

Assessment (EA) that implementation of the subject action is not a major Federal action having significant effects on the environment within the meaning of Executive Order 12114. NSF determined therefore, that an environmental impact statement would not be prepared. On April 11, 2003 (68 FR 17773), NMFS noted that the NSF had prepared an EA for the GOM calibration study. In accordance with section 6.01 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 216-6 (Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, May 20, 1999), NMFS has reviewed the information contained in NSF's EA and determined that the NSF EA accurately and completely describes the proposed action alternative, reasonable additional alternatives, and the potential impacts on marine mammals, endangered species, and other marine life that could be impacted by the preferred alternative and the other alternatives. As a result, NMFS has determined that it is not necessary to issue either a new EA or a Supplemental EA for the issuance of an IHA to LDEO for this activity. Therefore, based on this review and analysis, NMFS is adopting the NSF EA under NEPA. A copy of the NSF EA for this activity is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

Determinations

Based on the information contained in the LDEO application, the NSF EA, the April 11, 2003 notice (68 FR 17773) and this document, NMFS has determined that conducting a 3- to 4-day calibration study of the seismic airgun array onboard the *Ewing* in the northern GOM in 2003 by LDEO would result in the harassment of small numbers of marine mammals; would have no more than a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of stocks for subsistence uses. This activity will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by certain species of marine mammals. 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 and required under the IHA. For these reasons therefore, NMFS

has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA have been met and the authorization can be issued.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to take small numbers of marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting calibration measurements of the seismic array onboard the *Ewing* in the northern GOM to LDEO for a 1-year period, provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in this document and the IHA are undertaken.

Dated: May 23, 2003.

Donna Wieting,

*Acting Chief, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-13559 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052703A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Oversight Committee in June, 2003. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, June 13, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Four Points By Sheraton, 407 Squire Road, Revere, MA 02151; telephone: (781) 284-7200.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will review the public hearings and early written comments on Amendment 10 and hear preliminary advice from NMFS. They will also receive a progress report on Framework Adjustment 39 to the Multispecies

Fishery Management Plan, which will set the finfish measures associated with Amendment 10 access to Georges Bank closed areas.

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: May 27, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 03-13554 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052703B]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council and its advisory entities will meet June 15-20, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings and hearing will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404; telephone: 650-570-5700.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council meeting will begin on Monday, June 16, at 3:30 p.m., reconvening each day through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 3:30 p.m. until 4:15 p.m. on Monday, June 16 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

The following items are on the Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order:

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks, Introductions
2. Roll Call
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Approve Agenda
5. Approve March 2003 Minutes

B. Groundfish Management

1. NMFS Report on Groundfish Management
2. Observer Data Implementation Status
3. Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses for 2004 Groundfish Management
4. Preliminary Range of Harvest Levels for 2004
5. Status of Groundfish Fisheries and Initial Policy Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
6. Standards and Criteria Timeline for Approving Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)
7. EFP Update and New Proposals for 2004
8. Final Action on Groundfish Inseason Management
9. Implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System
10. Groundfish Stock Assessment Review Process for 2005 through 2006
11. Status of the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
12. Update on Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Programmatic EIS
13. Final Adoption of Amendment 16-1 (Environmental Assessment) and Amendment 16-2 (Draft EIS and Regulatory Analyses) for Darkblotched Rockfish, Pacific Ocean Perch, Canary Rockfish, and Lingcod
14. Adoption of a Proposed Range for 2004 Groundfish Management Measures
15. Alternative Long-term Groundfish Management Strategies

C. Salmon Management

1. Salmon Fishery Update
2. Mitchell Act Update
3. Progress Report on the Establishment of the Model Evaluation Work Group

D. Habitat1. Current Habitat Issues

E. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

1. NMFS Report
2. Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guidelines for 2003 through 2004

F. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. NMFS Report on Highly Migratory Species Management
2. Potential Reconsideration of FMP Preferred Alternatives for High Seas Longline Fishing Regarding Turtle Impacts

G. Marine Reserves1. Planning for Federal Waters Portion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary2. Central California Sanctuary Processes Including Krill Ban

H. Administrative Matters

1. Legislative Matters
2. Fiscal Matters
3. Appointments to Advisory Bodies, Standing Committees, and Other Forums
4. Staff Work Load Priorities and September 2003 Council Meeting Agenda

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2003

- Groundfish Advisory Subpanel - 1 p.m.
- Groundfish Management Team - 1 p.m.
- Scientific and Statistical Committee - 1 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003

- Council Secretariat - 8 a.m.
- Groundfish Advisory Subpanel - 8 a.m.
- Groundfish Management Team - 8 a.m.
- Scientific and Statistical Committee - 8 a.m.
- Joint Session of the Enforcement Consultants, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Scientific and Statistical Committee. Briefings on Stock Assessment Reviews for 2004 Groundfish Fisheries and Observer Data Status - 8:30 a.m.- noon
- Habitat Committee - 10 a.m.
- Legislative Committee - 10 a.m.
- Budget Committee - 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2003

- 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.
- Scientific and Statistical Committee - 8 a.m.
- Enforcement Consultants - Immediately following Council session

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2003

- 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 necessary

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003

- 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 necessary

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2003

- 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 necessary

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 this meeting. 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: May 23, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03-13555 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052003A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1352

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Colin Simpfendorfer, Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Florida 34236 has been issued a permit to take smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit 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, 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: Jennifer Jefferies or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 25, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 53983) that a request for a scientific research permit to take smalltooth sawfish had been submitted by Dr. Colin Simpfendorfer, Mote Marine Laboratory. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of 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 parts 222-226).

Dr. Simpfendorfer is authorized to take endangered smalltooth sawfish by capture using longline, rod and reel, set lines, gillnets, and beach seines; tagging with rototags, plastic headed dart tags, PIT tags, acoustic tags, PAT tags, and SPOT tags; and the collecting of tissue biopsies. This is to take place on the

coast of central and southern Florida over 5 years. The purpose of the proposed research is to compile data on biology, distribution, and abundance of smalltooth sawfish through tracking and genetic sampling in order to facilitate the recovery of the species.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: May 23, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 03-13557 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Coastal Engineering Research Board

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Name of Committee: Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB).

Date of Meeting: June 16-18, 2003.

Place: The Hilton, Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Time: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (June 16, 2002); 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (June 17, 2002); 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (June 18, 2003).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquiries and notice of intent to attend the meeting may be addressed to Thomas W. Richardson, Acting Executive Secretary, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Agenda: The theme of the meeting is "Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration." On Monday, June 16, members of the Board will tour the Louisiana Coastal area via helicopter. On Tuesday, June 17, presentations will be made pertaining to the theme. The presentations include:

"Coastal Engineering Priorities from the Louisiana Governor's Office Perspective," "Overview of the Louisiana Comprehensive Coast-wide Ecosystem Restoration Study," "Coastal Engineering Research Needs—The State Perspective," Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Study Hydrodynamic and Ecological Modeling," Technology Needs: Lessons Learned from Feasibility Study and Process for Identifying Future Needs," "Coastal Engineering Needs for the Louisiana Coastal Zone," National Technical Review Committee Research Needs," "Science Needs in Coastal Louisiana," and "LCA-Related Coastal Engineering Research Needs at the Macro Scale." On Wednesday, June 18, the Board will meet in an Executive Session.

These meetings are open to the public; participation by the public is scheduled for 4 p.m. on June 17.

The entire meeting is open to the public, but since seating capacity of the meeting room is limited, advance notice of intent to attend, although not required, is requested in order to assure adequate arrangements. Oral participation by public attendees is encouraged during the time scheduled on the agenda; written statements may be submitted prior to the meeting or up to 30 days after the meeting.

Thomas W. Richardson,

Director, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-13598 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Estuary Habitat Restoration Council Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 105(h) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, (Title I, Pub. L. 106-457), announcement is made of the forthcoming meeting of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be in room 107-A of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Whitten Building located on Jefferson Drive between 12th and 14th Streets, SW., Washington, DC.