Research Committee will recommend specific spatial management options to achieve groundfish objectives in the Habitat Amendment. In the absence of Groundfish Committee recommendations, the Council will receive an update from the Closed Area Technical Team and a summary of committee progress. The full Council will direct it attention to providing guidance to both committees about reconciling the two sets of options and identify next steps. The selection of alternatives to be analyzed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will take place at the Council’s April 2013 meeting.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal 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 Act, provided that 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 (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 8, 2013.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion are as follows:

1. The Council’s Fishery Ecosystem Plan, which is scheduled to be adopted at the Council’s March 2013 meeting in Tacoma, WA.
2. The February 5–8, 2013 Pacific sardine harvest parameters workshop.
3. A plan for holding future CPSMT and CPSAS elections.
4. Other items relevant to Coastal Pelagic Species management may be discussed as time allows, at the discretion of the Chairs.

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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the CPSMT’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This listening station will be available at the Pacific Council offices for interested members of the public, and there may be opportunities to attend the meeting remotely.

DATES: The conference call will be held Tuesday, January 29, 2013, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via conference call, with a public listening station available at the Pacific Council offices.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA933

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Construction of the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) has been issued to the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) to take small numbers of California sea lions, Pacific harbor seals, harbor porpoises, and gray whales, by harassment, incidental to construction of a replacement bridge for the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (SF–OBB) in California.

DATES: This authorization is effective from January 8, 2013, until January 7, 2014.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the application, IHA, and/or a list of references used in this document may be obtained by writing to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shane Guan, NMFS, (301) 427–8418, ext 137, or Monica DeAngelis, NMFS, (362) 980–3232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, the taking is limited to harassment, notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Permission shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or...