

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on 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 by NMFS 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.

Authorization 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 incidental to target missile operations on San Nicolas Island, CA, were published on September 2, 2003 (68 FR 52132), and remain in effect until October 2, 2008.

Pursuant to these regulations, NMFS has issued an LOA to the NAWC-WD. Issuance of the LOA is based on findings made in the preamble to the final rule that the total takings by this project will result in only small numbers (as the term is defined in 50 CFR 216.103) of marine mammals being taken. In addition, given the implementation of the mitigation requirements contained in the LOA, the resultant incidental harassment will have no more than a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal stocks or habitats and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stock for taking for subsistence uses. NMFS also finds that the applicant will meet the requirements contained in the implementing regulations and LOA, including monitoring and reporting requirements. This LOA will be renewed annually based on a review of the activity, completion of monitoring requirements and receipt of reports required by the LOA.

Dated: February 3, 2006.

James H. Lecky,

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

[FR Doc. E6-1975 Filed 2-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 013006B]

International Whaling Commission; 58th Annual Meeting; Nominations

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

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: This notice is a call for nominees for the U.S. Delegation to the June 2006 International Whaling Commission (IWC) annual meeting. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations. Generally, only one non-governmental position is selected for the U.S. Delegation.

DATES: All written nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting must be received by March 6, 2006.

ADDRESSES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting should be addressed to Bill Hogarth, U.S. Commissioner to the IWC, and sent via post to: Cheri McCarty, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3 Room 12603, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Prospective Congressional advisors to the delegation should contact the Department of State directly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheri McCarty, 301-713-9090, ext. 183.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. Commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of

the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations. Generally, only one non-governmental position is selected for the U.S. Delegation.

The IWC is hosting its 58th annual meeting from June 16-20, 2006, in St. Kitts & Nevis.

Dated: February 7, 2006.

William T. Hogarth,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-1977 Filed 2-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020706B]

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Snapper Grouper Committee, Ecosystem-Based Management Committee, Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee (CLOSED SESSION), Advisory Panel Selection Committee (CLOSED SESSION), Protected Resources Committee, Joint Executive/Finance Committees, Information and Education Committee, and a meeting of the full Council.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 27 through March 3, 2006. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Jekyll Island Club, 371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527; telephone: (1-800) 535-9547 or (912) 635-2600, fax: (912) 635-2818.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free at (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Meeting Dates**

1. *Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting: February 27, 2006, 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and February 28, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon*

The Snapper Grouper Committee will receive a report and recommendations from the Law Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel regarding Amendments 14 and 15 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 14 addresses the use marine protected areas for deepwater snapper grouper species; Amendment 15 addresses rebuilding schedules for snowy grouper, golden tilefish, black sea bass, and red porgy; recreational sale; permit issues (incorporation and 60-day renewal), size limits for queen triggerfish, and fishing year changes for golden tilefish.

The Committee will develop recommendations on the final list of alternatives for both draft Amendment 14 and draft Amendment 15. In addition, the Committee will review and revise appointments to the Oculina Evaluation Team and receive presentations from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the use of electronic logbooks in the snapper grouper fishery, and evaluation of paper logbooks versus trip tickets in both the snapper grouper and mackerel fisheries.

2. *Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Meeting: February 28, 2006, 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. and March 1, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon*

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee will receive an update on the development of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), and presentations on the following:

Mapping data from the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCS), ocean observing systems and fisheries oceanography, NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program, and the Council's Habitat and Ecosystem web page and internet mapping system. The Committee will participate in an interactive demonstration of the Council's Ecosystem/Internet Mapping website. In addition, the Committee will review and revise a list of items to be included in the Council's FEP Comprehensive Amendment.

3. *Advisory Panel Selection Committee Meeting: March 1, 2006, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (CLOSED SESSION)*

The Advisory Panel Selection Committee will meet to review applications for open seats on the

advisory panels and develop recommendations for Council.

4. *Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee Meeting: March 1, 2006, 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. (CLOSED SESSION)*

The Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee will meet to review policy recommendations, review applications for members of the SSC, and develop recommendations for the Council.

5. *Protected Resources Committee Meeting: March 2, 2006, 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.*

The Protected Resources Committee will receive a presentation on the feasibility of offshore wind energy production off the coast of Georgia, receive an update from NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office's Protected Resources Division, and an update on the Council's accomplishments.

6. *Joint Executive/Finance Committee Meeting: March 2, 2006, 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon*

The Executive Committee will meet jointly with the Finance Committee and receive updates on the Council's Calendar Year (CY) 2006 budget and activities schedule and the President's Fiscal Year 2007 budget. The Committees will also review a draft Regional Operating Agreement between the Council and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office regarding fishery management plan development teams. The Committees will also discuss attendance at upcoming workshops for the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment process.

7. *Information and Education Committee Meeting: March 2, 2006, 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.*

The Information and Education Committee will meet to review and develop recommendations on the Council's website redesign and upgrade and review the Council's current newsletter regarding options for printing and distribution.

8. *Council Session: March 2, 2006, 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and March 3, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon*

From 3 p.m. – 3:15 p.m., the Council will call the meeting to order, adopt the agenda, and approve the December 2005 meeting minutes.

From 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m., the Council will receive a presentation from the U.S. Coast Guard regarding the use of Automatic Identification Systems

(AIS) and the mandatory use aboard commercial fishing vessels.

From 4:15 p.m. – 5 p.m., the Council will receive a presentation regarding a proposed Navy sonar range off the coast of North Carolina.

From 5 p.m. – 5:15 p.m., the Council will hear a report from the Protected Resources Committee and take other action as appropriate.

From 5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., the Council will hear a report from the Ecosystem-Based Management Committee and take action as appropriate.

Council Session: March 3, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

From 8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m., the Council will receive a report from the Snapper Grouper Committee and take action as appropriate.

From 9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., the Council will receive a report from the Joint Executive/Finance Committees and take action as appropriate.

From 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m., the Council will receive a report from the Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee and take action as appropriate.

From 9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m., the Council will receive a report from the Advisory Panel Selection Committee and take action as appropriate.

From 10 a.m. – 12 noon, the Council will receive a report on the Council Chairmen's/NMFS Leadership meetings and receive status reports from NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center, agency and liaison reports, and discuss other business including upcoming meetings.

Documents regarding these issues are available from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

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

Except for advertised (scheduled) public hearings and public comment, the times and sequence specified on this agenda are subject to change.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by February 24, 2006.

Dated: February 8, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-1968 Filed 2-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 060202024-6024-01; I.D. 012506C]

Whaling Provisions; Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Quotas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the aboriginal subsistence whaling quota for bowhead whales, and other limitations deriving from regulations adopted at the 2002 Special Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). For 2006, the quota is 75 bowhead whales struck. This quota and other limitations will govern the harvest of bowhead whales by members of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC).

DATES: Effective February 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheri McCarty, (301) 713-9090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Aboriginal subsistence whaling in the United States is governed by the Whaling Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 916 *et seq.*). Regulations that implement the Act, found at 50 CFR 230.6, require the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to publish, at least annually, aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas and any other limitations on aboriginal subsistence whaling deriving from regulations of the IWC.

At the 2002 Special Meeting of the IWC, the Commission set quotas for aboriginal subsistence use of bowhead whales from the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock. The bowhead quota was based on a joint request by the United States and the Russian Federation, accompanied by documentation concerning the needs of

two Native groups: Alaska Eskimos and Chukotka Natives in the Russian Far East.

This action by the IWC thus authorized aboriginal subsistence whaling by the AEWC for bowhead whales. This aboriginal subsistence harvest is conducted in accordance with a cooperative agreement between NOAA and the AEWC.

The IWC set a 5-year block quota of 280 bowhead whales landed. For each of the years 2003 through 2007, the number of bowhead whales struck may not exceed 67, except that any unused portion of a strike quota from any year, including 15 unused strikes from the 1998 through 2002 quota, may be carried forward. No more than 15 strikes may be added to the strike quota for any one year. At the end of the 2005 harvest, there were 15 unused strikes available for carry-forward, so the combined strike quota for 2006 is 82 (67 + 15).

This arrangement ensures that the total quota of bowhead whales landed and struck in 2006 will not exceed the quotas set by the IWC. Under an arrangement between the United States and the Russian Federation, the Russian natives may use no more than seven strikes, and the Alaska Eskimos may use no more than 75 strikes.

NOAA is assigning 75 strikes to the Alaska Eskimos. The AEWC will allocate these strikes among the 10 villages whose cultural and subsistence needs have been documented in past requests for bowhead quotas from the IWC, and will ensure that its hunters use no more than 75 strikes.

Other Limitations

The IWC regulations, as well as the NOAA regulation at 50 CFR 230.4(c), forbid the taking of calves or any whale accompanied by a calf.

NOAA regulations (at 50 CFR 230.4) contain a number of other prohibitions relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling, some of which are summarized here. Only licensed whaling captains or crew under the control of those captains may engage in whaling. They must follow the provisions of the relevant cooperative agreement between NOAA and a Native American whaling organization. The aboriginal hunters must have adequate crew, supplies, and equipment. They may not receive money for participating in the hunt. No person may sell or offer for sale whale products from whales taken in the hunt, except for authentic articles of Native handicrafts. Captains may not continue to whale after the relevant quota is taken, after the season has been closed, or if their licenses have been suspended.

They may not engage in whaling in a wasteful manner.

Dated: February 7, 2006.

William T. Hogarth,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-1973 Filed 2-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 001215353-6012-06]

Pan-Pacific Education and Communications Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT): Closing Date

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce, announces the solicitation of applications for a grant for the Pan-Pacific Education and Communications Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) Program. Projects funded pursuant to this Notice are intended to support the PEACESAT Program's acquisition of satellite communications to service Pacific Basin communities and to manage the operations of this network. Applications for the PEACESAT Program grant will compete for funds from the Public Broadcasting, Facilities, Planning and Construction Funds account.

DATES: Applications must be received on or before 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 15, 2006. Applications submitted by facsimile or electronic means are not acceptable. If an application is received after the Closing Date due to (1) carrier error, when the carrier accepted the package with a guarantee for delivery by the Closing Date and Time, or (2) significant weather delays or natural disasters, NTIA will, upon receipt of proper documentation, consider the application as having been received by the deadline. NTIA will not accept applications posted on the Closing Date or later and received after the deadline.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a printed application package, submit completed applications, or send any other correspondence, write to: NTIA/PTFP, Room H-4096, U.S. Department of