

only parties to request this review, and the review has not progressed beyond a point where it would have been unreasonable to allow petitioners to withdraw their request for review. *See Certain In-Shell Raw Pistachios from Iran: Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 68 FR 16764 (April 7, 2003). Additionally, we conclude that this withdrawal does not constitute an "abuse" of our procedures. *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties; Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27317 (May 19, 1997). Thus, the Department is rescinding the countervailing duty administrative review on certain hot-rolled carbon steel flat products from South Africa for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001. The Department will issue appropriate assessment instructions to the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

This notice serves as a reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

This determination and notice are issued and published in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4) and sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: May 30, 2003.

**Barbara E. Tillman,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, Group III.*

[FR Doc. 03-14181 Filed 6-4-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052003C]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of a request for exempted fishing permits (EFPs); request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the receipt of a request for EFPs for tuna purse seine vessels to begin fishing prior to

the traditional start date in order to improve market conditions and to allow retention of all incidental catch of bluefin tuna between 73 and 81 inches. NMFS invites comments from interested parties on potential concerns should these EFPs be issued.

**DATES:** Written comments on this fishing activity will be considered by NMFS in issuing such EFPs if received on or before June 20, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Christopher Rogers, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to (301)713-1917. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sari Kiraly, 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** EFPs are requested and issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity with respect to Atlantic HMS.

The East Coast Tuna Association (ECTA) has requested EFPs for five tuna purse seine vessels to begin fishing for their giant Atlantic bluefin tuna allocation on July 15, rather than the traditional start date of August 15. The ECTA believes that beginning the purse seine fishing season 30 days early could enhance marketing opportunities and therefore benefit the entire U.S. commercial bluefin tuna fishery.

ECTA also requests an exemption to allow these vessels to exceed the 10-percent tolerance level for incidental catch of bluefin tuna between 73 and 81 inches (185 to 206 cm). In their request, ECTA states that the minimum size tolerance was a restrictive factor limiting the success of last year's start date experiment and above normal water temperatures may also have been a contributing factor. ECTA also states that due to the prevalence of mixed schools of giant and large medium bluefin tuna throughout the fishing season, purse seine vessels would likely exceed the 10-percent tolerance for undersized fish. ECTA feels that the purse seine quota has not been caught in recent years because purse seine vessels have refrained from setting on mixed schools. ECTA notes that the purse seine vessels have the largest average minimum size of any of the U.S.

Atlantic tuna commercial categories and that most purse seine vessels targeting mixed schools would not catch bluefin tuna below 75 inches (190 cm). Thus, they are requesting an exemption from the 10 percent tolerance level in order to ensure the purse seine quota is filled, to increase fishing efficiency, and to reduce the potential for bycatch mortality.

NMFS invites comments from interested parties on potential concerns should these EFPs be issued.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 30, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-14178 Filed 6-4-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the first meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPAFAC) in Washington, DC.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Tuesday, June 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., and Wednesday, June 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below may be subject to change. Refer to the web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held both days at the Commerce Department Auditorium, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. (Please use the main entrance on 14th Street).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marjorie Ernst, Designated Federal Officer, MPAFAC, National Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA, Rm. 12227, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-563-7111; Fax: 301-713-3110; E-mail: [Marjorie.Ernst@noaa.gov](mailto:Marjorie.Ernst@noaa.gov); or visit the National MPA Center Web site at <http://www.mpa.gov>).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MPAFAC, composed of external, knowledgeable representatives of stakeholder groups, has been established by the Department of Commerce to provide advice to the

Secretaries of Commerce and Interior on implementation of section 4 of Executive Order 13158 on MPAs. While the two-day meeting is open to the public, a one-hour time period has been reserved late in the morning on Wednesday for the Committee to receive verbal comments or questions from the public. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes and written statements submitted either on site or beforehand, if possible.

#### Matters To Be Considered

On Tuesday, June 24, high-level officials from the Departments of Commerce and the Interior will provide opening remarks, followed by FAC member introductions. Presentations will be made by Commerce Department counsel to orient members regarding Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements and ethical guidelines. In the afternoon, officials from NOAA and the Department of the Interior will present on the background of the Executive Order and an overview of National MPA Center goals and activities. This will be followed by a presentation and discussion of the scope and charge to the Committee.

On Wednesday, June 25, the Committee will elect a chairperson before receiving more detailed presentations to develop the foundation for conducting its work. During the afternoon, the Committee will discuss various administrative and operational matters related to getting organized to fulfill its mission.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

**Jamison S. Hawkins,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-14139 Filed 6-4-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-M**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060203B]

##### New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is

scheduling a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in June, 2003 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:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2003, at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Logan Airport, 225 McClellan Highway, Boston, MA 02128; telephone: (617) 569-5250.

*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 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will provide the Council guidance on developing management reference points for the Atlantic Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in light of the stock assessments presented at the U.S. - Canada Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee in February 2003. The Council will consider the SSC's guidance in the development of Amendment 1 to the Herring FMP.

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 (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: June 2, 2003.

**Peter H. Fricke,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-14179 Filed 6-4-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052003B]

##### Marine Mammals; File No. 1003-1665

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Jennifer Moss Burns, University of Alaska Anchorage, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 1003-1665-00.

**ADDRESSES:** The 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; and

Alaska Region, NMFS, PO Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tammy Adams or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On April 7, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 16786) that an amendment of Permit No. 1003-1665-00, issued April 12, 2002 (67 FR 19167), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted 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 permit was amended to increase the number of takes of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) in Southeast Alaska by disturbance incidental to capture and surveys from 500 to 2,000 per year.

Dated: May 30, 2003.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-14175 Filed 6-4-03; 8:45am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**