

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 November 9 through 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Palace Casino Resort, 158 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS; telephone: 800-725-2239.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates, Times, and Agendas

November 9, 2003

9–10 a.m.--(Partially Closed Session) Convene a joint meeting of the Personnel and Administrative Policy Committees to review past personnel issues.

10–11:30 a.m.--Convene the Administrative Policy Committee to review changes to the Administrative Handbook.

1–5:30 p.m.--Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to review Secretarial Reef Fish Amendment 1 that contains alternatives for arresting overfishing of red grouper by the commercial and recreational fishermen. They will also review Draft Reef Fish Amendment 22 that contains alternatives for a red snapper rebuilding plan; and a Vermilion Snapper Regulatory Amendment that contains alternatives for arresting overfishing of that stock by commercial and recreational fishermen. Public hearings will be held on both of these amendments in December or January. The Committee will also review the yellowtail snapper assessment and will develop recommendations for consideration by full Council on Tuesday afternoon.

November 10, 2003

8:30–10 a.m.--Reconvene the Reef Fish Management Committee if necessary.

10–12 noon--Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to review Draft Shrimp Amendment 13/Environmental Assessment that includes alternatives for status criteria and benchmarks as well as a revised standardized bycatch reporting methodology. The Shrimp

Committee will also review a Draft Options Paper for Shrimp Amendment 14/Supplemental and Environmental Impact Statement that includes alternatives to improve the bycatch reporting methodology, further reduce bycatch, and for a limited access program and vessel monitoring system.

1:30–2:30 p.m.--Convene the Migratory Species Management Committee to review information on bycatch of sharks in the menhaden fishery.

2:30–4 p.m.--Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to review and revise a Council policy for mariculture developed by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

4–5:30 p.m.--Convene the Data Collection Committee to hear a report on the Fishery Information System program implemented by the states for collection of fishery statistics from recreational and commercial fishermen. The Committee will also discuss a study proposal to collect some of these statistics, data quality assurance and control measures, and separation of guide boats from charter and headboats in the statistical program.

November 11, 2003

8:30 a.m.--Convene Council.

8:45 a.m.--Appointment of Committee members.

9–9:45 a.m.--Receive a presentation on Coral Research on Middle Grounds.

9:45–12 noon--Receive public testimony on Secretarial Reef Fish Amendment 1.

1:30–3:30 p.m.--Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee report.

3:30–5 p.m.--Receive the Administrative Policy Committee report.

5–5:30 p.m.--(Closed Session) Receive the Personnel Committee report.

November 12, 2003

8:30–8:45 a.m.--Receive the Shrimp Management Committee report.

8:45–9 a.m.--Receive the Habitat Protection Committee report.

9–9:15 a.m.--Receive the Migratory Special Management Committee report.

9:15–9:30 a.m.--Receive the Data Collection Committee report.

9:30–9:45 a.m.--Receive a report of the Council Orientation Session.

9:45–10 a.m.--Receive the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Advisory Committee report.

10–10:15 a.m.--Receive a report of the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel meeting.

10:15–10:30 a.m.--Receive a report of the Texas Shrimp Association Meeting.

10:30–11 a.m.--Receive Enforcement Reports.

11–11:15 a.m.--Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

11:15–11:45 a.m.--Receive Director's Reports.

11:45–12 noon--Other Business

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Council 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 Council action during this meeting. Council action 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. A copy of the Committee schedule and agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

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 3, 2003.

Dated: October 17, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 03-26801 Filed 10-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100703D]

Marine Mammals; Photography Permit Application No. 997-1704

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Bob McLaughlin, P.O. Box 496, 339 Glenwood, Eastsound, Washington 98245, has been issued a permit to take several species of non-listed marine mammals for purposes of commercial/educational photography.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources,

NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426;

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

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Jefferies or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 26, 2003, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 38011) that a request for a photography permit to take several species of non-listed marine mammals for purposes of commercial/educational photography had been submitted by the above-named individual. A correction to the first Notice was published on July 9, 2003 (68 FR 40911) in order to correct an erroneous statement as stated in the first Notice. The original Notice stated that NMFS was unable to issue photography permits for depleted marine mammal species but the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) does not prohibit these activities for depleted species. 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.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The purpose of the proposed project is to film several species of non-listed marine mammals for an ongoing project that is tentatively titled "Death of an Ecosystem?". While this project has been ongoing for several years, Mr. McLaughlin desires to film from a closer vantage point, i.e. within 100 yards of an individual animal. The closeness of filming would be considered Level B harassment and therefore would require a permit under the MMPA. The photographers intend to attempt to document marine mammal movement and aggregation under varying conditions including the presence of boat traffic. This will be done using a fusion of passive acoustic recording equipment with different filming equipment, including still and video, as well as different filming platforms, including elevated filming platforms. The action area will include waters off the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. The resulting film footage will be dispensed in part

for print and broadcast media, to researchers as well as for educational purposes. The Permit will expire on October 31, 2005.

Dated: October 17, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 03-26800 Filed 10-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 031016259-3259-01]

Request for Comment on Improvements to the U.S. Preparation Process for World Radiocommunication Conferences

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

ACTION: Notice, Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The General Accounting Office (GAO) in *Telecommunications: Better Coordination and Enhanced Accountability Needed to Improve Spectrum Management* (GAO-02-096), recommends that the State Department, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) "jointly review the adequacy of the preparation process following the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) and develop recommendations for improvements."¹ Since the conclusion of the 2003 WRC, NTIA has held meetings with the FCC and the State Department to discuss GAO's recommendations. NTIA initiated staff review and Federal agency review of its own internal WRC preparatory process, including the Radio Conference Subcommittee (RCS) of the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC). Similarly, the FCC initiated a review of its internal processes used to prepare for the 2003 WRC and assessed whether the process could be improved.² NTIA is currently conducting an overall review of the entire conference preparatory process and how the current process can be

¹ See U.S. General Accounting Office, *Telecommunications—Better Coordination and Enhanced Accountability Needed to Improve Spectrum Management*, GAO-02-906 at pg. 35 (September 30, 2002).

² See Public Forum to Assess FCC's Preparatory Process for World Radiocommunication Conferences, *Public Notice*, DA-03-02858 (rel. September 10, 2003).

improved or modified. By this notice and request for comments, NTIA is soliciting the views of the industry and the public on these issues.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than November 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration invites the public to submit written comments in paper or electronic form. Comments may be mailed to Darlene A. Drzenovich, International Spectrum Plans and Policy Division, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4076, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 or e-mailed to ddrazenovich@ntia.doc.gov. Paper submissions should include an electronic version on diskette in ASCII, WordPerfect (please specify version) or Microsoft Word (please specify version) format.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Darlene A. Drzenovich, (202) 482-3480, ddrazenovich@ntia.doc.gov, or James Vorhies, (202) 482-3590, jvorhies@ntia.doc.gov, International Spectrum Plans and Policy Division, Office of Spectrum Management, NTIA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is an intergovernmental organization within the United Nations that specializes in the field of telecommunications. The ITU brings together international governments and private industries to coordinate the establishment and operation of global telecommunication networks and services. Every three to four years, the ITU convenes World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs)—an international forum for world agreement, to review and revise the International Radio Regulations. The Radio Regulations constitute an international treaty on radiocommunications covering the use of the radio-frequency spectrum by radiocommunication services. These conferences set the world stage for future technological development by allocating radio frequency spectrum to radio services, establishing spectrum use coordination methods, setting international rules for radio equipment operation, and identifying spectrum for specific uses such as Third Generation (3G) wireless systems.

The United States is a key player in this important global endeavor because it brings new and innovative technologies to the world community while balancing global security, national