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. The draft alternatives include annual limits on catch and landings by fishery program and/or stock, in-season and post-season accountability measures including incidental possession limits, year round red hake possession limits, monitoring and specification setting procedures, and a proposed increase in the 30,000 lbs. silver hake possession limit in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Exemption Areas. Final alternatives were approved at the April 24-26, 2012 Council meeting, but the Council will take supplemental action at the June 19-21, 2012 Council meeting on proposed increase in the 30,000 lbs. silver hake (whiting) possession limit. There will be time available for questions and answers.

Written comment period has been extended on the draft amendment and must be received by 5 p.m. EDT, Thursday, May 24, 2012 and may be mailed to the Council office at the address above, faxed to (978) 465-3116 or emailed to: comment@nefmc.org (attention/subject line: Comment on Small Mesh Multispecies Amendment 19).

Special Accommodations

The hearing is physically accessible to people with physical disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 7, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-11280 Filed 5-9-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XX774

Marine Mammals; File No. 13927

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. James H.W. Hain, Associated Scientists at Woods Hole, Box 721, Woods Hole, MA 02543, has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 13927.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before June 11, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 13927 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS. Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carrie Hubbard or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 13927 is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Permit No. 13927, issued on October 19, 2011 (76 FR 67151), authorizes the permit holder to take North Atlantic right (*Eubalaena glacialis*) and humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) during aerial and vessel surveys off the U.S. southeast coast. Bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) may be incidentally harassed during research activities. The field season is December through April. The permit is valid through October 31, 2016. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to increase take numbers of North Atlantic right whales from 50 to 100 per year during aerial surveys and from ten to 60 per year during vessel surveys. The permit holder is not increasing his research effort or asking for changes to methodologies, location, species, field season, or permit duration. The permit holder is requesting the increase because the take numbers he originally requested and is currently authorized do not allow him to conduct his research as planned. Without the increases, a few groups of whales could exhaust his take numbers. As a result, he would have to end his field seasons prematurely and would lose the opportunity to collect data on whales only observed at the end of the season.

A draft supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit. The draft SEA is available for review and comment simultaneous with the scientific research permit application.

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