

National Research and Conservation Priorities

In the coming months, the Marine Mammal Commission plans to meet with officials from the National Marine Fisheries Service in each of the Service's six regions. The purpose of each meeting will be to identify the most pressing marine mammal research and management needs in each region. The Commission will use that information to help it develop a set of national priorities for guiding federal conservation efforts for marine mammals.

The first meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on 7 August 2012 in the National Marine Fisheries Service's Northeast Region. The meeting will be held at the Clark Conference Room, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543, telephone (508) 495-2000.

Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and to provide comments concerning priority issues. Those unable to attend any of the meetings may submit comments in writing. Written comments should be sent to Timothy J. Ragen, Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission, 4340 East-West Highway, Room 700, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Seating for members of the public may be limited. The Commission therefore asks that those intending to attend the meeting advise it in advance by sending an e-mail to the Commission at mmc@mmc.gov or by calling (301) 504-0087. Members of the public will need to present valid, government-issued photo identification and obtain a visitor's pass from the receptionist at the main laboratory building.

Should it be determined that it is appropriate to close a portion of the meeting to the public, any such closure will be carried out in accordance with applicable regulations (50 C.F.R. § 560.5 and 560.6).

Notices of other meetings will be published in the Federal Register and posted on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.mmc.gov>) when the dates and locations are determined.

For more information, contact Timothy J. Ragen, Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission, 4340 East-West Highway, Room 700, Bethesda, MD 20814; (301) 504-0087; e-mail: tragen@mmc.gov.