

and operated federal laboratories, including NIST, to enter into cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs) with qualified parties. Under the law, a CRADA may provide for contributions from the federal laboratory of personnel, facilities, and equipment, but not direct funding.

Dated: December 28, 1993.

Samuel Kramer,  
Associate Director.

[FR Doc. 94-70 Filed 1-3-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-CN-M

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(I.D. 122793A)

#### Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of an amendment to a fishery management plan; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues this notice that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 32 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public. There is no proposed rule accompanying this amendment. Therefore, this is the final opportunity to comment on this amendment.

Copies of the amendment may be obtained from the Council (see ADDRESSES).

**DATES:** Comments on the FMP amendment should be submitted on or before March 7, 1994.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the FMP amendment should be submitted to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802 (Attn: Lori Gravel), or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska.

Copies of Amendment 32 and the environmental assessment (EA) and economic analysis prepared for the amendment are available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, Alaska 99510 (telephone 907-271-2809).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jessica A. Charrett, NMFS, Alaska Region, 907-586-7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and

Management Act (Magnuson Act) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any fishery management plan or plan amendment it prepares to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for review and approval, disapproval, or partial disapproval. The Magnuson Act also requires that the Secretary, upon receiving a fishery management plan or amendment, immediately publish a notice that the fishery management plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the FMP or amendment.

Amendment 32 would establish a plan to rebuild stocks of the rockfish Pacific ocean perch (POP) (*Sebastes alutus*) in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). POP is a highly valued groundfish. It was heavily exploited by a foreign trawl fleet from the early 1960's until the mid-1980's. Thereafter, a domestic at-sea processing fleet harvested POP at a substantially lower rate. Catches of POP peaked in 1965 when an estimated 350,000 metric tons (mt) were harvested by the foreign fleet; catches declined sharply in the late 1960's. From 1961-1977, annual POP landings averaged over 40,000 mt; after 1977, landings averaged 6,000 mt. In the domestic fishery, POP was managed as part of a larger slope rockfish assemblage of about 20 species until 1991, when POP was established as a separate target species category to prevent possible overfishing.

As a result of increased concern about the status of POP stocks, biomass assessment methodology has been improved and domestic harvest levels have been reduced. The 1993 total allowable catch (TAC) of 2,560 mt was available only as incidental catch in other groundfish fisheries. In recent years POP has been managed as a single species, harvest levels have been reduced, and directed fisheries have been restricted or eliminated. In spite of this conservative management in recent years, POP biomass has increased only slightly and remains depressed from historic levels. The current spawner biomass of about 71,000 mt is estimated to be 15-20 percent of the level observed during the 1960's.

The Council believes that increasing the biomass of POP to a level closer to historical amounts is necessary to achieve optimum yield in the POP fishery. Factors other than fishing mortality contribute to the continued depressed state of the POP resource.

Ecosystem changes or other biological factors may preclude rebuilding success. Nevertheless, the Council considers minimizing POP mortality necessary to maximize the probability of rebuilding success in a realistic time period. Additionally, decreasing POP mortality should minimize resource waste associated with low TACs that do not fully accommodate incidental catch needs of existing fisheries.

After a review of alternatives analyzed in the EA, the Council selected Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative. This alternative is projected in modeling simulations to rebuild POP biomass to a target level ( $B_{MSY}$ ) in about 14 years by harvesting POP at a fishing mortality rate lower than the optimum rate. The target biomass  $B_{MSY}$  is the total biomass of mature females that would produce the maximum sustainable yield, on average; this number is currently estimated at 150,000 mt. The optimal fishing mortality rate is the rate that maximizes expected biological and economic yields over a range of plausible stock-recruitment relationships.

The Council considered Alternative 3 superior to Alternative 1, which no longer represents the best scientific information about POP biomass and population dynamics. The Council also considered Alternative 3 superior to Alternative 2, which would harvest POP at the higher optimal fishing mortality rate. The Council believed that lower POP harvests and additional economic costs of Alternative 3 were justified because Alternative 2 would achieve the target biomass in a longer time (about 18 years) and with a lower probability of rebuilding success. Alternative 4 would harvest POP at a lower rate equivalent needed for unavoidable POP bycatch in remaining groundfish fisheries, at 1992 bycatch rates. The TACs resulting from Alternative 4 were considered too restrictive in relation to existing POP bycatch needs, causing unnecessary discards of POP that are killed in fishing operations after POP TACs are reached.

Under Alternative 3, the FMP would establish the procedure for deriving the annual GOA TACs for POP. POP stocks are considered to be rebuilt when the total biomass of mature females is equal to, or greater than,  $B_{MSY}$ . Annual TACs would be established as follows:

(a) Determine the current biomass,  $B_{MSY}$ , and the optimal fishing mortality rate;

(b) Determine the fishing mortality rate halfway between the optimal fishing mortality rate and the fishing mortality rate estimated to be sufficient to supply unavoidable bycatch of POP based on 1992 bycatch rates;

(c) When the current biomass of mature females is less than  $B_{MSY}$ , adjust the resultant fishing mortality rate in (b) by the ratio of current biomass to  $B_{MSY}$  so that when  $B_{MSY}$  is attained, the fishing mortality rate will be the optimal fishing mortality rate;

(d) The GOA TAC of POP is the amount of fish resulting from the adjusted fishing mortality rate in (c); and

(e) The TAC is apportioned among regulatory areas in proportion to POP biomass distribution.

In addition to restricting the annual fishing mortality rate of POP, the Council seeks to reduce the total mortality of POP in other target fisheries. In the past, overfishing has been defined GOA-wide. Under Amendment 32, the overfishing level would be distributed among the eastern, central, and western areas in the same proportions as POP biomass occurs in those areas. This measure would avoid localized depletion of POP and would rebuild POP at equal rates in all regulatory areas of the GOA. The Council considers this management option necessary because, although POP biomass is greatest in the Eastern Regulatory Area, most trawl fishing activity and incidental catch of POP is greatest in the Central Regulatory Area. With an acceptable biological catch as low as the current, 3,378 mt in 1993, fishing mortality of POP can be expected to exceed the TAC available in the central GOA.

Amendment 32 is necessary to improve conservation and management of POP and is intended to further the goals and objectives of the FMP. No regulatory changes are necessary to implement this FMP amendment because the FMP would provide the procedure for deriving TACs for POP, which are specified annually under existing regulations at § 672.20(a)(2).

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 672

Fisheries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

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

Dated: December 28, 1993.

Richard H. Schaefer,

Director of Office of Fisheries, Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

FR Doc. 93-32090 Filed 12-9-93; 11:01 am

BILLING CODE 3510-22-41

#### Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for a scientific research permit (P559).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Mr. Hiroyuki Suganuma, Ogasawara Marine Center, Byobudani, Chichijima Ogasawaramura, Tokyo, 100-21, Japan, has applied in due form for a permit to take humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before February 3, 1994.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, (310/980-4016); and

Marine Mammal Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822 (808/955-8831).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

The applicant is requesting authority to conduct scientific research on Pacific humpback whales in the Northern Mariana Islands. The proposed research entails the approach of up to 400 humpback whales up to 4 times each, annually, for purposes of photo-identification, behavioral observations, acoustic recordings, and the collection

of sloughed skin samples and fecal materials. These samples would be exported to Japan for analysis.

Dated: December 28, 1993.

William W. Fox, Jr.,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 94-25 Filed 1-3-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

#### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

##### Notice of Meetings

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**SUMMARY:** On September 21, 1993, President Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, that merged the Commission on National and Community Service, ACTION, and the newly established Civilian Community Corps, to create the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation is presenting a series of regional workshops in Washington, DC, Atlanta, Kansas City, and Los Angeles, to provide application assistance to organizations applying for national and community service program grants.

Functioning as a service "venture capitalist", the Corporation will provide funding on a population-based formula and competitive basis for national and community service programs, and as a clearinghouse of information and technical expertise for service initiatives nationwide.

To encourage broad participation in national service, the Corporation is conducting this series of workshops to support the application of high quality, national service programs and service-learning K-12 and higher education programs. Approximately \$189 million will be available to these programs, to assist in the planning, operating and replicating of national and community service programs.

The primary audience for these workshops will be those applying directly to the Corporation, including State Commissions or alternative entities, State educational agencies, higher education institutions, Indian Tribes, territories, Federal agencies, professional corps, national nonprofits, and multi-State organizations. State Commissions will be responsible for providing technical assistance to local applicants applying to their States.

In addition, those local nonprofits organizations, government agencies, Indian Tribes, and higher education institutions interested in applying for Summer of Safety should attend.