

**Information Solicited**

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments and information concerning this request (see **ADDRESSES**). Issuance of a modified LOA will be 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: March 12, 2001.

**Wanda L. Cain,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-6747 Filed 3-16-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 031301D]

**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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The Council and its advisory entities will meet April 1 through April 6, 2001. The Council meeting will begin on Tuesday, April 3, at 8 a.m., reconvening each day through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 8 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Red Lion's Sacramento Inn, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95815; telephone: 916-922-8041.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following items are on the Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order:

**A. Call to Order**

1. Opening Remarks, Introductions,
2. Roll Call

3. Executive Director's Report
4. Approve Agenda
5. Approve November Meeting Minutes

**B. Salmon Management**

1. Report on Federal Regulation Implementation
2. Identification of Stocks Not Meeting Escapement Goals for Three Consecutive Years
3. Methodology Reviews for 2001
4. Tentative Adoption of 2001 Ocean Salmon Management Measures for Analysis
5. Clarify Council Direction on 2001 Management Measures
6. Final Action on 2001 Measures
7. Clarification of Final Action on 2001 Measures

**C. Groundfish Management**

1. Status of NMFS Regulatory and Other Nonregulatory Activities
2. Exempted Fishing Permit Applications
3. Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation
4. Future Groundfish Management Process and Schedule
5. Status of Fisheries and Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
6. Discard Adjustment for Bocaccio and Lingcod
7. Rebuilding Plan Status Report
8. Observer Program
9. Bycatch Full Retention Options
10. Reconsideration of 1997 Huntington Flats Decision

**D. Habitat Issues**

Council Letters of Comment on External EFH Issues

**E. Coastal Pelagic Species Management**

1. Status of NMFS Regulatory and Nonregulatory Activities
2. Review Capacity Goal and Related Issues
3. Update on Squid MSY Methodologies Workshop

**F. Marine Reserves**

Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary Program (CINMSP)

**G. Pacific Halibut Management**

Proposed 2001 Incidental Catch Regulations for the Troll Salmon Fishery and Sablefish Longline Fishery North of Point Chehalis

**H. Administrative and Other Matters**

1. Appointments to Council Advisory Bodies or Ad-Hoc Positions
2. Council Staff Workload Priorities
3. June 2001 Council Meeting Agenda

**SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS—Continued**

Groundfish Management Team	2:30 p.m.
Klamath Fishery Management	3 p.m.
<b>MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001</b>	
Council Secretariate	7 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Habitat Steering Group	9 a.m.
Budget Committee	9 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	9:30 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team	As necessary
Klamath Fishery Management	As necessary
Tribal Policy Meetings	As necessary
Tribal and Washington	As necessary
<b>TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001</b>	
Council Secretariate	7 a.m.
California State Delegation	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team	As necessary
Klamath Fishery Management Council	As necessary
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	As necessary
Salmon Technical Team	As necessary
Tribal Policy Meetings	As necessary
Tribal and Washington	As necessary
Enforcement Consultants	5:30 p.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2001</b>	
Council Secretariate	7 a.m.
California State Delegation	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	As necessary
Groundfish Management Team	As necessary
Klamath Fishery Management	As necessary
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	As necessary
Salmon Technical Team	As necessary
Tribal Policy Meetings	As necessary
Tribal and Washington	As necessary
Enforcement Consultants	As necessary
<b>THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2001</b>	
Council Secretariate	7 a.m.
California State Delegation	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team	As necessary
Klamath Fishery Management	As necessary
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	As necessary
Salmon Technical Team	As necessary
Tribal Policy Meetings	As necessary
Tribal and Washington	As necessary
Enforcement Consultants	As necessary
<b>FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2001</b>	
Council Secretariate	7 a.m.
California State Delegation	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.

**SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2001**

## SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS—Continued

Klamath Fishery Management	As necessary
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	As necessary
Salmon Technical Team	As necessary
Tribal Policy Meetings	As necessary
Tribal and Washington Enforcement Consultants	As necessary

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council 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 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. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 13, 2001.

#### Richard W. Surdi,

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 01-6624 Filed 3-13-01; 4:24 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031301C]

#### 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

**DATES:** The HMSPDT will meet on Monday, April 9, through Friday, April 13, 2001. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The work session will be held in the large conference room at

NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, Room D-203, La Jolla, CA 92038-0271; telephone: (619) 546-7000.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The HMSPDT will meet on Monday, April 9, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, April 10, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, April 11, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, April 12, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Friday, April 13, 2001, 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

The primary purpose of the work session is to revise the draft fishery management plan (FMP) for highly migratory species (HMS) per Council guidance stemming from the March 2001 Council meeting. The second draft of the FMP is scheduled for review at the June 2001 Council meeting.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the HMSPDT meeting agenda may come before the HMSPDT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal HMSPDT action during this meeting. HMSPDT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the HMSPDT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 13, 2001.

#### Richard W. Surdi,

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 01-6639 Filed 3-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 010307056-1056-01]

RIN 0651-AB36

#### Request for Comments on the International Effort to Harmonize the Substantive Requirements of Patent Laws

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is seeking comments to obtain the views of the public on the international effort to harmonize substantive requirements of patent laws, and the subsequent changes to United States law and practice. Comments may be offered on any aspect of this effort.

**DATES:** Comments will be accepted on a continuous basis until April 30, 2001. See discussion of "Text" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to offer written comments should address those comments to the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, marked to the attention of Mr. Jon P. Santamauro.

Comments may also be submitted to Mr. Santamauro by facsimile transmission to (703) 305-8885 or by electronic mail through the internet at [scpccomments@uspto.gov](mailto:scpccomments@uspto.gov). All comments will be maintained for public inspection in Room 902 of Crystal Park II, at 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Jon P. Santamauro by telephone at (703) 305-9300, by fax at (703) 305-8885 or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### 1. Background

The United States has been involved in an effort to harmonize the substantive patent laws in the different countries of the world. The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), meeting under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is developing treaty articles, rules and practice guidelines that attempt to harmonize the different substantive requirements associated with obtaining patent protection throughout the world.