engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term ''taking'' means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities in the Gulf of Mexico were published on October 12, 1995 (60 FR 53139) and remain in effect until November 13, 2000.

Summary of Request

NMFS received requests for letters of authorization on September 30, 1996, from Unocal Corporation and on October 4, 1996, from Burlington Resources. These letters requested a take by harassment of a small number of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to the described activity. Issuance of these letters of authorization are based on a finding that the total takings will have a negligible impact on the bottlenose and spotted dolphin stocks of the Gulf of Mexico.

Dated: October 16, 1996.

Patricia Montanio,

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

[FR Doc. 96–27079 Filed 10–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

[I.D. 101596B]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on November 11–15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Marriott's Grand Hotel, U.S. Highway 98, Point Clear, AL; telephone: (334) 928–9201.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director; telephone: (813) 228–2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

November 13

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Receive public testimony on Reef Fish Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Draft Shrimp Amendment 9.

November 14

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Continue receiving public testimony on Draft Shrimp Amendment 9.

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.—Reconvene to receive a report of the Shrimp Management Committee.

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.—Receive a report of the Budget Committee.

4:45 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.—Receive a report of the Stone Crab Management Committee.

November 15

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.—Receive a report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.—Receive a report of the Habitat Protection Committee.

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Receive a report of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Advisory Committee.

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.—Receive a report of Magnuson Act Amendments.

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. —Receive Enforcement Report.

11:15 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

11:40 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Other business to be discussed.

Committees

November 11

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.—Convene the Budget Committee.

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Convene the Stone Crab Management Committee.

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee. The committees will hear stock assessment reports for red snapper, vermilion snapper, and amberjack. They will review the recommendations of a scientific stock assessment panel and socioeconomic panel on acceptable biological catch (ABC) and on TAC for these stocks as well as the recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Red Snapper Advisory Panel. The committee will develop its recommendations to the Council on TAC, bag limits, and commercial quotas for red snapper and vermilion snapper, and management actions for the other stocks.

November 12

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee.

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee. This committee will review summaries of the public comments, obtained from the 14 public hearings held in October, on the bycatch amendment. It will also review the recommendations of the Shrimp Advisory Panel and the SSC on the amendment and will develop its recommendations to the Council on the rules that shall be adopted. The alternatives for rules are as follows:

- Require the installation of a NMFS-certified Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) in all nets used aboard vessels trawling for shrimp in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico, except for a single test or ''try'' net not exceeding 16 feet in headrope length. Vessels with trawls for groundfish or butterfish and those trawling for royal red shrimp beyond the 100–fathom contour depth are exempted.
- Require the installation of a NMFS-certified BRD in shrimp trawls in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico within the 100–fathom contour depth.
- Require the installation of a NMFS-certified BRD in shrimp trawls in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico within the 100–fathom contour depth west of Cape San Blas, FL.
- Require the installation of a NMFS-certified BRD in shrimp trawls in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico between the 10– and 100–fathom contour depth.
- Require the installation of a NMFS-certified BRD in shrimp trawls in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico between the 10– and 100–fathom contour depth and west of Cape San Blas, Fl.
- Establish the following bycatch reduction criteria for a BRD to be certified: It must reduce the bycatch of juvenile red snapper (age 0 and age 1) by 50 percent from the average level of mortality on those age groups during the years 1984–89.
- Establish a framework procedure for modifying the bycatch reduction criteria.

• Establish a framework procedure for establishing BRD certification and decertification criteria and a BRD testing protocol.

The Shrimp Committee will also hear scientific reports of a statistical review committee and from stock assessment analyses related to the accuracy of bycatch estimates of red snapper.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by November 4, 1996.

Dated: October 16, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 96–27077 Filed 10–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

[I.D. 101596D]

Western 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 91st meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 18–21, 1996. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai Room, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 855–4811.

Council address: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1405, Honolulu, HI 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Standing Committees will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 18, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 19. The full Council will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 20–21. A joint meeting of the Marine and Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) and Council will be held on November 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Council will discuss and may take action on the following agenda items:

1. Reports from the islands;
2. Reports from fishery agencies and organizations;
3. Ecosystems and Habitat, including:
Summary of recent issues and activities: coral reef activities, whale sanctuary, Memorandum of Understanding, Midway public use, etc.;
4. Pelagic fishery issues, including:
(a) Gear conflict between handliners and longliners,
(b) Status of Pelagic Fisheries Research Program and other pelagic research,
(c) Bycatch issues,
(d) Single Council designation response,
(e) Status of Albatross Workshop,
(f) Pelagics data amendment, and
(g) Control date for U.S. pelagic fishermen in the Pacific; 5. Crustaceans fishery issues, including:
(a) Report on 1996 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) lobster fishery,
(b) Report on research cruise and handling experiment,
(c) Lobster trap design study,
(d) Preliminary harvest guidelines,
(e) Mandatory Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and
(f) Size distribution and high grading estimation;
6. Bottomfish issues, including:
(a) Status of Department of Land and Natural Resources management plan for Main Hawaiian Island onaga and ehu,
(b) Council's proposed draft amendment for Main Hawaiian Island onaga and ehu stocks,
(c) Reevaluation of the NWHI bottomfish fishery, and
(d) Report from the Task Force;
7. Enforcement issues, including:
(a) NMFS activities,
(b) Status of violations, and
(c) VMS Committee report;
8. Native rights and indigenous fishing issues, including;
(a) Implication of reauthorized Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) provisions;
9. Program planning, including;
(a) New provisions of reauthorized Magnuson Act,
(b) Status of Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network, and
(c) Consider changes in the way the Council conducts meetings;
10. Administrative matters, including:
(a) 1997–98 Advisory Panel appointments; and
11. Other business as required.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808–522–8220 (voice) or 808–522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: October 16, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 96–27078 Filed 10–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of an Import Restraint Limit for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Fiji

October 16, 1996.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing a limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–4212. For information on the quota status of this limit, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927–5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482–3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

The import restraint limit for textile products, produced or manufactured in Fiji and exported during the period January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997 is based on the limit notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish the limit for the 1997 period.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see Federal Register notice 60 FR 65299,