

monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Review Workshop Report documenting Panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

SEDAR conducts updates of benchmark stock assessments previously conducted through the SEDAR program. Update assessments add additional data points to datasets incorporated in the original SEDAR benchmark assessment and run the benchmark assessment model to update population estimates.

The greater amberjack update assessment will update the SEDAR 9 benchmark of Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack. The update process consists of a series of webinars.

**Greater Amberjack Update Schedule:  
July 16, 2010; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; SEDAR  
Update Data Webinar**

An updated assessment data set and associated documentation will be presented and discussed during the Data Webinar. Participants will evaluate updates of data employed or considered in SEDAR 9, providing information on life history characteristics, catch statistics, discard estimates, length and age composition, and fishery dependent and fishery independent measures of stock abundance.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Dated: June 17, 2010.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable  
Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 2010-15017 Filed 6-21-10; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

**RIN 0648-XW91**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 15261**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Paul Ponganis, Ph.D., University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, has been issued a permit to conduct research on leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) in Antarctica. **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; 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:** Kate Swails or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 10, 2010, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (75 FR 11132) that a request for a permit to conduct research 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.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit authorizes Dr. Ponganis to study the foraging behavior of leopard seals at Cape Washington, Antarctica. Backpack digital cameras and time depth recorders will be deployed on up to five leopard seals annually over five years (no more than ten seals successfully instrumented total) to document diving and foraging behavior near the emperor penguin colony, and, for the first time, construct time-activity budgets and prey intake rates of these seals. The permit is issued for five years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: June 17, 2010.

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

**RIN 0648-XX01**

**North Pacific Fishery Management  
Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and Groundfish Plan Team members will hold a workshop via Web-Ex, July 8, 2010, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AST) to review methods for determining annual catch limits (ACLs) for Tier 6 groundfish stocks. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on July 8, 2010, 12:30 - 5 p.m. - Web-ex.

**ADDRESSES:** North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Building 4, Seattle, WA and AFSC/Auke Bay Laboratories, 17109 Lena Loop Rd., Juneau, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jane DiCosimo, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council's SSC and Groundfish Plan Team members will hold a workshop via Web-Ex, July 8, 2010, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AST) to review methods for determining annual catch limits (ACLs) for Tier 6 groundfish stocks. These stocks are poorly sampled by bottom trawl surveys and the catch history may not reflect the productive capacity of these stocks. The teleconference will review existing methods for determining ACLs for these stocks and also consider methods being proposed in other regions of the U.S. to evaluate if these can be applied to groundfish stocks of the Bering Sea and