

April 17, 2000. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number MEX-USA-00-1904-01 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the Mexican Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on May 4, 2000, requesting panel review of the final determination described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is June 5, 2000);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may participate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is June 19, 2000); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: May 15, 2000.

Caratina L. Alston,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 00-12728 Filed 5-19-00; 8: 45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051200F]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council and its advisory committees will meet in Portland, OR the week of June 5, 2000. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: All meetings will be held at the Doubletree Hotel-Portland Downtown, 310 SW. Lincoln, Portland, OR.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Panel will begin at 8:00 a.m., Monday, June 5, and continue through Thursday, June 8. The Scientific Committee will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 5, and continue through Wednesday, June 7.

The Council will begin their plenary session at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, continuing through Monday, June 12. All meetings are open to the public except Executive Sessions which may be held during the week to discuss litigation and/or personnel matters.

Council: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports

- (a) Executive Director's Report.
- (b) State Fisheries Report by Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.
- (c) NMFS Management Report.
- (d) Enforcement and Surveillance reports by NMFS and the Coast Guard.

2. Observer Program:

(a) Final action on regulatory amendments.

(b) Observer Committee Report.

3. American Fisheries Act:

(a) Final action on inshore cooperative structure.

(b) Initial review of groundfish processor sideboards and excessive share caps.

(c) Review crab processing capacity and activities during 2000 opilio season.

(d) Review methods for allocating pollock to inshore cooperatives, calculations of Pacific cod sideboards, and crab sideboard exemptions.

(e) Status report on development of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the American Fisheries Act.

4. Steller Sea Lion Protection:

(a) Status report on Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives for Pacific cod.

(b) Report on Russian sea lion research and management.

5. Staff Tasking:

(a) Review current tasking and proposals received; direction to staff on new amendments/analyses.

(b) Determine next steps for rationalization of Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod.

(c) Provide staff direction on development of Gulf of Alaska cooperatives.

(d) Provide staff direction for next steps in essential fish habitat stakeholder process; determine need for revisions to crab fishery management plan and halibut regulations to protect corals and sponges.

6. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Issues:

Review current legislative proposals and recommendations from Council Chairmen's meeting.

7. Groundfish Management:

(a) Status report on development of groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

(b) Initial review of amendment to revise process for setting annual fishery specifications.

8. Crab Management:

(a) Final action on rebuilding plans for St. Matthew blue and Opilio crabs.

(b) Updates on crab cooperatives and permit buyback program.

(c) Crab Interim Action Committee report on appeals.

Advisory Meetings

Advisory Panel: With the exception of the reports listed under Item 1, the agenda for the Advisory Panel will mirror that of the Council listed above.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The Scientific and Statistical Committee will address the following items on the Council agenda:

1. Inshore cooperative structure and groundfish processing sideboards and excessive share caps.
2. Observer program changes.
3. Groundfish Management:
 - (a) Status report on development of groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; and
 - (b) Initial review of amendment to revise process for setting annual fishery specifications.
4. Steller sea lion protection.
5. Review of halibut charter individual fishing quota program analytical outline.

Other Committee/Workgroup & Industry Meetings

During the meeting week, the following groups will hold meetings to discuss various agenda issues of interest:

Crab Permit Buyback Industry Meeting: Monday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.
Crab Interim Action Committee: Tuesday, June 6, 1:00 p.m.
Crab Cooperative Industry Meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.
Gulf of Alaska Cooperative Committee: Thursday, June 8, 6:00 p.m.
Ecosystems Committee: Friday, June 9, 6:00 p.m.

Other committees and workgroups may hold impromptu meetings throughout the meeting week. Such meetings will be announced during regularly-scheduled meetings of the Council, Advisory Panel, and SSC, and will be posted at the hotel.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Helen Allen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 17, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 00-12835 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051500A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 782-1446

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115 has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 782-1446.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before June 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request 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);

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

Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6150).

Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4021).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Simona Roberts or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 782-

1446, issued on May 8, 1998 (63 FR 27265) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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).

Permit No. 782-1446 authorizes the permit holder to conduct aerial, ground and boat surveys annually for stock assessment of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*). The permit holder requests authorization to amend this permit to chemically immobilize adult male California sea lions in Oregon, Washington, and California for the removal of Satellite-Linked Time Depth Recorders (SLTDR).

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: May 15, 2000.

Ann Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[I.D. 032300B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 960-1528-00

AGENCIES: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Interior.