

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: NOAA makes use of a public Interagency Committee to assist in preparing for meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). This notice defines guidelines for participating on the Committee and provides a tentative schedule of meetings and of important dates.

DATES: The June 5, 2000, Interagency Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for tentative 2000 meeting schedules.

ADDRESSES: The June 5, 2000, meeting will be held in room B841-A, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathy Campbell, (202) 482-2652.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the June 5, 2000, Interagency Committee meeting is to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 2000 IWC annual meeting.

The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. This authority has been delegated to the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere. The U.S. Commissioner to the IWC has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other interested agencies.

Each year, NOAA conducts meetings and other activities to prepare for the annual meeting of the IWC. The major purpose of the preparatory meetings is to provide input in the development of policy by individuals and non-governmental organizations interested in whale conservation. NOAA believes that this participation is important for the effective development and implementation of U.S. policy concerning whaling. Any person with an identifiable interest in U.S. whale conservation policy may participate in the meetings, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interest of any person who appears at a meeting and to determine the appropriateness of that person's participation. Foreign nationals and persons who represent foreign governments may not attend. These stringent measures are necessary to promote the candid exchange of

information and to establish the necessary basis for the relatively open process of preparing for IWC meetings that characterizes current practices.

Tentative Meeting Schedule

The tentative schedule of additional meetings and deadlines, including those of the IWC, during 2000 follows.

June 5, 2000 (Rm B841-A, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.): Interagency Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 2000 IWC annual meeting.

June 12-13, 2000 (Adelaide, Australia): IWC Scientific Committee Working Groups and Sub-committees.

June 14-26, 2000 (Adelaide, Australia): IWC Scientific Committee.

June 28-July 1, 2000 (Adelaide, Australia): IWC Commission Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups.

July 3-6, 2000 (Adelaide, Australia): IWC 52nd Annual Meeting.

Special Accommodations

Department of Commerce meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cathy Campbell (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 23, 2000.

Art Jeffers,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00-13432 Filed 5-26-00; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 051900C]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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 Summer Flounder Working Group will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2000, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Sheraton BWI Airport, 7032 Elm

Road, Baltimore, MD; telephone: 410-691-9827.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to consider future management measures and possible actions for the summer flounder fishery.

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 listed 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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 Office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 22, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00-13372 Filed 5-26-00; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 051800A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit 1235.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued a permit to the City of Seattle (City) that authorizes incidental take of Endangered Species Act-listed anadromous fish, subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for

review in the following office, by appointment:

Washington State Habitat Branch, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103, Lacey, WA 98503

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Landino (360-753-9530)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The permit and permit amendment were issued under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(B) 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 222-227).

The City's covered activities include watershed management and related operations as described in the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and associated Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI was signed on April 19, 2000.

Notice was published on December 11, 1998, and January 5, 1999 (63 FR 68469, and 64 FR 480) that an application had been filed by the City for an incidental take permit. Permit 1235 was issued to the City on April 21, 2000. Permit 1235 authorizes the City incidental take of threatened Puget Sound (PS) chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). As well, other anadromous fish that are not now ESA-listed are covered species and would be included on the permit at time of listing. Permit 1235 expires on December 31, 2050.

Issuance of the permit was based on a finding that the City had met the permit issuance criteria of 50 CFR 222.22(c). The permit will take effect for listed covered species on the effective date of a rule under Section 4(d) of the ESA prohibiting take of the species. For unlisted covered species, the permit will take effect upon the listing of a species as endangered, and for a species listed as threatened, on the effective date of a rule under Section 4(d) of the ESA prohibiting take of the species.

Dated: May 24, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

[FR Doc. 00-13430 Filed 5-26-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.051800E]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research permit (1253).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research:

NMFS has received a scientific research permit application from Mr. Carlos E. Diez, of Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNR) (1253).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5:00 pm eastern daylight time on June 29, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

For application 1253, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 1253: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) Are 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. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species are covered in this notice: endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), endangered Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

New Applications Received

Application 1253: The purpose of the research is to provide information on the ecology and population dynamics of the hawksbill and green turtles that inhabit the waters surrounding Puerto Rico and its adjacent islands (Mona, Monito, Desecheo, Caja-de-Muertos, Viques and Culebra). This research will improve the effectiveness of management efforts by addressing priorities set forth in the recovery plans for both species: (1) identification of important marine habitats; (2) determination of adult and juvenile distribution and abundance; (3) determination of sex ratios in the juvenile population; (4) evaluation of the extent of ingestion of persistent marine debris; (5) determination of growth rates and age at sexual maturity, and (6) quantification of threats to adults and juveniles on foraging grounds.

Dated: May 23, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

[FR Doc. 00-13433 Filed 5-26-00; 8:45 am]

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