

Dated: February 3, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-02393 Filed 2-5-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a public meeting of the Scientific Uncertainty Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, beginning at 10 a.m. and conclude by 4 p.m. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Baltimore-BWI Airport; 890 Elkridge Landing Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331 or on their Web site at www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a peer review of recent analyses conducted by the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Southern Demersal Working Group (SDWG) relative to stock delineation in the population dynamics models being developed for the northern stock (Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Maine) of black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*). The results of this review will help guide the SDWG in the treatment of issues related to specification of spatial stock structure in the operating model for this species.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 2, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD224

Marine Mammals; File No. 18537

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau, AK [Responsible Party: Robert Small, Ph.D.], has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 18537.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before March 9, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 18537 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available 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.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosa L. González or Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 18537 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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 18537, issued on August 8, 2014 (79 FR 19578), authorizes takes of Steller sea lions during aerial, vessel, and ground surveys in support of the long-term Steller sea lions research program. It also authorizes incidental disturbance of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), and northern fur (*Callorhinus ursinus*), harbor (*Phoca vitulina*), spotted (*Phoca largha*), ribbon (*Histiophoca fasciata*), ringed (*Phoca hispida hispida*), and bearded (*Erignathus barbatus*) seals during research activities, and annual unintentional mortality of 5 Steller sea lions from the Western Distinct Population Segment (wDPS) and 10 Steller sea lions from the Eastern DPS. See tables in permit for numbers of takes by species, stock and activity. The permit is valid through August 31, 2019.

The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to increase the number of California and Steller (wDPS) sea lions taken during aerial surveys from 4,725 to 10,000, and from 48,000 to 75,000, respectively. The request is in response to observed trends within recent years of increasing northerly movement of California sea lions, and as a result of this, an increase in observed animals in the current research area. In addition, the use of more sophisticated equipment has provided better resolution and quality of images taken, and, therefore, higher differentiation among pinnipeds observed. The permit holder also requests authorization to increase the volume on a single blood draw from Steller sea lions from up to 1 ml/kg to up to 4 ml/kg. The increase would support research projects related to the impacts of contaminants on immune and endocrine parameters in young Steller sea lions.

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 activities proposed are consistent with the Preferred Alternative in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Steller Sea Lion and Northern Fur Seal Research (NMFS

2007), and that issuance of the permit would not have a significant adverse impact on the human environment.

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.

Dated: February 2, 2016.

Dr. Perry F. Gayaldo,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-02385 Filed 2-5-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB160

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 16193 and 17157

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that two major permit amendments have been issued: Permit No. 16193-01 has been issued to Todd Robeck, D.V.M., Ph.D., Sea World Parks and Entertainment Corp, 500 Sea World Drive, San Diego, CA 92109; and, Permit No. 17157-02 has been issued to Stephen John Trumble, Ph.D., Baylor University, 101 Bagby Ave., Waco, TX 76706.

ADDRESSES: The permit amendments 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: Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 8, 2015, notices were published in the **Federal Register** (File No. 16193-01, 80 FR 76276; and File No. 17157-02, 80 FR 76278) that requests for amendments had been submitted by the above-named applicants to amend their permits to receive, import, and export specimens from marine mammals for scientific research. The requested permit amendments have been issued 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 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Permit No. 16193, issued on August 28, 2012, authorizes the permit holder to receive, import, and export cetacean and pinniped specimens to study reproductive physiology, including endocrinology, gamete biology, and cryophysiology. Permit No. 16193-01 amends the authorization to include unlimited samples from up to 300 wild Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) annually.

Permit No. 17157, issued on July 18, 2012, and amended on November 7, 2014, authorizes the receipt, import and export of up to 25 earplugs annually of each of the following species of whale: blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), sei (*B. borealis*), minke (*B. acutorostrata*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*), bowhead (*Balaena mysticetus*), fin (*B. physalus*), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*). The samples may be obtained from natural history museums as well as from collections in Barrow, Alaska, of bowhead whale subsistence harvests.

Permit No. 17157-02 authorizes an increase in the number of animals that samples that may be received, imported, and exported from 25 to 100 individuals annually. In addition, the permit has been amended to authorize the receipt, import, and export of baleen samples from blue and fin whales.

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.

As required by the ESA, issuance of this permit was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 2, 2016.

Perry F. Gayaldo,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-02384 Filed 2-5-16; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC or Commission) announces that on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, from 9:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., the CFTC's Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) will hold a rescheduled public meeting at the CFTC's Washington, DC headquarters. The TAC meeting previously scheduled for January 26, 2016, from 9:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., was canceled due to inclement weather that closed the Federal Government. The TAC will discuss: (1) The Commission's proposed Regulation Automated Trading (Reg AT); (2) swap data standardization and harmonization; and (3) blockchain and the potential application of distributed ledger technology to the derivatives market.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 9:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Members of the public who wish to submit written statements in connection with the meeting should submit them by Monday, February 22, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place in the Conference Center at the CFTC's headquarters, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581. Written statements should be submitted by mail to: Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581, attention: Office of the Secretary, or by electronic mail to: secretary@cftc.gov. Please use the title "Technology Advisory Committee" in any written statement you submit. Any statements submitted in connection with the committee meeting will be made available to the public, including publication on the CFTC Web site, www.cftc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ward P. Griffin, TAC Designated Federal Officer, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581, (202) 418-5425.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public with seating on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the public may also listen to the meeting by telephone by calling a domestic toll-free telephone or international toll or toll-free number to