

protected species and there would be no activity in any areas closed for Northeast multispecies. All harvest would be accounted for under Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog quota allocations under the Federal individual transferable quota program.

The additional vessels would help to study the expansion of the protocol from one vessel in a pilot study to more fishing vessels for a wider-spread implementation. Also, the area designated on GB where the research is proposed would be divided into three even sections in which each vessel would collect samples on a regular basis. If it appears that an algal bloom is forming in a given area, spatial and temporal sampling would be increased as needed. This also allows for samples to be collected over a wider area, ensuring samples collected are representative of evenly distributed portions of the entire closure area.

State and Federal agencies will be notified of each trip, place and time of landing, the results of onboard screening, and the dockside laboratory results. Harvested clams would be landed in Massachusetts and Delaware. New Jersey and Rhode Island may be added as additional landing states pending agreements being developed according to the terms of the protocol. Harvested clams would be processed at Sea Watch International in New Bedford, MA, with independent samples from each trip landed being taken for shipment to an independent FDA certified laboratory in Brunswick, ME, and the shellfish held at the processing site under State supervision until the dockside tests are complete. All of the results from activities under the EFPs would be compiled, archived, and made public by the FDA.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs. The Assistant Regional Administrator has made an initial determination that, based on a preliminary review of the proposed subject research and the criteria provided in section 5.05a-c and section 6.03c.3(a) of NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6, a Categorical Exclusion appears to be justified for this EFP. In accordance with NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6, a Categorical Exclusion, or other appropriate National Environmental Policy Act document, would be completed prior to the issuance of the EFP. Further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 31, 2012.

Steven Thur,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-2515 Filed 2-2-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA978

Southwest Fisheries Science Center; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: A methods review of the Collaborative Optically-assisted Acoustic Survey Technique (COAST) by the Center for Independent Experts (CIE) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and will be held February 15-17, 2012, that is open to the public.

DATES: The methods review of the COAST process will be held beginning at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 15, 2012, and end at 5:30 p.m. or as necessary to complete business for the day. The panel will reconvene on Thursday, February 16, 2012, and will continue through Friday, February 17, 2012, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. each day, or as necessary to complete business.

ADDRESSES: The COAST methods review will be held at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center; Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 3333 North Torrey Pines Court, La Jolla, CA 92037-1023; (858) 546-7000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Dale Sweetnam, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center; telephone: (858) 546-7170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The COAST uses high-precision acoustic

sampling to efficiently map the distributions of rockfishes on large scales and to direct the optical sampling. The COAST also uses accurate optical sampling to provide estimates of species composition and their length distributions. Thus, the COAST combines information from acoustic and optical sampling to obtain relatively precise and accurate estimates of the distributions and abundances of rockfishes, by species. The COAST was developed by the NOAA/NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Advanced Sampling Technology Program, and the Sportfishing Association of California. It may also have broad appeal to fisheries managers and researchers as a tool for ecosystem-based management as well as evaluating the performance of marine protected areas.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Dale Sweetnam (858) 546-7170 at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 31, 2012.

Steven Thur,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-2491 Filed 2-2-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA603

Marine Mammals; File No. 15802

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

ACTION: Notice; requested change to permit application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 100 Eighth Avenue SE., St. Petersburg, FL 33701 [Gregg Poulakis, Responsible Party], has requested a change to the application for a permit (File No. 15802).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before March 5, 2012.

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. 15802 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division:

- By email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov (include the File No. 15802 in the subject line of the email),

- By facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or
- At the address listed above.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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:

Jennifer Skidmore or Colette Cairns, (301)427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The subject permit is requested under the authority of 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 222-226).

On July 28, 2011 (76 FR 45230), notice was published that a permit had been requested by the applicant for scientific research and monitoring of smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) populations of Florida, primarily in the greater Charlotte Harbor estuarine system by gillnet, seine, or longline. These animals would be handled, measured, passive integrated transponder, roto, and external satellite tagged, tissue and biopsy sampled, examined by ultrasound, and released. Receipt of sawfish samples acquired through strandings, law enforcement confiscations, or other permitted researchers is also requested. The applicant also seeks authorization to capture green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles. Sea turtles would be measured, photographed, and released. On

December 14, 2011 (76 FR 77781), notice was published clarifying the number of sawfish takes requested and the addition of blood sampling to the proposed activities. The applicant is requesting to amend the application to request the modification of the acoustic/satellite attachment methods to be the same as those currently authorized under another sawfish permit. The permit is requested for a duration of 5 years.

Dated: January 31, 2012.

Carrie W. Hubbard,

Acting Chief, Permits and Conservation, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-2486 Filed 2-2-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting of the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee (Committee). The Committee provides advice to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information on spectrum management policy matters.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 1, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Pacific Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), Room 130, 366 Galvez Street, Stanford, CA 94305. Public comments may be mailed to Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4099, Washington, DC 20230 or emailed to spectrumadvisory@ntia.doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bruce M. Washington, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 482-6415 or BWashington@ntia.doc.gov; and/or visit NTIA's Web site at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/CSMAC>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Committee provides advice to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information on needed reforms to

domestic spectrum policies and management in order to: license radio frequencies in a way that maximizes their public benefits; keep wireless networks as open to innovation as possible; and make wireless services available to all Americans. (See charter, at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/page/2011/csmac-charter>). This Committee is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, and is consistent with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Act, 47 U.S.C. 904(b). The Committee functions solely as an advisory body in compliance with the FACA. For more information about the Committee, visit: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/CSMAC>.

Matters To Be Considered: The Committee will deliberate on the findings and recommendations from its four subcommittees (Search for 500 MHz, Spectrum Sharing, Spectrum Management Improvements, and Unlicensed), and identify future requirements for assessments. NTIA will post a detailed agenda on its Web site, <http://www.ntia.doc.gov>, prior to the meeting. There also will be an opportunity for public comment at the meeting.

Time and Date: The meeting will be held on March 1, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Pacific Standard Time. The times and the agenda topics are subject to change. The meeting may be webcast or made available via audio link. Please refer to NTIA's Web site, <http://www.ntia.doc.gov>, for the most up-to-date meeting agenda and access information.

Place: The meeting will be held at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) Room 130, 366 Galvez Street, Stanford, CA 94305. The meeting will be open to the public and press on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited. The public meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodations, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids, are asked to notify Mr. Washington, at (202) 482-6415 or BWashington@ntia.doc.gov, at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

Status: Interested parties are invited to attend and to submit written comments to the Committee at any time before or after the meeting. Parties wishing to submit written comments for consideration by the Committee in advance of this meeting must send them to NTIA's Washington, DC office at the above-listed address and comments must be received by close of business on February 23, 2012, to provide sufficient time for review. Comments received after February 23, 2012, will be