

portion of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by certain species of marine mammals. This activity is expected to result in no more than a negligible impact on the affected species.

While the number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the vicinity of the survey activity, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be small. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment is low and will be avoided through the incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned in this document. In addition, the proposed seismic program will not take place in or near subsistence hunting areas.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to LDEO for conducting a seismic survey program in the Bermuda Rise portion of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, provided the proposed mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed activity would result in the harassment of small numbers of marine mammals; would have no more than a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal stocks; and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of stocks for subsistence uses.

Information Sought

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments and information concerning this request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: October 3, 2003.

Laurie K. Allen,

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100603A]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Notice of Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Scallop Plan Team.

SUMMARY: The Scallop Plan Team will meet October 29-30, 2003, at the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Conference Room in Juneau, AK. You may call in on the conference line at 907-586-7977.

DATES: The meeting will meet on October 29-30, 2003, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the NMFS, 709 W 9th Avenue, Juneau, AK 99801.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Stram, Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda – (1) Membership and Officers (2) Draft Terms of Reference for Scallop Plan Team (3) Review Status of Stocks and Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation report (4) Discuss updating the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (5) Update on Alaska Board of Fisheries regulation changes from the 2003 meeting (6) New Business.

Although other non-emergency issue not on the agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Council will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 informed of the Council's intent to take 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 Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 06, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 03-25642 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100303A]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Joint meeting of the South Atlantic Council's Habitat Advisory Panel and Coral Advisory Panel (AP).

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint meeting of its Habitat AP and Coral AP to further the Council's integrated process to update Essential Fish Habitat information and consider ecosystem-based management through the development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the South Atlantic Region.

DATES: The joint meeting will take place October 22 and 23, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC, 29407; phone: 800-334-6660 or 843-571-1000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, S.C., 29407; phone 843-571-4366 or 866-SAFMC-10; FAX 843-769-4520.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting participants will meet from 1 until 5 p.m. on October 22, 2003, and again from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on October 23, 2003. Items for discussion at the joint meeting include: (1) a summary of the workshop process to facilitate revision of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and EFH Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPC) designations and development of a South Atlantic Fishery Ecosystem Plan; (2) deepwater coral habitat research and protection; (3) habitat policy statement review and development; (4) review of regulations protecting EFH and any remaining fishing and non-fishing activities impacting habitat; and (5) research and monitoring needs to refine the designation and protection of EFH and EFH-HAPCs and to support ecosystem-based management.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this notice 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