

(motor vessels, personal thrillcraft, kayaks, etc.) activities, such as placing a vessel in the predictable path of spinner dolphins in order to facilitate an encounter; as well as regulate watercraft travel (e.g., speed restrictions) within spinner dolphin resting areas.

Alternative 4

Alternative 4 would adopt a very restrictive approach by identifying all known spinner dolphin resting areas in the main Hawaiian Islands and institute a complete closure in these areas to all commercial and non-commercial activities. Exemptions within certain bays for harbors transit (ingress and egress of vessels) and emergency situations would be considered.

Public Involvement and the Scoping Process

NMFS' intent is to afford an opportunity for the public to participate in this process, including interested citizens, commercial operators, and environmental organizations; any affected low-income or minority populations; affected local state, and Federal agencies; and any other agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise concerning environmental impacts to be addressed in the EIS.

NMFS will hold public scoping meetings and accept oral and written comments on the scope of issues that should be addressed in the EIS; to determine the issues of concern with respect to practical considerations involved in applying the proposed regulations; to identify relevant environmental and socioeconomic issues to be addressed in the analysis; and to determine whether NMFS is addressing the appropriate range of alternatives. The public, as well as Federal, state, and local agencies, are encouraged to participate in this scoping process. The dates and locations of these meetings appear in this **Federal Register** notice (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**). The agency also invites the public to submit comments by e-mail or regular mail (See **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*

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Dated: September 26, 2006.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-16202 Filed 9-29-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092506C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 978-1857

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Paul Nachtigall, Ph.D., Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii, P.O. Box 1106, Kailua, HI 96734, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on captive cetaceans.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before November 1, 2006.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808)973-2935; fax (808)973-2941.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 978-1857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Dr. Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations

governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant has requested a 5-year permit to conduct studies of basic hearing and echolocation in up to three bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and one false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) in captivity at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. Researchers would conduct hearing measurements using suction cup sensors to monitor electrical signals in the brain in response to sound and echolocation clicks. The research is accomplished using trained behaviors in which the animals voluntarily participate in the activities and can leave the testing area at any time.

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: September 26, 2006.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E6-16203 Filed 9-29-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092606H]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to convene via conference call.

DATES: The conference call will be held October 18, 2006, at 10 a.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via conference call and listening stations will be available. For specific locations see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold a conference call to

potentially reconsider a motion to table further action on Amendment 27 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP)/Amendment 14 to the Shrimp FMP until December 31, 2006.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during the meeting. Actions of the Council will be restricted to the issue 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 action to address the emergency.

The conference call will begin at 10 a.m. EDT and conclude no later than 12 noon EDT. Listening stations are available at the following locations: The Gulf Council office (see **ADDRESSES**), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices as follows:

Galveston, TX

4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77551; Contact: Rhonda O'Toole, (409) 766-3500;

St. Petersburg, FL

263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; Contact: Stephen Holiman, (727) 551-5719; and

Panama City, FL

3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408; Contact: Janice Hamm, telephone: (850) 234-6541.

Special Accommodations

The conference call is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: September 26, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-16141 Filed 9-29-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092606E]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The GAC meeting will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. until business for the day is completed. The GAC will reconvene Thursday, October 19, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. until their business is completed.

ADDRESSES: The GAC meeting will be held at the Red Lion Hotel on the River-Jantzen Beach, Glisan Room, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217; telephone: (503) 283-4466.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John DeVore, Groundfish Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the GAC meeting is to develop draft alternatives for allocating Pacific Coast groundfish stocks and stock complexes to the various West Coast fishery sectors for analysis. No management actions will be decided by the GAC. The GAC's role will be development of recommendations and alternatives for analysis for consideration by the Council at its November 2006 meeting in Del Mar, CA.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the GAC for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal GAC action during this meeting. GAC 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 GAC's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for