

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

[I.D. 081800]

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 work session will be Tuesday, September 26, 2000, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, September 27, 2000, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Thursday, September 28, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: On Tuesday and Wednesday, 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. On Thursday, the HMSPDT will meet at the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, 2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego, CA 92109-7902; telephone: (619) 226-3870.

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; (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the work session is to continue development of the draft fishery management plan (FMP) for highly migratory species (HMS). Specific agenda topics include: review of FMP development to date; progress reports and presentations (stock assessments, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and MSY proxy determination, shared stocks); Council guidance to the HMSPDT; bycatch; management data issues, current international and state regulations; analysis of pelagic longlines; and new work assignments.

Management measures that may be adopted in the FMP for HMS fisheries off the West Coast include permit and reporting requirements for commercial and recreational harvest of HMS resources, time and/or area closures to minimize gear conflicts or bycatch, adoption or confirmation of state

regulations for HMS fisheries, and allocations of some species to noncommercial use. The FMP is likely to include a framework management process to add future new measures, including the potential for collaborative management efforts with other regional fishery management councils with interest in HMS resources. It would also include essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern, including fishing and nonfishing threats, as well as other components of FMPs required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The proposed FMP and its associated regulatory analyses would be the Council's fourth FMP for the exclusive economic zone off the West Coast. Development of the FMP is timely, considering the new mandates under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, efforts by the United Nations to promote conservation and management of HMS resources through domestic and international programs, and the increased scope of activity of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in HMS fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Although non-emergency 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 these meetings. 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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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: August 18, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D.081500B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 358-1585

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Wayne L. Regelin (Principal Investigator: Robert Small), Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518, has applied in due form for a permit to take harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), spotted seals (*Phoca largha*), ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*), bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*), and ribbon seals (*Phoca fasciata*) for the purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 25, 2000.

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

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant requests authority to take harbor seals, spotted seals, ringed seals, bearded seals and ribbon seals in Alaska. The applicant proposes to capture, sample and tag a total of 1,000 harbor seals, 500 spotted seals, 250 ringed seals, 250 bearded seals and 250 ribbon seals over a 5-year period throughout Alaska. Additionally, harbor seals may be incidentally harassed during scat collection and aerial surveys. Export of biological samples worldwide and collection of biological samples from subsistence harvested animals is also proposed.