

Dated: May 28, 2003.

John Oliver,

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Operations, National Marine Fisheries
Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-13913 Filed 5-29-03; 4:39 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052803D]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Rocket Launches

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that an authorization for June 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 to take small numbers of seals and sea lions has been issued to the 30th Space Wing, U.S. Air Force.

ADDRESSES: The letter of authorization and supporting documentation are available for review during regular business hours in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and the Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly Skrupky, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2322, or Christina Fahy, NMFS, (562) 980-4023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or

stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of seals and sea lions incidental to missile and rocket launches, aircraft flight test operations, and helicopter operations at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA were published on March 1, 1999 (64 FR 9925), and remain in effect until December 31, 2003.

Issuance of this letter of authorization is based on a finding that the total takings will have no more than a negligible impact on the seal and sea lion populations off the Vandenberg coast and on the Northern Channel Islands.

Dated: May 28, 2003.

Laurie K. Allen,

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

[FR Doc. 03-13919 Filed 6-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 053003A]

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Administrative Committee will hold meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on June 18-20, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Buccaneer Hotel, #7 Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108,

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1920, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will convene on Wednesday, June 18th, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Administrative Committee will meet from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Council will reconvene on Thursday, June 19, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., approximately, and Friday, June 20, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Council will hold its 112th regular public meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

June 28, 2003

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call to Order
Adoption of Agenda
Consideration of 111th Council Meeting Verbatim Minutes
Executive Director's Report
Queen Conch Geographic Information System (GIS) - Dr. M. Barreto
Culebra's Marine Reserve Survey - Dr. Edwin Hernandez
Updates
-Marine Conservation District (MCD) Mapping Project - Jose Rivera
-MCD Photographic Survey - Graciela Garcia-Moliner
-Hydro-acoustic Survey - Jose Rivera and Aida Rosario
-West Coast of Puerto Rico Side Scan Sonar Projects - Aida Rosario
Essential Fish Habitat- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EFH-DEIS) - Bob Trumble

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Committee Meeting
-Advisory Panel (AP)/Scientific and Statistical Committee/Habitat AP Membership
-Budget: 2002, 2003, 2004-5
-Queen Conch Initiative—Projects for Education and Scientific Literature
-Personnel Issues and Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures
-Other Business

June 19, 2003

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

EFH/DEIS Continuation of Discussion
-Schedule for the submission of EFH/DEIS

June 20, 2003

9 a.m. - 12 noon

NOAA Fisheries 2003 Constituents Session - Dr. W. Hogarth

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Enforcement
-Federal Government
-Puerto Rico
-U.S. Virgin Islands

-U.S. Coast Guard
Administrative Committee
Recommendations
Meetings Attended by Council
Members and Staff
Other Business
Next Council Meeting

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

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 identified 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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 30, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03-14042 Filed 6-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052703E]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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 its Mid-Atlantic Plans and Habitat Oversight Committee in June, 2003 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries

in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on June 17 and 18, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at The Village Inn, 1 Beach Street, Narragansett, RI 02882; telephone: (401) 783-6767.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Tuesday, June 17, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.—Mid-Atlantic Plans Committee Meeting.

The committee will review and develop a position to be taken by the New England Council regarding upcoming amendments in the Mid-Atlantic region. They will recommend measures for Amendment 9 and Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.—Habitat Oversight Committee Meeting.

The Committee will review the gear specific alternatives for minimizing adverse effects on monkfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP. They will review the information prepared by the EFH Technical Team on the presence of deep-sea corals in the North Atlantic region and the possible interaction between the monkfish fishery. Also on the agenda will be the review the draft workplan for the Omnibus Habitat Amendment #2.

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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. 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: May 29, 2003.

Matteo J. Milazzo,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03-13920 Filed 6-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052703G]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 782-1702, 782-1708, 782-1719, and 358-1585-02

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for permits and application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have applied in due form for a permit or permit amendment to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research:

File Nos. 782-1702, -1708, and -1719 - National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS], National Marine Mammal Laboratory [NMMML], 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Seattle, WA 98115; and

File No. 358-1585-02 - Alaska Department of Fish and Game [ADF&G], Division of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 25536, Juneau, AK 99802-5526.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments on the new applications and amendment request must be received on or before July 7, 2003.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426;

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7235; fax (907)586-7012;

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Southwest Region,