

exempted fishery within regulated mesh areas. Because one of the research goals is to use the information to expand the whiting fishery exemption area, staying within this 5-percent multispecies bycatch cap would be useful for future management decisions based on this research. No NE multispecies would be landed for sale, with the exception of whiting. Additionally, this EFP would include an exemption from multispecies minimum size limits at § 648.86 for sampling purposes only. This exemption would allow sampling of undersized species prior to their discard.

Whiting caught during the research would be landed and sold, up to the current possession limit, to provide additional funding for the project. All other organisms, including whiting with high expected survival return rates, would be released as quickly and carefully as practicable. The applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: June 26, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E8-14943 Filed 7-1-08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XI66

Marine Mammals; File No. 545-1761

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

ACTION: Notice; withdrawal of amendment request.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the North Gulf Oceanic Society (Craig O. Matkin, Principal Investigator), 2030 Mary Allen Avenue, Homer, AK 99603 has withdrawn its application for an amendment to Permit No. 545-1761-00 for use of a mini-helicopter during killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) research.

ADDRESSES: The documents related to this action 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)427-2521; and

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hubbard or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 6, 2008 a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 32307) that an application for an amendment had been filed by North Gulf Oceanic Society. The permit holder requested authorization to use a mini-helicopter, during an opportunistic, limited time period in Alaska during August/September 2008. The applicant has withdrawn the amendment request from further consideration.

Dated: June 27, 2008.

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

[FR Doc. E8-15050 Filed 7-1-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XI76

Western 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: This notice advises the public that the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a meeting of the Hawaii Archipelago Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (REAC) in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The Hawaii Archipelago Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee meeting will be held Thursday, July 17, 2008. For the specific date, time, and agenda for the meeting, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting of the Hawaii Archipelago Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee will be held at the

Council Office, 1164 Bishop St. Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The date, time and agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, July 17, 2008, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members
2. Approval of Draft Agenda
3. Update on Federal Fisheries Management Actions
 - a. Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish Management
 - b. Summary of Pelagic Fishery Management Actions
 - c. Discussion
4. Coastal Ecosystems
 - a. Fresh Water Use and Diversion in Hawaii
 - b. Characterization of Fish and Benthic Organisms in Pearl Harbor
5. Guest Presentations
 - a. Review of Global Sea Level Rise: global factors and local impacts
 - b. Pacific Ocean Productivity Modeling
 - c. Discussion
6. Community Marine Management Forum
 - a. Aha Moku Process
 - b. Discussion
 7. Public Comments
 8. REAC Discussion and Action

The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. Public comment periods will be provided throughout each agenda. The Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

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

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.