

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog  
11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program  
Administration.

Dated: January 21, 1998.

**Nancy Foster,**

*Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services  
and Coastal Zone.*

[FR Doc. 98-1937 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012198A]

#### Notice of Public Hearings on Individual Fishing Quotas

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS will hold three public meetings on Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996. The meetings will be held in the Caribbean, South Atlantic and Western Pacific Council regions. These meetings supplement those held by the National Research Council (NRC) in the other five Council regions. Hearings have been scheduled for the Caribbean and South Atlantic Council regions; the schedule for the Western Pacific Council region will be announced at a later date.

**DATES:** The public hearing on IFQs for the Caribbean Council region will be on February 12, 1998, beginning at 1 p.m.; for the South Atlantic Council region, the hearing will be held on March 3, 1998, beginning at 7 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Public hearings on IFQs for the Caribbean and South Atlantic Council regions will be held at the following locations, respectively: the Marriott's Frenchman's Reef Beach Resort, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, telephone: 809-776-8500; Jekyll Island Club, 371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, Georgia, telephone: 912-635-2600.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Gautam, NMFS, Office of Science and Technology; telephone: (301)713-2328.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Participants will be given five minutes each to provide a statement regarding any aspect of IFQ implementation identified in the study requirements of

the Magnuson-Stevens Act. All input will be provided to the NRC for use in preparation of its study of a national policy with respect to IFQs. The date and location of the public hearing in the Western Pacific Council region will be announced.

Dated: January 22, 1998.

**William W. Fox, Jr.**

*Director, Office of Science and Technology,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-1933 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011698B]

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will hold a meeting which is open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will begin on Monday, February 9, 1998, at 1 p.m. and will continue through 4 p.m. Thursday, February 12, 1998. The Tuesday and Wednesday sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and may go into the evening until business for the day is completed. An opportunity for public comment will be provided at 4 p.m. each day of the meeting and 3 p.m. on Thursday.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Council office, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Glock, Groundfish Fishery Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to develop a work plan for 1998 and to prepare technical advice and reports to support Council decisions throughout the year. Specific issues the GMT will address include: (1) discuss proposed revisions to the stock assessment process and appoint representatives to track the various assessments; (2) prepare a work plan for 1998 GMT activities; (3) prepare and review sections of the draft groundfish fishery management plan amendment; (4) review methodology for developing inseason catch projections; (5) prepare recommendations related to

groundfish research and data needs; (6) evaluate data and analysis requirements related to lingcod and rockfish allocation and management, and begin preparation of the analysis; (7) discuss issues related to a groundfish vessel/permit buy-back program; (8) evaluate Pacific grenadier and rockfish landings trends; and (9) prepare a groundfish economic data plan. The GMT plans to address topics in the order listed but will consider developing daily schedules as the meeting progresses. Due to the large number of agenda items, the GMT economic subgroup may meet separately and concurrently on Wednesday; it is not practical to establish daily agendas or schedules in advance of the meeting.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the GMT for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues will not be the subject of formal GMT action during this meeting. GMT action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 20, 1998.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-1831 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011698A]

#### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 881-1443)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Alaska SeaLife Center, P.O. Box 1239, Seward, AK 99664, has applied in due form for a permit to take Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 26, 1998.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and  
Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation 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) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by email or other electronic media.

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.

**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.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

For the purposes of scientific research, the applicant seeks authorization to import from Canada, three juvenile Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) currently housed at the Vancouver Aquarium, and two juvenile harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) presently residing at University of British Columbia. Over a five-year period the applicant requests to conduct studies on the nutritional physiology, metabolic development, and clinical health of Steller sea lions and harbor seals under captive conditions. Incidental to this scientific research, the public will be able to view the animals as part of an education program.

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 activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: January 21, 1998.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-1932 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012098A]

#### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permits (559-1442 and P524B)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that applications have been received from the following individuals to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research:

(559-1442) Mr. Salvatore Cerchio, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079, has applied in due form for a permit to import humpback whale samples from Mexico; and

(P524B) Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Univ. of HI, 1000 Pope Road MSB #213, Honolulu, HI 96822, has applied in due form for an amendment to Permit No. 969.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):  
Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508/281-9250); and  
Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications

should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on a particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by email or other electronic media.

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.

**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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Mr. Salvatore Cerchio requests a permit to import 1000 humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) biopsy tissue samples from Mexico. Samples have already been collected or will be collected under permits issued by the Mexican Government. The goals of the project are to assess paternity and test whether there is a large variance in reproductive success among males, typical of polygynous systems, or if paternities are distributed randomly.

Dr. Shannon Atkinson requests an amendment to Permit No. 969 to import the reproductive tract tissues, blood, plasma and serum of Mediterranean monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) taken from the subpopulation that inhabits the coast of Mauritania in North Africa and was involved in the 1997 die-off. Samples will be imported from Spain, where they are currently in storage. The applicant also requests authority to collect and/or import the same samples from all species of pinnipeds (except walrus) involved in beachings, strandings, die-offs, and taken during normal veterinary procedures on rehabilitated animals. The objective is to evaluate reproductive