

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XE436

Marine Mammals; File No. 19309

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to the NMFS Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-6349 (Responsible Party: John Bengtson, Ph.D.), to conduct research on pinnipeds in Alaska.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 23, 2016, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 8942) that the above-named applicant requested a permit to conduct research on pinnipeds. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 19309 authorizes takes of bearded (*Erignathus barbatus*), harbor (*Phoca vitulina*), ribbon (*Histriophoca fasciata*), ringed (*Phoca hispida hispida*), and spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Arctic Ocean, and coastal regions of Alaska. The purposes of the research are to investigate the foraging ecology, population abundance and trends, population structure, habitat requirements, health, vital rates, and effects of natural and anthropogenic factors on these species. Seals may be (1) captured and handled for sampling and deployment of telemetry devices, (2) incidentally harassed annually during capture activities or collection of feces and other samples from haul-out substrate, and (3) harassed during manned and unmanned aerial surveys. Stellar sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) of the Eastern Distinct Population Segment may be taken annually by incidental harassment during harbor seal aerial

surveys. Authorization is provided for unintentional mortalities of each seal species. The permit expires on March 25, 2021.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: April 21, 2016.

Julia Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-10037 Filed 4-28-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XE583

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Approved Monitoring Service Providers

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

ACTION: Notice of approved monitoring service providers.

SUMMARY: NMFS has approved five companies to provide at-sea monitoring services to Northeast multispecies vessels in fishing year 2016. Regulations implementing Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan require third-party at-sea monitoring service providers to apply to, and be approved by, NMFS in a manner consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act in order to be eligible to provide at-sea monitoring services to sectors.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the list of NMFS-approved sector monitoring service providers are available at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/> or by sending a written request to: 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, Attn: Mark Grant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Grant, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9145, fax (978) 281-9135, email Mark.Grant@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Amendment 16 (75 FR 18262; April 9, 2010) to the Northeast Multispecies

Fishery Management Plan (FMP) expanded the sector management program, including requirements to ensure accurate monitoring of sector at-sea catch and dockside landings, and common pool dockside landings. Framework Adjustment 48 to the FMP (Framework 48, 78 FR 26118; May 3, 2013) revised the goals and objectives for sector monitoring programs.

Standards for Approving At-Sea Monitoring Service Providers

Regulations at 50 CFR 648.87(b)(4) describe the criteria for NMFS approval of at-sea monitoring service providers. NMFS is approving service providers for fishing year 2016 (beginning May 1, 2016) based on: (1) Completeness and sufficiency of applications; (2) determination of the applicant's ability to meet the performance requirements of a sector monitoring service provider; and (3) documented successful performance as NMFS-funded providers in fishing year 2015. Northeast multispecies sectors are required to design and implement independent, third-party at-sea monitoring programs in fishing year 2016, and are responsible for the at-sea portion of the costs of these monitoring requirements.

For fishing year 2015, NMFS approved A.I.S., Inc.; East West Technical Services, LLC; MRAG Americas, Inc.; Fathom Research, LLC; and ACD USA Ltd. as service providers. Once approved, providers must be able to document ongoing compliance with performance requirements in order to maintain eligibility (§ 648.87(b)(4)(ii)). NMFS can disapprove any previously approved service provider during the fishing year if the service provider in question ceases to meet the performance standards. NMFS must notify service providers of disapproval in writing.

Approved Monitoring Service Providers

NMFS received complete applications from five companies interested in providing at-sea monitoring services in fishing year 2016; these were the same five service providers that were approved for fishing year 2015. The Regional Administrator has approved all five service providers as eligible to provide at-sea monitoring services in fishing year 2016 because they have met the application requirements, documented an ability to comply with service provider standards, and have been determined to have met the service provider performance criteria:

TABLE 1—APPROVED FISHING YEAR 2016 PROVIDERS

Provider name	Address	Phone	Fax	Web site
ACD USA Ltd	1801 Hollis St., Suite 1220, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B35 3N4.	902-749-5107	902-749-4552	www.atlanticcatchdata.ca .
A.I.S., Inc	14 Barnabas Rd., P.O. Box 1009, Marion, MA 02738.	508-990-9054	508-990-9055	aisobservers.com .
East West Technical Services, LLC.	1415 Corona Ln., Vero Beach, FL 32963	860-214-2435	860-223-6005	www.ewts.com .
Fathom Research, LLC	1213 Purchase St., New Bedford, MA 02740	508-990-0997	508-991-7372	www.fathomresearchllc.com .
MRAG Americas, Inc	65 Eastern Ave., Unit B2C, Essex, MA 01929.	978-768-3880	978-768-3878	www.mragamericas.com .

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

Dated: April 25, 2016.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-09970 Filed 4-28-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE509

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 47 assessment of the U.S. Goliath Grouper will consist of a Review Workshop.

DATES: The SEDAR 47 Review Workshop will be held from 9 a.m. on May 17, 2016 until 6 p.m. on May 19, 2016. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The SEDAR 47 Review Workshop will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 80 Beach Drive NE., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701.

SEDAR address: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; *phone:* (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; *fax:* (843) 769-4520; *email:* Julie.neer@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data,

Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR usually involves a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: Data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Review Workshop agenda are as follows:

The Review Panel participants will review the stock assessment reports to determine if they are scientifically sound.

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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: April 26, 2016.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-10075 Filed 4-28-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: This notice provides an update (adds an additional committee to the joint meeting) to a notice that published on April 26, 2016. The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint meeting of its Hawaii Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (REAC), Hawaii Advisory Panel (AP), Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC) (Hawaii members) and Noncommercial Fishing Advisory Committee (NCFAC) (Hawaii members) and a Hawaii AP meeting to discuss and make