

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

[I.D. 081997B]

Gulf of Maine Aquaculture-Pinniped Interaction Task Force

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of report.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS submitted a report to Congress regarding pinnipeds interacting in a dangerous or damaging manner with aquaculture resources in the Gulf of Maine. The report, which addressed public comments on an earlier draft, is available to the public upon request.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the report are available from Chief, Habitat and Protected Resources Division, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, or Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Sandorf (508)281-9388 or Tom Eagle (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Pursuant to section 120(h) of the MMPA, NMFS convened a Task Force to examine the issues and problems associated with pinniped-aquaculture interactions in the Gulf of Maine. Task Force members were selected from the aquaculture industry, state government, the scientific community, and conservation organizations. The Task Force convened three times for multi-day meetings, visited pen-sites, conducted public hearings, met with salmon growers, conducted surveys, and reviewed literature related to the issue, prior to completion of its report. The report contained Task Force recommendations to mitigate the seal predation, all of which represented the consensus of the Task Force.

NMFS considered the recommendations from the Task Force and prepared a draft report to Congress recommending options available to mitigate the interaction. NMFS published a notice of availability of the draft report and solicited public comments on it (62 FR 12602, March 17, 1997).

NMFS used the public comments in preparing a final report to Congress and forwarded the report to the Department

of Commerce. The Secretary of Commerce transmitted the report to Congress on August 1, 1997. Copies of the report are now available to the public (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: August 21, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

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

[FR Doc. 97-22843 Filed 8-26-97; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 081997C]

International Whaling Commission: Environmental Assessment and Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and change in meeting location.

SUMMARY: The Makah Tribe (Tribe) has indicated that it wishes to harvest up to five gray whales per year for subsistence and ceremonial purposes. Within the U.S. Government, whaling is managed by the Department of Commerce, which must therefore consider whether to support the Makah interest in continuing its tradition of whaling. NOAA has prepared a draft EA which weighs the impacts of supporting the Makah interest in whaling and considers alternatives to concurrence. This notice also announces a change in the room where the next IWC Interagency Committee will meet. The first notice of this meeting was published on June 26, 1997 (62 FR 34441).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before September 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft EA be obtained from the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; telephone: 301-713-2332. Comments should be submitted in writing to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Somma, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: (301) 713-2319.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Tribe has indicated that it wishes to harvest up to five gray whales per year for

subsistence and ceremonial purposes. Within the U.S. Government, whaling is managed by the Department of Commerce, which must therefore consider whether to support the Makah interest in continuing its tradition of whaling. This EA weighs the impacts of supporting the Makah interest in whaling and considers alternatives to concurrence. The EA analyzes alternatives, including the proposed action. The alternatives are: 1) Support the Tribe's decision to whale after receiving approval from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) [proposed action]; 2) delay consideration of support until after the five-year monitoring program of the eastern Pacific stock of gray whales is complete; 3) persuade the Tribe to engage in alternative activities such as ecotourism instead of whaling; and 4) no action.

NMFS also announces that the Interagency Committee meeting for the IWC will be held September 9, 1997, at 2:00 pm in Room 5215, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC. The room will be opened at 12:00 pm to permit viewing of U.S. positions papers for the 49th Annual Meeting of the IWC. The Interagency Committee meeting will review recent events relating to the IWC and will review U.S. positions for the 1997 IWC meetings.

Dated: August 20, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

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

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

[I.D. 080697G]

ICCAT Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Division of National Marine Fisheries Service announces the schedule of regional public meetings to be held this fall.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times of the hearings.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for locations of the meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathon Krieger -International issues (301) 713-2276 and/or Sarah McLaughlin -Domestic issues, (301) 713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. Wednesday, September 10, 1997, 7 to 10 p.m., Parkwood Inn, Route 24 at Cooks Corner, Brunswick, ME 04011;
2. Thursday, September 11, 1997, 7 to 10 p.m., Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 9 Whitehill Avenue, Mystic, CT 06340;
3. Friday, September 12, 1997, 7 to 10 p.m., Holiday Inn, Crown Plaza, 333 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130;
4. Wednesday, September 17, 1997, 7 to 10 p.m., Westin Resort Miami Beach, 4833 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140;
5. Wednesday, October 1, 1997, 7 to 10 p.m., Holiday Inn, 290 State Highway 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753;
6. Friday, October 3, 1997, 7 to 10 p.m., North Carolina Aquarium, Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954;
7. The annual ICCAT Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in the Silver Spring, MD, November 2-4, 1997. There will be opportunity for public comment on the international issues on Sunday, November 2 from 2-6 p.m. at NOAA Building 3, room 4527, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The following topics may be presented to the public for discussion at the ICCAT/HMS Regional Advisory Committee Meetings:

International Issues:

- (1) Background on ICCAT
- (2) Information on the Advisory Committee and Commissioners
- (3) Status of Highly Migratory Species Managed by ICCAT
- (4) Topics for the 1997 ICCAT Annual Meeting

Domestic Issues:

- (1) Highly Migratory Species Rulemaking Actions
 - (2) HMS Activities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act
 - (3) Regional Concerns/Issues
- Representatives from the U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee and NMFS will be in attendance. The first half of each regional meeting will be dedicated to international issues, followed by domestic issues. There will be an opportunity for public comment on each

issue. The meetings may be lengthened or shortened based on the progress of the discussions. The meeting locations are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jonathon Krieger at (301) 713-2276 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 21, 1997.

George Darcy

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

[FR Doc. 97-22842 Filed 8-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082197B]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 4-5, 1997. On Thursday, September 4, the Summer Flounder Monitoring Committee will meet from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Scup Monitoring Committee will meet from 2:00-5:00 p.m. On Friday, September 5, 1997, the Black Sea Monitoring Committee will meet from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Airport, 500 Stevens Drive, Philadelphia, PA; telephone: 610-521-5900.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of these meetings is to set the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass quotas for 1998.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for

sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 21, 1997.

George H. Darcy,

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

[FR Doc. 97-22844 Filed 8-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

Technology Administration Performance Review Board Membership, September 1997

The Technology Administration Performance Review Board reviews performance appraisals, agreements, and recommended actions pertaining to employees in the Senior Executive Service and reviews performance-related pay increases for ST-3104 employees. The Board makes recommendations to the appropriate Appointing Authority concerning such matters so as to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of these individuals.

The following is the full membership of the Board:

- Kelly H. Carnes (NC), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy, Technology Administration, Washington, DC 20230, Appointment Expires: 12/31/98
- Karl E. Bell (C), Deputy Director of Administration, Office of the Director of Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/99
- Elaine Buntin-Mines (C), Director, Program Office, Office of the Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/99
- Andrew J. Fowell (C), Associate Director for Construction and Building, Building and Fire Research Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/97
- Stephen W. Freiman (C), Chief, Ceramics Division, Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/99
- Kent Hughes, Associate Deputy Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, Appointment Expires: 12/31/99