

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

These meetings are 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. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 29, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. E4-1719 Filed 8-2-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Public Comment for Enhancement of the Initial Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of opportunity for written public comment.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the opportunity for public comment on the planning process and plans for developing the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). IOOS is the U.S. contribution to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS).

**DATES:** A conference to complete a phased implementation plan for the IOOS has been scheduled for August 31 through September 1, 2004. Due to limited space, attendance is by invitation only. However, the public is invited to comment in writing on design plans and priorities for IOOS development. Planning documents that

the conference will build on can be found at <http://www.ocean.us/documents/componentsIOOS.jsp>. Comments must be submitted by close of business on August 20, 2004 ([w.fields@ocean.us](mailto:w.fields@ocean.us), or Ms. Windy Fields, Ocean.US, 2300 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 1350, Arlington, VA 22201).

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting location is undisclosed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding this notice, please contact Ms. Windy Fields, Ocean.US Telephone: (703) 588-0853. E-mail: [w.fields@ocean.us](mailto:w.fields@ocean.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** See <http://www.ocean.us>.

Dated: July 29, 2004

**Mary Leach,**

*Chief Financial Officer, Ocean Services and Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 04-17645 Filed 8-2-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-JE-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072904A]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 369-1757

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Bruce R. Mate, Ph.D., Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University, Newport, OR 97365, has applied in due form for a permit to take large whales, and other non-endangered species for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before September 2, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment. (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713-0376, provided

the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 369-1757.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Johnson or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 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 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The Applicant requests a permit to conduct the following activities:

(1) Tag 200 each of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*), southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*), bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*), sperm whales (*Physeter catodon*) and 60 North Pacific right whales (*Eubalaena japonica*) in U.S. and foreign waters of the North Atlantic (including Gulf of Mexico), North Pacific (including Hawaii), Arctic and Indian Oceans, Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas, and international waters of the Mediterranean Sea over a 5-year period. No more than 50 of each whale species will be tagged in a single year. Up to 200 of each species would be incidentally harassed annually. Satellite-monitored radio tags, GPS-linked satellite tags and acoustic tags will be deployed to monitor the movements and diving behavior of these species. The objectives of the proposed research are to: (a) identify migration routes; (b) identify specific feeding and breeding grounds for each species, if unknown; (c) characterize local movements and dive habits in both feeding and breeding grounds, and during migration; (d) examine the relationships between movements/dive habits and prey distribution, time of day, geographic location, or physical and biological oceanographic conditions; (e) provide surfacing-rate information that can be useful in the