

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) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 18, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-7628 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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

[I.D. 031898D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of Groundfish Advisory Panel to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 8, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is for the development of comments on alternative measures to address the overfished condition of Gulf of Maine cod; identification of issues and options, and a review of proposals to meet the stock rebuilding objectives necessary to bring the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan into compliance with the requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act; discussion of other tasks as assigned by the Groundfish Oversight Committee.

Although other issues not contained in these agendas may come before this Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of

formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: March 19, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 98-7626 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 031098F]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of revision of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has rescheduled the public meeting of the Whiting Committee (Committee) that was scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** on March 17, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for revisions.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, (Route 1), Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The initial notice published on March 17, 1998 (63 FR 13034). The original notice stated that only the Whiting Committee would meet on Tuesday, April 7, 1998. The meeting has been rescheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 8, 1998, and will now be a joint meeting of the Whiting Committee, Whiting Advisory Panel, and Whiting Plan Development Team. The Whiting Committee will reconvene

by itself on April 9, if necessary. The April 9 meeting may be cancelled if the Committee feels that the April 8 meeting will be sufficient to develop management measures for public hearings. Recommendation from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate. The agenda is as follows:

Wednesday, April 8, 1998, 10:00 a.m.—Joint Whiting Committee, Advisory Panel, and Plan Development Team meeting

Agenda: Discussion of appropriate trip limits, mesh restrictions, and other measures to end and prevent overfishing on silver hake (whiting) and red hake stocks and to provide basic protection for offshore hake; discussion and development of management measures for public hearings.

Thursday, April 9, 1998, 9:00 a.m.—Whiting Committee meeting

Agenda: Final development of management measures for public hearings.

All other information previously published remains unchanged.

Dated: March 19, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 98-7627 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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

[I.D. 031698C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research/enhancement permits (1128, 1129) and modifications to scientific research permits (900, 946, 1056). Issuance of scientific research permit #1113.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at La Grande, OR (ODFW) (1128) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW) (1129) have applied in due form for permits and that the Fish Ecology Division of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center at Seattle, WA (NWFSC) has applied in due form for modifications to permits (900, 946, 1056) that would authorize takes of endangered and threatened anadromous

fish species for the purpose of scientific research. Notice is also given that NMFS issued Research Permit number 1113 to Dr. Sylvia Galloway, Laboratory Director of the National Ocean Service - Marine Forensics Laboratory for the purpose of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these requests must be received on or before April 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application, permit, and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

For permits 900, 946, 1056, 1128, and 1129: Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

All documents are available for review by appointment in the Endangered Species Division; Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permits 900, 946, 1056, 1128, and 1129: Robert Koch, PRD (503-230-5424).

For Permit 1113: Terri Jordan, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, (301-713-1401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Permits are requested under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on these requests for permits should set out the specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the following application summaries are those of the applicants and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Issuance of these permits, modifications, and amendments, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits, modifications, and amendments: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. These permits, modifications, and amendments were also issued in accordance with and are subject to parts 217-222 of Title 50 CFR, the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

To date, protective regulations for threatened Snake River steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA have not been promulgated by NMFS. This notice of receipt of an application requesting a take of this species is issued as a precaution in the event that NMFS issues protective regulations that prohibit takes of Snake River steelhead. The initiation of a 30-day public comment period on the application, including its proposed take of Snake River steelhead, does not presuppose the contents of the eventual protective regulations.

Applications Received

ODFW (1128) requests a five-year permit that would authorize an annual direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with a supplementation program at the Imnaha River and Lookingglass Creek Hatcheries. The new permit is proposed to replace permit 847, which is due to expire on June 30, 1998. The objectives of ODFW's program are to: (1) Restore natural populations of chinook salmon in the basin to ESA delisting levels, (2) reestablish traditional tribal and recreational fisheries for chinook salmon, (3) maintain the genetic and life history characteristics of the endemic wild population while pursuing mitigation goals and management objectives, and (4) operate the hatchery program to ensure that the genetic and life history characteristics of the hatchery fish mimic the wild fish. ESA-listed adult salmon that return to the watershed each year are proposed to be captured at the Imnaha River weir, marked, and inoculated for diseases. ODFW proposes to retain a percentage of the ESA-listed adult salmon that return to the weir each year for hatchery broodstock and to release all of the ESA-listed adult salmon not retained for broodstock above the weir to spawn naturally. In a given year, if more hatchery-origin adult salmon are available than are needed to release above the weir or to keep for broodstock, ODFW proposes to transport the excess hatchery-origin adults to Big Sheep and/or Lick Creeks and outplant them for natural spawning. ESA-listed adult salmon retained for broodstock are proposed to be transported to the hatcheries and spawned. The resulting progeny are proposed to be reared in the hatcheries, tagged with coded-wires and passive integrated transponders, and released when ready to outmigrate to the ocean. An annual incidental take of ESA-listed

species associated with juvenile fish releases is also requested.

WDFW (1129) requests a five-year permit that would authorize an annual direct take of adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a supplementation program at the Tucannon River and Lyons Ferry Fish Hatcheries. The new permit is proposed to replace part of permit 848, which is due to expire on June 30, 1998. The objectives of WDFW's supplementation program are to: (1) Enhance the number of potential spawners in the natural environment; (2) preserve the genetic integrity of the stock to prevent extinction; and (3) stop the decline in run sizes and eventually, to rebuild the natural population over time. ESA-listed adult salmon that return to the watershed each year are proposed to be captured at the Tucannon River weir, marked, and inoculated for diseases. WDFW proposes to retain a percentage of the ESA-listed adult salmon that return to the weir each year for hatchery broodstock and to release all of the ESA-listed adult salmon not retained for broodstock above the weir to spawn naturally. ESA-listed adult salmon retained for broodstock are proposed to be transported to the hatcheries and spawned. The resulting progeny are proposed to be reared in the hatcheries, tagged with coded-wires and passive integrated transponders, and released when ready to outmigrate to the ocean. An annual incidental take of ESA-listed species associated with juvenile fish releases is requested. In addition, WDFW requests an annual direct take of adult, threatened, Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) associated with a research/monitoring program at the Tucannon River adult trap. WDFW proposes to monitor ESA-listed adult steelhead returns to the Tucannon River watershed annually in anticipation of the need to initiate a supplementation program, using locally-adapted populations, in the future. ESA-listed adult steelhead are proposed to be captured, enumerated, and released. ESA-listed adult steelhead indirect mortalities associated with research/monitoring activities are requested.

NWFSC requests modification 5 to permit 900. Permit 900 authorizes NWFSC annual takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*); juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall

chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with three studies designed to determine the relative survival of migrating juvenile salmonids at hydropower dams and reservoirs on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest. For modification 5, NWFSC requests an increase in the takes of ESA-listed juvenile fish associated with the studies, and annual takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); juvenile, threatened, Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); and juvenile, threatened, lower Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) associated with the research. ESA-listed juvenile fish are proposed to be captured, handled, and released or captured, tagged with passive integrated transponders (PIT) or radio transmitters, and released. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities are requested. Modification 5 is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit which expires on December 31, 1999.

NWFSC requests modification 4 to permit 946. Permit 946 authorizes NWFSC annual takes of juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon; adult and juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon; and juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon associated with two scientific research studies. Study 1 is designed to compare the survival to adulthood of spring/summer chinook salmon smolts transported by barge to below Bonneville Dam with the survival to adulthood of smolts migrating voluntarily under prevailing river conditions. Study 2 is designed to assess the migration timing and relative survival of transported and inriver juvenile chinook salmon migrating voluntarily from Bonneville Dam to the mouth of the Columbia River. For modification 4, NWFSC requests an increase in the takes of ESA-listed juvenile fish associated with the studies. Also for modification 4, NWFSC requests annual takes of juvenile, endangered, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, upper Columbia River steelhead; juvenile, threatened, Snake River steelhead; and juvenile, threatened, lower Columbia River steelhead associated with the research. ESA-listed juvenile fish indirect mortalities are requested. Modification 4 is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit which expires on December 31, 1999.

NWFSC requests modification 1 to permit 1056. Permit 1056 authorizes

NWFSC annual takes of juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with two scientific research studies. The objectives of Study 1 is to characterize the run-timing of wild fish over a period of years to determine if consistent patterns are apparent and to use this information for real-time management decisions regarding water allocation during the smolt outmigrations. The objectives of Study 2 are to monitor the nature and extent of genetic change over time in supplemented and unsupplemented populations, to correlate the genetic changes with measures of productivity, and to provide information on population structure and effective population size. For modification 1, NWFSC requests annual takes of juvenile, threatened, Snake River steelhead associated with the research. ESA-listed juvenile steelhead are proposed to be captured, handled, and released or captured, handled, PIT-tagged, and released or lethally taken. ESA-listed juvenile steelhead indirect mortalities are requested. Modification 1 is requested to be valid for the duration of the permit which expires on December 31, 2001.

Permits Issued

Notice was published on December 31, 1997 (62 FR 68260) that an application had been filed by Dr. Sylvia Galloway, Laboratory Director of the National Ocean Service - Marine Forensics Laboratory, requests authorization to possess and conduct research on listed, non-marine mammal, non-reptilian species using tissue samples (fin clips, barbels, blood, muscle, skin) to provide technical support that is responsive to NOAA goals involving protected and endangered species, via law enforcement. The application requests the ability to maintain samples of non-marine mammal, or reptile listed species obtained from permitted individuals and by Federal, state or local law enforcement agents for the purposes of archival as authorized by the ESA.

The permit holder is not authorized to conduct any field collection exercises to obtain the samples. All of the samples must be obtained from previously authorized sources (permitted researchers, law enforcement authorities). All tissue samples will be maintained in a laboratory at the National Ocean Service - Marine Forensics Laboratory, Charleston, South Carolina.

Dated: March 18, 1998.

Joseph R. Blum,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-7631 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Extension of Temporary Amendment to the Requirements for Participating in the Special Access Program for Caribbean Basin Countries

March 20, 1998.

AGENCY: Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements
(CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the
Commissioner of Customs extending
amendment of requirements for
participation in the Special Access
Program for a temporary period.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 23, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori
E. Mennitt, International Trade
Specialist, Office of Textiles and
Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce,
(202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural
Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854);
Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as
amended.

A notice and letter to the
Commissioner of Customs published in
the **Federal Register** on September 19,
1997 (62 FR 49206) announced the
temporary amendment to the foreign
origin exception for findings and
trimmings under the Special Access
Program. By date of export, the foreign
origin exception for findings and
trimmings, including elastic strips of
less than one inch in width, under the
Special Access Program were
temporarily amended to include non-
U.S. formed, U.S. cut interlinings for the
period September 23, 1997 through
March 22, 1998 for men's and boys' suit
jackets and suit-type jackets in
Categories 433, 443, 633 and 643. In the
aggregate, such interlinings, findings
and trimmings must not exceed 25
percent of the cost of the components of
the assembled article. This amendment
is being extended for a six-month period
beginning on March 23, 1998 and
extending through September 22, 1998
for men's and boys' suit jackets and suit-
type jackets in Categories 433, 443, 633
and 643 entered under the Special
Access Program (9802.00.8015)