FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3 continuing through Tuesday October 9. Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Tuesday, October 2 and continue through Saturday, October 6, the Scientific Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, October 1 and continue through Wednesday, October 3. The Enforcement Committee will meet October 2, 1 p.m.–4 p.m., Birch Room. All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions.

Council Plenary Session

The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

Reports

1. Executive Director's Report (including report on spatial tools for arctic mapping and planning (STAMP), update on staff meetings); NMFS Management Report (Including report on status of petition to list corals under Endangered Species Act (ESA), update on the Habitat Blueprint); Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Report; NOAA Enforcement Report; United States Coast Guard (USCG) Report; United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Report; Protected Species Report (PSR).
2. Halibut Fisheries Issues: ADF&G report on final 2011 sport halibut removals; Final action on Halibut Catch Share Plan; Charter Halibut: Review Methodology for 2013 limits (SSC only).
3. Groundfish Specifications; Receive Groundfish Plan Team reports; Aleutian Island Pacific cod model review (SSC only); Adopt proposed groundfish catch specifications.
4. Observer Program: Receive NMFS report on Observer Deployment Plan; Receive Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) Report.
5. Steller Sea Lion (SSL) Issues: SSL Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping (October 2); report from SSL Mitigation Committee; SSC review of SSL EIS analytical approach.
6. Vessel Replacement Issues: Discussion paper on Amendment 80 vessel replacement with American Fisheries Act (AFA) vessels; Initial review of AFA Vessel Replacement Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Sideboards; Final Action on Freezer Long Line (FFL) Vessel Replacement (Maximum Length Overall (MLOA) adjustment).
7. Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) Crab Management: Initial Review of BSAI Crab Right of First Refusal (ROFR); Initial Review of BSAI Crab active participation requirements; Discussion paper on BSAI Crab Cooperative Provisions for Crew; Workgroup report on BSAI Crab Binding Arbitration—Golden King Crab; Discussion paper on Binding Arbitration Issues (lengthy season, publishing decisions, Individual Processoring Quota (IPQ) Initiation); Crab Economic Data Reporting (EDR)—Review forms and draft regulations; Final Over Fishing Level (OFL)/Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) specifications for 6 stocks in the BSAI Crab Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation (SAFE); Revise alternatives for BSAI Tanner crab rebuilding plan.
8. Groundfish Issues: Feedback on goals and objectives on Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) trawl Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) tools; Expanded discussion paper on Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Use and Requirements; Review the Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area Boundary; Discussion paper on Northern Bering Sea Research.
9. Staff Tasking: Review Committees and tasking.
10. Other Business.

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. Halibut Fisheries Issues.
2. Groundfish Specifications.
3. Observer Program.
4. SSL EIS.
5. AFA Vessel replacement GOA Sideboards.
6. Review of BSAI Crab ROFR.
7. Review of BSAI Crab active participation requirements.
8. OFL/ABC specifications for 6 stocks in the BSAI Crab SAFE.
9. Revise alternatives for BSAI Tanner Crab Rebuilding plan.
10. Northern Bering Sea Research.

The Advisory Panel will address most of the same agenda issues as the Council except B reports. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at *http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/*.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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 these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice 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 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 Gail Bendixen at (907) 271–2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 7, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–22502 Filed 9–12–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC221

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting; Correction

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

ACTION: Notice of correction to a public meeting; addition to agenda.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is revising the agenda for a public meeting of the Council on September 25–27, 2012 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 25–27 starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday and at 8 a.m. on Thursday.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; telephone: (508) 747–4900; fax: (508) 747–8937.

Council Address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Thursday, September 27, 2012

The New England Fishery Management Council's September 25–

27 agenda will occur as previously published in the **Federal Register** on September 7, 2012 (77 FR 55192). On Thursday, September 27, 2012, however, the final day of the meeting, there will be an addition to the items the Council will address. Just prior to adjournment, the Council will discuss the approval of alternatives to be included in the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Amendment for analysis

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 7, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–22506 Filed 9–12–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XB042

Marine Mammals; File No. 16325

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Jooke Robbins, Ph.D., Center for Coastal Studies, 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA 02657 to conduct research on marine mammals.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–0376;

Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978) 281–9328; fax (978) 281–9394; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824–5312; fax (727) 824–5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joselyd Garcia-Reyes or Carrie Hubard, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 29, 2012, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 12244) that a request for a permit to conduct research on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), blue whales (*B. musculus*), sei whales (*B. borealis*), minke whales (*B. acutorostrata*), sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The permit authorizes harassment of humpback, fin, blue, sei, minke, sperm and killer whales by close vessel approaches; photo-identification and behavioral observations; photogrammetry; collection of exhaled air, feces and sloughed skin; and skin and blubber biopsy sampling import and export of parts. The research would continue a long-term study of North Atlantic humpback whales and improve understanding of the other six target species in the North Atlantic. Research would occur in the waters off Canada, Maine to Florida, and Puerto Rico. Incidental harassment of North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) and 14 other non-listed marine mammals is also authorized. The permit expires August 31, 2017.

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities on the human environment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the permit would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination is documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on August 24, 2012.

As required by the ESA, issuance of this permit was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: September 7, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–22607 Filed 9–12–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XB048

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Marine Geophysical Survey in the Northwest Pacific Ocean, March Through May, 2012

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) regulation, we hereby give notification that we have issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (Authorization) to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (Observatory), a part of Columbia University, to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting a marine geophysical (seismic) survey in the central Pacific Ocean, May through June, 2012.

DATES: Effective May 1, 2012, through June 11, 2012.

ADDRESSES: To obtain an electronic copy of the Authorization, write to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3225 or download an electronic copy at: *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications.*

To obtain an electronic copy of (1) the application containing a list of the