

## SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS—Continued

Council Secretariat	7 a.m..
California State Delegation	7 a.m..
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m..
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m..
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m..
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m..
Enforcement Consultants	As needed.
<b>Friday, September 12, 2008</b>	.
Council Secretariat	7 a.m..
California State Delegation	7 a.m..
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m..
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m..
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m..

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during these meetings. Council 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 Council's intent to take final 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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 15, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E8-19291 Filed 8-19-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XJ80**

**Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's South Atlantic Habitat and Ecosystem Internet Map Server (IMS) Refinement Workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is conducting a South Atlantic Habitat and Ecosystem IMS Refinement Workshop in St. Petersburg, FL.

**DATES:** The workshop will take place September 9 - 10, 2008. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The workshop will be held at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 100 Eighth Avenue, S.E., St. Petersburg, FL; telephone: (727) 896-8626.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The IMS Workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on September 9, 2008, and from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on September 10, 2008. The Workshop is designed to continue the refinement of the Council's Internet Map Server as a support tool for Ecosystem-based management. Invited workshop participants will review the present structure of the IMS and future capabilities, identify Geographic Information Systems (GIS) needs supporting management, research, and regional collaborations and provide recommendations. Participants will also identify additional data and GIS for possible inclusion in the IMS and provide recommendations for enhancing and refining the functional capabilities of the IMS to better support local, state, and other regional habitat and ecosystem GIS needs.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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 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 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. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meetings. Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: August 15, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E8-19232 Filed 8-19-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**[Docket Number: 0808141100-81101-01]**

**Science Advisory Board; Preliminary Report of the NOAA Science Advisory Board Fire Weather Research Working Group**

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA Research (OAR) publishes this notice on behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) to announce the availability of the preliminary draft report of the SAB Fire Weather Research Working Group's (here called the FWRWG) for public comment. The preliminary draft report

of the FWRWG has been prepared pursuant to the request initiated from NOAA for an external panel of experts to carry out an independent review of current fire weather research being conducted by NOAA and other federal agencies, and in universities and elsewhere, and examine how the results of that research are being further developed and transitioned to operations by NOAA.

**DATES:** Comments on this preliminary report must be received by 5 p.m. on September 19, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** The Preliminary Draft Report of the FWRWG will be available on the NOAA Science Advisory Board Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Reports/FWRWG>.

The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically to [noaa.sab.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:noaa.sab.comments@noaa.gov). For individuals who do not have access to the Internet, comments may be submitted in writing to: NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), c/o Dr. Cynthia Decker, 1315 East-West Highway—R/SAB, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway—R/SAB, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-734-1156, Fax: 301-734-1459) during normal business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As part of its charge, the FWRWG was tasked to examine fire weather-related research efforts conducted by groups external to NOAA and identify areas of commonality where research activities might be leveraged for mutual benefit. The FWRWG was requested to develop findings and recommendations to ensure these research results lead to improved operational fire weather information and forecasts and to examine related research within NOAA not necessarily specific to fire but which could result in improved fire weather services or other NOAA emergency support operations. The complete terms of reference for the working group can be found at [http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Working\\_Groups/current/fireweather/FWRWG\\_terms.pdf](http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Working_Groups/current/fireweather/FWRWG_terms.pdf).

The SAB is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with the responsibility to advise the Under Secretary on long- and short-term strategies for research, education, and application of science to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction.

NOAA welcomes all comments on the content of the preliminary draft report. We also request comments on any inconsistencies perceived within the report, and possible omissions of important topics or issues. This preliminary draft report is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. For any shortcoming noted within the preliminary report, please propose specific remedies. Suggested changes will be incorporated where appropriate, and a final report will be posted on the SAB Web site.

Please follow these instructions for preparing and submitting comments. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate the processing of comments and assure that all comments are appropriately considered. Overview comments should be provided first and should be numbered. Comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs or lines of the section should follow any overview comments and should identify the page and line numbers to which they apply. Please number each page of your comments.

Dated: August 14, 2008.

**Terry Bevels,**

*Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. E8-19210 Filed 8-19-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XJ79**

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 13545

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Ocean Alliance, Inc. (Responsible Party: Iain Kerr), 191 Weston Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*), blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), Bryde's (*B. edeni*), dwarf sperm (*Kogia sima*), false killer (*Pseudorca crassidens*), fin (*B. physalus*), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer (*Orcinus orca*), minke (*B. acutorostrata*), pilot (*Globicephala* spp.), pygmy sperm (*K. breviceps*), sei (*B. borealis*), southern right (*Eubalaena australis*), northern right (*E. glacialis*), Cuvier's beaked (*Ziphius cavirostris*), and other beaked (*Mesoplodon* spp.)

whales, common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), as well as elkhorn (*Acropora palmata*) and staghorn (*A. cervicornis*) coral, and import specimens from these species for scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before September 19, 2008.

**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)427-2521, 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 e-mail 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. 13545.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Hapeman or Amy Sloan, (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).

Ocean Alliance proposes to conduct research over a five-year period to determine contaminant levels and culture cells from cetaceans and coral while concurrently collecting data on abundance, movement and distribution patterns, habitat use, energetics, behaviors, and stock and social structures. The applicant requests authorization to conduct research during vessel surveys on live cetaceans and coral and collect tissues from dead, stranded cetaceans in U.S. waters and on the high seas. Field research activities would include biopsy sampling, collection of sloughed skin