

are operating from baseline activity in and around the area of the experiment. Any observed change in killer whale acoustical activity that is directly correlated to a sound produced by the experiment will be classified as a "take" by harassment.

(2) *To collect data to mitigate potential effects on marine mammals, especially habitat exclusion for harbor porpoise and killer whales.* To obtain a sufficient number of baseline observations needed to detect a large change in mean abundance of harbor porpoise within the time an animal would be expected to suffer deleterious effects, harbor porpoise observations will begin on May 16, 1996, (25 days prior to startup of the experiment) using a shore station to measure their abundance. To provide a good view of the ZOR on the western side of Haro Island, this shore station will be established on the bluff at Wymond Pt., Sidney Island.

For killer whales, in addition to analyzing data collected in previous years, DB/MIT will conduct a period of baseline observations on killer whale travel behavior in the area. DB/MIT will record the likelihood that killer whales pass from north to south given an approach to the study area.

(3) *To collect data on the effects of sound on those marine mammals present in or near the study area.* Data from shore stations and censusing vessels will be used to document the abundance and distribution of marine mammals in relation to the sound sources over a wide range of amplitude exposures. In addition, monitoring will determine the size of the ZOR for those species present near the sources, compare these measurements to the pre-test calculated ZOR size, and determine displacement for harbor porpoise, killer whales and harbor seals. For killer whales especially, behavior will be monitored by vessel, and data will be collected on swim direction and speed, and group spacing and arrangement. Finally, recovery periods for all species will be determined through a 3-week post-experiment monitoring program.

Mitigation

Mitigation measures include: (1) Developing and incorporating a ramp-up of sound sources A and C over 0.25 sec; (2) incorporating a coded sequence mechanism for shutting off source D; (3) hardwiring the maximum output of source A down from 185 dB (re 1 μ Pa) to 170 dB @ 1 m. and (4) developing a protocol for shutting down sources upon the approach of killer whales in order to use the vertical arrays to record and analyze their sounds.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NMFS has conducted a review of the potential impacts from the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization to DE/MIT and has determined that there will be no more than a short-term, negligible impact on marine mammals from the issuance of the harassment authorization. For that reason, NMFS has determined that issuance of an incidental harassment authorization to DE/MIT is categorically excluded (as defined in 40 CFR 1508.4) from the preparation of either an environmental impact statement or an EA under NEPA and section 6.02.c.3(i) of NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for Environmental Review Procedures (published August 6, 1991).

A programmatic EA on issuing incidental harassment authorizations under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA, which was released in 1995, is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

Conclusions

NMFS believes that most of the acoustic sources proposed for use in this experiment are of insufficient amplitude and duty cycle to warrant an incidental harassment authorization (literally thousands of similar acoustic devices are in use daily in U.S. waters on vessels as fish finders, bottom sonars, and as acoustic deterrent devices in commercial fisheries); however, because of recent public concern over Scripps Institution of Oceanography's acoustic thermometry of ocean climate, oceanographic researchers are correctly taking a cautious approach and applying for incidental harassment authorizations to ensure their projects go forward.

NMFS has determined preliminarily that the short-term impact on marine mammals from conducting a physical oceanography experiment between June 10 and July 5, 1996, using high-frequency sound to study the flow field and mixing processes in Haro Strait, Puget Sound, WA, may result in a short-term modification in behavior by certain species of cetaceans. While behavioral modifications may be made by these species of cetaceans to avoid noise, this behavioral change is expected to have only a negligible impact on the animals. However, the mitigation and monitoring measures that will be part of the authorization, if issued, would provide additional protection to ensure that the project's impact on marine mammals is at the lowest level practicable. NMFS has also determined that this experiment will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the

availability of this stock for subsistence uses.

As a result, NMFS proposes to issue an incidental harassment authorization for approximately 60 days for the above described experiment and post-experiment monitoring, provided the above mentioned mitigation and monitoring requirements are incorporated.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, information, and suggestions concerning this request (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: March 22, 1996.
Patricia A. Montanio,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected
Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-7624 Filed 3-25-96; 4:31 pm]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-W

[I.D. 031996B]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will hold its 89th meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 24-26, 1996. The Council's standing committees will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on April 24. The full Council will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on April 25-26. There will be a fishermen's forum from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on April 25.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai Room, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 955-4811.

Council address: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1405, Honolulu, HI, 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will discuss and may take action on the following agenda items:

1. Reports from the islands;
2. Reports from fishery agencies and organizations, including enforcement agencies, and plan to require a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on all foreign vessels;
3. Ecosystems and habitat, including:
 - (a) Report on ocean circulation model, and

- (b) Plan for coral reef assessment;
- 4. Pelagic fishery issues, including:
 - (a) 1995 draft annual report island-area summaries,
 - (b) Decline in 1994 Hawaii swordfish landings,
 - (c) Bycatch issues,
 - (d) Status of request for single-Council designation for management of domestic pelagic fisheries in the Pacific,
 - (e) NMFS swordfish research,
 - (f) Plan for U.S. vessels fishing in the Pacific to report catch and effort and establishment of control date, and
 - (g) Comprehensive data collection need and strategy for implementation.
- 5. Crustaceans, including:
 - (a) Status of Amendment 9,
 - (b) 1996 quota forecast,
 - (c) VMS evaluation,
 - (d) NMFS lobster research, and
 - (e) Request for experimental fishing permit;
- 6. Bottomfish issues, including:
 - (a) 1995 draft annual report island-area summaries,
 - (b) Department of Land and Natural Resources progress with a management plan for Main Hawaiian Island Onaga and Ehu, and
 - (c) Reconsideration of Northwestern Hawaiian Islands management system;
- 7. Native rights and indigenous fishing issues, including: (a) Status of relevant Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) amendments, and
 - (b) Community-based planning;
- 8. Program planning, including:
 - (a) NMFS consolidation of regulations and strategic planning;
 - (b) University of Hawaii Sea Grant - future of fishery management,
 - (c) Status of Magnuson Act reauthorization, and
 - (d) Status of Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network (WesPac FIN);
- 9. Administrative matters; and
- 10. Other business as required.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: March 20, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-7518 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Florida Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Florida Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, at the Holiday Inn I-95 North, 14670 Duval Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32229. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a press conference to release the report, *Racial and Ethnic Tensions in Florida*; discuss progress and/or problems in the State and Nation; and discuss plans to follow-up on the report.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Rabbi Solomon Agin, 813-433-0018, or Bobby D. Doctor, Director of the Southern Regional Office, 404-730-2476 (TDD 404-730-2481). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 20, 1996.
Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-7573 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Florida Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Florida Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 3:00 p.m. and adjourn at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, at the Hotel Inter Continental, 100 Chopin Plaza, Miami, Florida 33121. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a press conference to release the report, *Racial and Ethnic Tensions in Florida*; discuss progress and/or problems in the State and Nation; and discuss plans to followup on the report.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Rabbi Solomon Agin, 813-433-0018, or Bobby D.

Doctor, Director of the Southern Regional Office, 404-730-2476 (TDD 404-730-2481). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 20, 1996.
Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-7574 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Indiana Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Indiana Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 12:45 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 1996, at the Embassy Suites, 110 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The purpose of the meeting is to hold an Indiana Consultation: Focus on Affirmative Action.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Paul Chase, 317-920-3190, or Constance Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 20, 1996.
Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-7575 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Kentucky Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Kentucky Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday,