

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

[I.D. 031505A]

**National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Pacific Fishery Management Council;  
April 3–8, 2005, Council Meeting**

**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. There will also be a Tuesday evening meeting between NMFS, states, and industry on the 2005 whiting exempted fishing permit and a Monday evening meeting sponsored by NMFS and the states to provide an update on the Pacific Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat EIS.

**DATES:** The Council and its advisory entities will meet April 3–8, 2005. The Council meeting will begin on Monday, April 4, at 3:30 p.m., reconvening each day through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 4 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 Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, Washington 98402; telephone: 253–572–3200.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: 503–820–2280.

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

- A. Call to Order
1. Opening Remarks and Introductions
2. Roll Call
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Approve Agenda
- C. Salmon Management
  1. Identify Stocks Not Meeting Conservation Objectives
  2. Methodology Review Process for 2005
  3. Update on Essential Fish Habitat Review Process
  4. Final Action on 2005 Salmon Management Measures

- D. Pacific Halibut Management
  1. Adopt Final 2005 Incidental Halibut Catch Regulations for Salmon Troll and Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries
- E. Habitat
  1. Current Habitat Issues
- B. Groundfish Management
  1. Vermillion Rockfish Assessment
  2. Inseason Management Response Policy Final Adoption
  3. NMFS Report
  4. Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Plan Review
  5. Implementation of an Expanded Vessel Monitoring System
  6. Status of 2005 Groundfish Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments
  7. Longline Dogfish Fishery Control Date
- F. Coastal Pelagic Species Management
  1. NMFS Report
  2. Fishery Management Plan Amendment 11–Sardine Allocation
- G. Marine Protected Areas
  1. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (NMS), Cordell Bank NMS, Gulf of Farallones NMS, and Monterey Bay NMS Designation Document Comments and Proposed NMS Regulations
- H. Enforcement Issues
  1. U.S. Coast Guard Fishery Enforcement Report
- I. Highly Migratory Species Management
  1. NMFS Report
  2. Fishery Management Plan Implementation
- J. Administrative Matters
  1. Report on “Managing Our Fisheries II” Conference
  2. Legislative Matters
  3. Appointments to Advisory Bodies, Standing Committees, and Other Forums
  4. Work Load Priorities and Draft June 2005 Council Meeting Agenda

**SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS**

- SUNDAY, April 3, 2005*  
Klamath Fishery Management Council 3 p.m.
- MONDAY, April 4, 2005*  
Council Secretariat 8 a.m.  
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
Salmon Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Salmon Technical Team 8 a.m.  
Scientific and Statistical Committee 8 a.m.  
Habitat Committee 10 a.m.  
Legislative Committee 10:30 a.m.  
Special Session: Salmon Ocean Ecology 1 p.m.  
Enforcement Consultants 4:30 p.m.  
Special Session: Essential Fish Habitat

- Environmental Impact Statement Review 7 p.m.  
Klamath Fishery Management Council As necessary  
Tribal Policy Group As necessary  
Tribal and Washington Technical Group As necessary  
*TUESDAY, April 5, 2005*  
Council Secretariat 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.  
Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
Salmon Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Salmon Technical Team 8 a.m.  
Scientific and Statistical Committee 8 a.m.  
Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team 1 p.m.  
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel 1 p.m.  
Special Sessions: Whiting EFP and Video  
Monitoring Briefing 7 p.m.  
Enforcement Consultants As necessary  
Klamath Fishery Management Council As necessary  
Tribal Policy Group As necessary  
Tribal and Washington Technical Group As necessary  
*WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2005*  
Council Secretariat 7 a.m.  
California State Delegation 7 a.m.  
Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.  
Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team 8 a.m.  
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
Salmon Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Salmon Technical Team 8 a.m.  
Enforcement Consultants As necessary  
Klamath Fishery Management Council As necessary  
Tribal Policy Group As necessary  
Tribal and Washington Technical Group As necessary  
*THURSDAY, April 7, 2005*  
Council Secretariat 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.  
Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
Salmon Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Salmon Technical Team 8 a.m.  
Enforcement Consultants As necessary  
Klamath Fishery Management Council As necessary  
Tribal Policy Group As necessary  
Tribal and Washington Technical Group As necessary  
*FRIDAY, April 8, 2005*  
Council Secretariat 7 a.m.  
California State Delegation 7 a.m.

Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Enforcement Consultants As  
 necessary  
 Salmon Advisory Subpanel As  
 necessary  
 Salmon Technical Team As necessary  
 Tribal Policy Group As necessary  
 Tribal and Washington Technical  
 Group As necessary  
 Although nonemergency 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 503-820-2280 at least five days prior  
 to the meeting date.

Dated: March 15, 2005.

**Emily Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable  
 Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
 [FR Doc. E5-1182 Filed 3-17-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031505D]

### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of exempted  
 fishing permit application.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces receipt  
 of an application for an exempted  
 fishing permit (EFP) from John Gauvin  
 and John Gruver. If granted, this permit  
 would be used to continue the  
 development and testing of a salmon  
 excluder device in the Bering Sea  
 pollock trawl fishery. It is intended to  
 promote the objectives of the Fishery  
 Management Plan for Groundfish of the

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands  
 Management Area (FMP) by developing  
 a method for reducing salmon bycatch  
 in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the EFP  
 application are available by writing to  
 Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional  
 Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries,  
 Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668,  
 Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Durall.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
 Melanie Brown, 907-586-7228 or  
[melanie.brown@noaa.gov](mailto:melanie.brown@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS  
 manages the domestic groundfish  
 fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian  
 Islands Management Area (BSAI) under  
 the FMP. The North Pacific Fishery  
 Management Council (Council)  
 prepared the FMP under the Magnuson-  
 Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
 Management Act. Regulations governing  
 the groundfish fisheries of the BSAI  
 appear at 50 CFR parts 600 and 679. The  
 FMP and the implementing regulations  
 at §§ 679.6 and 600.745(b) authorize  
 issuance of EFPs to allow fishing that  
 would otherwise be prohibited.  
 Procedures for issuing EFPs are  
 contained in the implementing  
 regulations.

NMFS received an application for an  
 EFP from John Gauvin, Principal  
 Investigator and John Gruver of the  
 United Catcher Boats Association. The  
 purpose of the project is to improve the  
 performance of the salmon excluder  
 device developed under an EFP in 2004  
 and 2005, and to validate the  
 performance of this device for pollock  
 trawls. The goal is to develop a device  
 for pollock trawls that reduces salmon  
 bycatch without significantly lowering  
 catch rates of pollock.

The EFP would allow for two types of  
 testing of the salmon excluder device in  
 fall 2005 and spring 2006. In the first  
 experiment, a catcher vessel would be  
 used to test minor adjustments to the  
 current excluder device design to  
 improve performance. The second  
 experiment would be conducted using a  
 catcher/processor for the paired-tow  
 experiment to validate the performance  
 of the excluder device. Depending on  
 the results from the work in 2005 and  
 2006, the EFP may need to be modified  
 to allow for an additional year of testing.

Exemptions from regulations for  
 salmon bycatch limits, observer  
 requirements, salmon savings area  
 closure, the Catcher Vessel Operating  
 Area (CVOA), and total allowable catch  
 amounts (TACs) for groundfish would  
 be necessary to conduct the work. The  
 taking of salmon during the experiment  
 is crucial for determining the  
 effectiveness of the device. Salmon

taken during the experiment would not  
 be counted toward the chinook and  
 chum salmon bycatch limits under  
 §§ 679.21(e)(1)(vii) and (e)(1)(viii).  
 Potentially, the amount of salmon  
 bycatch by the pollock trawl industry  
 during the EFP period could approach  
 or exceed the salmon bycatch limits.  
 The additional salmon taken during the  
 experiment would create an additional  
 burden on the pollock trawl industry  
 and may lead to closures of the salmon  
 savings areas, if the EFP salmon were  
 counted toward the salmon bycatch  
 limits. Approximately 2,500 chum  
 salmon and 1,500 chinook salmon  
 would be required to support the  
 project.

The applicants also have requested an  
 exemption from closures of the Chinook  
 Salmon Savings Areas and the Chum  
 Salmon Savings Area  
 (§§ 679.21(e)(7)(vii) and (e)(7)(viii)). The  
 experiment must be conducted in areas  
 of salmon concentration to ensure a  
 sufficient sample size. The salmon  
 savings areas are areas of known  
 concentration of salmon and provide an  
 ideal location for conducting the  
 experiment and ensuring that the  
 vessels encounter concentrations of  
 salmon.

Groundfish taken under the EFP  
 would be exempt from the TACs  
 specified in the annual harvest  
 specifications (§ 679.20). A total of 2,500  
 metric tons (mt) of groundfish  
 (primarily pollock) would be taken  
 during the EFP work and would not be  
 included in the harvest applied against  
 the Bering Sea groundfish TACs,  
 including the pollock TAC of  
 approximately 1.5 million mt. The 2005  
 Bering Sea pollock acceptable biological  
 catch is 1.960 million mt, well above the  
 combined TAC and the additional  
 harvest anticipated from the project.  
 Because of the nature of groundfish  
 bycatch in the pollock fishery, the  
 harvest of other groundfish species  
 during the project is expected to be very  
 minor.

The experiment using the catcher/  
 processor would require exemption  
 from the CVOA restriction  
 (§ 679.22(a)(5)) because of the location  
 of the Chinook Salmon Savings Area in  
 the CVOA. Catcher/processors are  
 prohibited from operating in the CVOA  
 during the B season. It would be  
 necessary for the catcher/processor to  
 conduct tows in this area to ensure  
 encountering sufficient pollock and  
 salmon.

The EFP would include an exemption  
 from the observer requirements at  
 § 679.50. The applicants would use "sea  
 samplers" who are NMFS-trained  
 observers. They would not be deployed