

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

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*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 13583 or File No. 13599

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore (File Nos. 13583 and 13599), Kate Swails (File No. 13583) or Brandy Belmas (File No. 13599), (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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

*File No. 13583:* NMML conducts research on marine mammals important to the mission of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NMML is requesting a renewal of Permit No. 782-1694 which authorizes collection of cetacean and pinniped (except for walrus) specimens from dead animals, and for import, export, and possession of specimens taken legally worldwide. Samples may be archived, transported, shared, and analyzed by researchers in order to optimize the amount of biological information gained from each animal. No takes of live animals would be authorized under this permit. There will be no non-target species taken

incidentally under this permit because the permit would only cover import, export, and possession of samples from dead animals or live animals taken legally under other permits. A permit is requested for a five-year period.

*File No.13599:* The NOS Lab is requesting authorization to receive, import, export, transfer, archive, and conduct analyses of marine mammal and endangered species parts. The applicant is requesting all cetaceans, pinnipeds (except for walrus), sea turtles (in the water), smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*), shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) and white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) under NMFS jurisdiction to be included in this permit request. No live animal takes are being requested and no incidental harassment of animals would occur. Samples would be archived at the NOS Lab and used to support law enforcement actions, research studies (primarily genetics), and outreach education. A permit is requested for five years. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 5, 2008.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-21124 Filed 9-10-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XK35

### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Herring Oversight Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New

England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Eastland Park Hotel, 157 High Street, Portland, ME 04101; telephone: (207) 775-5411; fax: (207) 775-1066.

*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 items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

1. The Committee will continue development of recommendations for Council consideration in October regarding the specific management measures to be considered further in Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP);
2. The agenda will include a discussion of management alternatives related to catch monitoring, including but not limited to: specific monitoring and reporting requirements for herring vessels and processors, observer coverage and at-sea monitoring, shoreside/dockside monitoring and sampling, vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements, as well as other measures that were suggested for consideration during the scoping process;
3. Review and discuss preliminary analysis of river herring bycatch in the Atlantic herring fishery and comparison of portside and at-sea and observer bycatch information from the Atlantic herring fishery for selected species of interest from 2005-07; develop related recommendations as appropriate;
4. Review of information related to at-sea monitoring and observer coverage, which may include information about observer programs in other regions, industry-funded observer programs, applications for electronic monitoring, and cost comparisons; develop recommendations as appropriate;
5. Review and discuss proposed management measures to address herring bycatch concerns in the Atlantic mackerel fishery; develop recommendations as appropriate;
6. Address any other issues and develop recommendations related to Amendment 4 to the Herring FMP, possibly including annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs), and individual and group quota

allocation programs (i.e., IFQs and sectors);

7. Develop Herring Committee recommendations regarding cooperative research priorities for the 2010 research set-aside (RSA) program.

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 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 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

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 date.

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

Dated: September 8, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E8-21094 Filed 9-10-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XK36**

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, September 29, 2008 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Route 1, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

*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 items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to continue development of Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Amendment 16 will adjust management measures as necessary to continue stock rebuilding. The Committee will finalize its recommendations for measures that will be analyzed in the draft amendment document. They will discuss measures for both the commercial and recreational components of the fishery at this meeting. This will include recommendations for rebuilding strategies and target fishing mortality rates as well as changes to measures that will achieve the targeted rates. The Committee may also review sector policies, the setting of annual catch limits, accountability measures, and other amendment alternatives. Committee recommendations will be presented to the New England Fishery Management Council at a later meeting.

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 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 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

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 date.

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

Dated: September 8, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E8-21095 Filed 9-10-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XK37**

#### Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) advisory bodies will hold meetings, which are open to the public, on October 7-9, 2008. The primary purpose of the meetings is to review the current Pacific sardine stock assessment update and draft terms of reference for the 2009 CPS stock assessment review process.

**DATES:** The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) CPS Subcommittee will meet in a joint session on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed. The CPSMT will hold a work session on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will meet Thursday, October 9, 2008, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held in the Large Conference Room at the office of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The CPSMT, the SSC CPS Subcommittee, and the CPSAS will review the current Pacific sardine stock assessment update and the terms of reference for the 2009 CPS stock assessment reviews. The CPSMT and the CPSAS will also develop harvest guideline and management measure recommendations for the 2009 Pacific sardine fishery. The CPSMT and CPSAS will develop recommendations for Council consideration at the November 1-7, 2008, meeting in San Diego, CA, and address other issues relating to CPS