

Dated: March 2, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

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

[FR Doc. 04-5185 Filed 3-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030104D]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings March 29 through April 6, 2004 in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held on March 29 through April 6, 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, March 29, and continue through Saturday, April 3rd, 2004. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 29, and continue through Wednesday, March 31, 2004.

The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31 continuing through Tuesday April 6. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions. The Enforcement Committee will meet Monday, March 29.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports
 - (a) Executive Director's Report
 - (b) NMFS Report
 - (c) Enforcement Report
 - (d) Coast Guard Report
 - (e) Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report

- (f) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Report
2. Draft Programmatic Supplemental Environment Impact Statement (DPSEIS): (a) Final action on Groundfish Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; (b) Final Review of Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

3. Habitat Area Particular Concern (HAPC): Receive report from Plan Team on HAPC proposals.

4. Aleutian Island Pollock: Initial Review of analysis to establish Adak pollock allocation.

5. Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Rationalization: Discuss State water management issues.

6. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU): Receive progress report on Amendment 80 and provide input as necessary.

7. Observer Program: (a) Receive Observer Advisory Committee report; (b) Receive update on analysis and provide input as necessary.

8. Community Development Quota (CDQ): (a) Receive report on status of Bering Sea Aleutian Island Amendment 71; (b) Discuss fishery management issues.

9. National/Regional bycatch plans: Receive update.

10. Scallop Fishery Management Plan: Receive update and develop alternatives to modify the Licence Limitation Program.

11. Staff Tasking: Review tasking and provide direction to staff.

12. Other Business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during the meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. Draft Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DPSEIS)

2. HAPC
 3. Aleutian Island Pollock
 4. National/Regional bycatch plans.
 5. Scallop Fishery Management Plan
- Advisory Panel:* The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council.

Enforcement Committee: The Enforcement Committee will meet during each meeting of the Council to discuss enforcement issues or concerns related to any subject on the Council agenda.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 2, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

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

[FR Doc. 04-5184 Filed 3-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030104C]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Groundfish Information Policy Committee (Committee) will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, March 23, 2004 from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The Committee meeting will be held at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 249-7642.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ed Waters, Fishery Economics Staff Officer Coordinator; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Committee meeting is to formulate and recommend a groundfish information management policy to the Council. The recommended policy will categorize the types of and sources of information in use for groundfish

management, consider what new types of information may be available in the future, specify review requirements for new information before it can become part of the decision-making process, consider guidelines for replacing older information with new or updated information, and recommend an implementation time line that facilitates the groundfish management process while considering the magnitude of potential harm to the species of concern and disruption to the fishery that can result from untimely incorporation of new information.

No management actions will be decided by the Committee. The Committee's role will be development of recommendations for consideration by the Council at its April meeting in Sacramento, CA.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Committee'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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 2, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-5167 Filed 3-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030104F]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Allocation Committee (Committee) will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, March 24, 2004, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed. The Committee meeting will reconvene on Thursday, March 25, 2004, from 8 a.m. until business is completed.

ADDRESSES: The Committee meeting will be held at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 249-7642.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John DeVore, Groundfish Fishery Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Committee meeting is to develop options for allocations and other management measures for the 2005-06 Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. The Committee will discuss the types of provisions that may be necessary to prevent further overfishing, to reduce bycatch of overfished species in the various groundfish fisheries, and to reduce bycatch in non-groundfish fisheries. In addition, the Committee may evaluate current catch levels of overfished groundfish species and propose inseason adjustments. No management actions will be decided by the Committee. The Committee's role will be the development of recommendations for consideration by the Pacific Fishery Management Council at its April meeting in Sacramento, CA.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Committee'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 Ms.

Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 2, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-5186 Filed 3-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 013004C]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 655-1652 and 775-1600

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit and permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Scott D. Kraus, Ph.D., Edgerton Research Laboratory, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110-3309 has been issued a permit to take northern right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) for purposes of scientific research. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543-1026 [Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. John Boreman] has been issued a major amendment to Permit No. 775-1600-06 to take northern right whales for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit, permit amendment, 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;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371;

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Tammy Adams or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *File No. 655-1652.* On October 16, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 52594) that a request for a scientific research permit to take northern right whales had been