

expected to impact subsistence hunting of bowhead whales prior to that date. After August 31, 1998, Western Geophysical will initiate aerial survey flights for bowhead whale assessments, and take other actions to avoid having an unmitigable adverse impact on subsistence uses. Appropriate mitigation measures to avoid an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence needs is the subject of consultation between Western Geophysical and subsistence users. As a result of discussions between the two parties, a C&AA has been completed. This Agreement consists of three main components: (1) Communications, (2) conflict avoidance, and (3) dispute resolution.

Summer seismic exploration in the U.S. Beaufort Sea has a small potential to influence seal hunting activities by residents of Nuiqsut. However, NMFS believes that, because (1) the peak sealing season is during the winter months, (2) the main summer sealing is off the Colville delta, and (3) the zone of influence by seismic sources on beluga and seals is fairly small, the 1998 Western Geophysical seismic survey will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses.

Since NMFS is assured that the taking would not result in more than the incidental harassment (as defined by the MMPA Amendments of 1994) of small numbers of certain species of marine mammals, would have only a negligible impact on these stocks, would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses, and would result in the least practicable impact on the stocks, NMFS has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA have been met and the authorization can be issued.

Authorization

Accordingly, NMFS has issued an IHA to Western Geophysical for the above described seismic survey during the 1998 open water season provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in the authorization are undertaken.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-20280 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072298B]

Mid-Atlantic 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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Bluefish Advisory Panel, together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Bluefish Advisory Panel, will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Four Points Hotel, 4101 Island Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, telephone: 215-492-0400.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Acting Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 16.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the public hearing document for Amendment 1 to the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan and possible bluefish management measures for 1999.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Committee 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 identified in this notice.

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: July 23, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-20278 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071098H]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings; Correction

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

ACTION: Correction to a public meeting notice.

SUMMARY: The agenda for the meetings of the oversight committees and advisory panels of the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) was published on July 16, 1998. The document contained an incorrect date.

DATES: The meetings will be held on August 3 and August 7, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director; (781) 231-0422.

Correction

In the **Federal Register** issue of July 16, 1998, in FR Doc. 98-19010, on page 38390, in the third column, under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, in the 1st and the 14th lines, "July 3, 1998" is corrected to read "August 3, 1998."

Dated: July 22, 1998.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-20165 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071598D]

Permits; Foreign Fishing

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of foreign fishing application.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes for public review and comment a summary of a foreign fishing application submitted under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

DATES: Comments must be received by August 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments (or requests for a copy of the application) to NMFS,

Office of Sustainable Fisheries, International Fisheries Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert A. Dickinson, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 204(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1824(d)) provides, among other things, that the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) may issue a transshipment permit which authorizes a vessel other than a vessel of the United States to engage in fishing consisting solely of transporting fish or fish products at sea from a point within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or, with the concurrence of a State, within the boundaries of that State to a point outside the United States. NMFS has received an application requesting authorization for three Mexican vessels to receive within the area of the U.S. EEZ south of 34° N. lat., and east of 121° W. long., transfers of live tuna from a U.S. purse seiner for the purpose of transporting the tuna alive to the Mexican EEZ.

Section 204(d)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides, among other things, that an application may not be approved until the Secretary determines that "no owner or operator of a vessel of the United States which has adequate capacity to perform the transportation for which the application is submitted has indicated...an interest in performing the transportation at fair and reasonable rates." NMFS is publishing this notice as part of its effort to make this determination.

Interested U.S. vessel owners and operators may obtain a copy of the complete application, including vessel modifications necessary to accommodate the pens into which the live tuna will be placed, from NMFS (See **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-20212 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071698C]

Marine Mammals; File No. P66j

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Mr. Wayne C. Regelin, Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 965 (P66j).

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK, 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Johnson or Sara Shapiro, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 3, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 30201) that an amendment of Permit No. 965, issued June 19, 1995 (60 FR 34233), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Permit No. 965 (P66j) authorizes the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to: take a maximum of 125 Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) by trapping (including leash capture), darting, sampling, and anesthesia (including a maximum of 20 by recapture for follow-up blood sampling and removal of instruments); a maximum of 400 Steller pups over 6 months old by hand capture, gas anesthesia, and marking; a maximum of 10,000 Stellers by harassment during the course of capturing suitable animals; a maximum of 15 Stellers by unintentional mortality during the course of capture and chemical immobilization; and salvage specimens of stranded animals, premature pups, and mortalities associated with this and other research activities. The Holder is also authorized to take up to 30 rehabilitated California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) by injection with experimental immobilization drugs

and a maximum of 3 for unintentional mortality. All takes will be over a 5-year period.

The amendment authorizes the Holder to take 25 additional (50 total) juvenile Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) annually using the underwater leash capture method to adequately describe the basic life history and ecology of this age class.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-20167 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072298A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 715-1457

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. A.W. Trites, Research Director, North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium, 6248 Biological Sciences Road, Hut B3, Room 18, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6T 1Z4, has applied in due form for a permit to take Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 28, 1998.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries