

Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing (1), Business/Industry (1), and At-Large (3). The Department of Commerce General Counsel requires that all advisory committees must issue a **Federal Register** notice. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the Sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve a 2 to 3-year term, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by February 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Ruthetta Halbower, Administrative Secretary, SBNMS, 175 Edward Foster Road Scituate, MA 02066. Telephone: 781-545-8026 X 201. E-mail: ruthetta.halbower@noaa.gov. Or applications can be downloaded from the SBNMS web site: <http://stellwagen.nos.noaa.gov/management/sac/charter.html>. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nathalie Ward, Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator 175 Edward Foster Road Scituate, MA 02066. Telephone: 781-545-8026 X 206 E-mail: nathalie.ward@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC or council) is a community-based advisory group established to advise the Sanctuary Superintendent and staff on issues relevant to the effective implementation of the *Sanctuary Management Plan*. The Council is the formal organizational link to the Sanctuary's user community and others interested in the management of this nationally significant area of the marine environment.

Duties of the Council include:

- Providing advice and recommendations to the Superintendent regarding management of the Sanctuary drawing upon the expertise of its members and other sources;
- Serving as liaisons between their communities and the Sanctuary, by keeping the Sanctuary staff informed of issues and concerns, as well as performing outreach to their respective communities on the Sanctuary's behalf; and
- Serving as a forum for consultation and deliberation among its members and as a source of consensus advice to the Superintendent.

The Council membership is to be made up of 15 non-governmental voting members and six governmental ex-officio members (non-voting). The non-governmental members are selected to represent local user groups, conservation and other public interest organizations, scientific and educational organizations, or members of the public interested in the protection and multiple use management of Sanctuary resources. Representatives from the following groups will be chosen: Conservation (2), education (2), research (2), recreation (1), whale watching (1), fixed fishing gear (1), mobile fishing gear (1), marine transportation (1), business/industry (1); and citizens-at-large (3).

The governmental members are to represent agencies with regulatory authorities or other direct interests in the Sanctuary and its resources. The member organizations are:

National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Center (federal fisheries and protected species management);

New England Regional Fishery Management Council (federal fisheries management planning);

U.S. Coast Guard (federal marine resources and maritime enforcement);

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (state-federal ocean management consistency);

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (state ocean fisheries management); and

Massachusetts Division of Law Enforcement (cooperative state-federal environmental law enforcement).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Sections 1431, *et seq.* (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: January 7, 2004.

Richard W. Spinrad,

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

[FR Doc. 04-726 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Meeting of the Chairs of the National Marine Sanctuary Program's Sanctuary Advisory Councils

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is holding a meeting of the Chairs of its eleven site-specific Sanctuary Advisory Councils (Councils). The purpose of the meeting is to hold discussion and obtain input from the Chairs on the following: NMSP policy topics discussed during 2003 meeting, reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and activities of cruise ships in sanctuaries. The meeting will be open to the public.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided at 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the public wishing to provide comments will be asked to sign up upon arrival and will likely be limited in how much time they will be allotted for comments (depending upon how many people have signed up). A maximum of twenty minutes will be allotted at 8:45 a.m. and again at 3 p.m. for public comments.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2004, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Opportunities for public comment will be provided at 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at The Marshall House, 123 East Broughton Street, Savannah, Georgia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Brubeck at (206) 842-6084 or Elizabeth Moore at (301) 713-3125 ext. 170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish one or more Advisory Councils to provide advice to the Secretary regarding the designation and management of National Marine Sanctuaries. Eleven Councils exist, for the Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Florida Keys, Gray's Reef, Gulf of the Farallones, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale, Monterey Bay, Olympic Coast, Stellwagen Bank, and Thunder Bay Sanctuaries and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and proposed Sanctuary. Councils represent a wide variety of community interests and are active in various projects and issues affecting the management of their local Sanctuaries; Councils generally meet on a monthly or bimonthly basis. Each year, the NMSP hosts a meeting for all the Council Chairs and Coordinators to discuss project and topics of mutual interest (2004's meeting will be the fourth such meeting). This year, for the second time, the Chairs are being asked to provide advice to the national program leadership on policy topics important on a programmatic rather than a site-specific level. The purpose of the

meeting is to hold discussion and obtain input from the Chairs on the following: NMSP policy topics discussed during 2003 meeting, reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and activities of cruise ships in sanctuaries. The meeting will be open to the public. Opportunities for public comment will be provided at 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. The Chairs will provide this advice only during the meeting announced by this notice, and will not become a permanent national advisory body.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*

Dated: January 7, 2004.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010804B]

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) Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will be Tuesday, January 27, 2004 from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Wednesday, January 28, 2004 from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Large Conference Room, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, Room D-203, La Jolla, CA 92037; telephone: (858) 546-7000.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The main purpose of this work session is for

the HMSMT to continue work on development of initial recommendations for a limited entry program for the high seas longline fishery, including potential control dates, qualifying periods, qualifying landing amounts, capacity goals, and permit transferability considerations. This HMSMT work session is for the purpose of developing information for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting; formal action on limited entry or other HMS fishery management plan (FMP)-related issues will not occur at this work session.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The 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: January 8, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

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

[FR Doc. 04-818 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110403A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1418

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Lawrence D. Wood, Marineline Center of Juno Beach, 14200 U.S. Hwy. 1, Juno Beach, FL, 33408, has been issued a permit to take hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review

upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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;

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: Patrick Opay, (301)713-1401 or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 20, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 27535) that a request for a scientific research permit to take hawksbill sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named individual. 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).

The applicant will hand capture, handle, measure, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) and flipper tag, photograph, tissue sample, paint a number on the carapace of, and release up to 75 hawksbill sea turtles annually. Only 6 turtles will be initially marked with the painted number to test the efficacy of the this procedure, and future decisions concerning the value and use of this technique will be based on the results. The purpose of the research is to determine the abundance, distribution and movement patterns of this species. It will also provide growth rate information about these turtles and the researcher will determine the feasibility of photographic identification through unique individual characteristics. The permit duration is 5 years.

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: January 8, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 04-817 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]

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