

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032607G]

**Notice of Public Hearings for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold five public hearings in April 2007 to receive public comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP).

**DATES:** The public comment period for the DPEIS is from March 16, 2007, to April 30, 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** under the heading Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations for the dates and locations of the public hearings.

**ADDRESSES:** The public has the opportunity to submit comments on the document using the following methods:

- E-mail: [mmhsrpeis.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:mmhsrpeis.comments@noaa.gov).
- Mail: David Cottingham, Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Attn: MMSHRP DPEIS, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- Facsimile (fax) to: (301) 427-2584, Attn: MMHSRP DPEIS.
- Public Hearings: Submit oral or written comments at public hearings for the DPEIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Howlett or Sarah Wilkin, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; telephone: (301) 713-2322.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 16, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the DPEIS for the MMHSRP for public comment and review.

NMFS has scheduled five public hearings for the DPEIS. The purpose of these hearings is to provide an opportunity for the public to submit oral or written comments on the DPEIS. The DPEIS and information on these hearings can be found at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/eis.htm>.

**Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations**

The dates, times, and locations of the public hearings are as follows:

1. *Monday, April 2, 2007* – San Francisco, CA 1–4 p.m. – Bay Conservation and Development Commission, 50 California Street, Suite 2600, San Francisco, CA 94111.
2. *Tuesday, April 3, 2007* – Seattle, WA 2–5 p.m. – NMFS Northwest Regional Office, Building 9, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115.
3. *Friday, April 6, 2007* – Silver Spring, MD 1–4 p.m. – Silver Spring Metro Center, Building 3, Room 1311–B, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
4. *Monday, April 9, 2007* – Boston, MA 1–4 p.m. – New England Aquarium Conference Center, Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110.
5. *Tuesday, April 10, 2007* – St. Petersburg, FL 4–7 p.m. – NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Dolphin Conference Room, 263 13th Avenue, South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

**Special Accommodations**

These hearings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Sarah Howlett or Sarah Wilkin, 301-713-2322 (voice) or 301-427-2522 (fax), at least 5 working days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: March 27, 2007.

**David Cottingham,**

*Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032607E]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), its Research Set Aside (RSA) Committee, its Ecosystem Committee, its Protected Resources Committee, its Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee, its Executive Committee, and its Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Committee will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 through Thursday, April 19, 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** These meetings will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842; telephone: (410) 524-7777.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Tuesday, April 17, 2007**

*8 a.m. until 1 p.m.* - The Research Set Aside (RSA) Committee will meet privately with NMFS officials.

*9 a.m. until 11 a.m.* - The Ecosystems Committee will also meet concurrently with the RSA Committee.

*11 a.m. until 1 p.m.* - The Protected Resources Committee will meet concurrently with the RSA Committee.

*2 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.* - The Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee will meet.

*7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.* - NMFS will hold a scoping session on National Standard 1 Guidelines regarding annual catch limits and accountability measures.

**Wednesday, April 18, 2007**

*8 a.m. until 9 a.m.* - The Executive Committee will meet.

*9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.* - The Council will convene to receive a presentation from the National Fisheries Institute's Scientific Monitoring Committee.

*10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.* - A Public Hearing for Phase 1 of the New England Council's Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment will be held.

*11:30 a.m.* - The 5th District Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard will discuss Coast Guard activities and Command changes.

*1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.* - The Council will conduct its regular Council business.

*3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.* - The Council will discuss and likely approve Framework 7 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

*4:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.* - An update on the Limited Access Privilege Programs will be presented by Council staff.