

fishery develop beyond the scope of this analysis. Alternative 1 would close the current west-coast-based DSLL fishery operating on the high seas, which currently consists of one vessel. To implement this alternative the HMS FMP would need to be amended and the implementing regulations published. There could be some minor positive impacts on protected species and fish populations; however, many of these species are highly migratory with a Pacific-wide distribution. Thus, they would not necessarily benefit from the reduction of effort associated with closing the west-coast-based DSLL fishery because the effort may be shifted to other fisheries to continue meeting domestic demand for fish. Tuna formerly caught in the west-coast-based DSLL fishery are likely to be caught by other nations and imported back into the nation with the closed fishery. There may also be some negative impacts on the socio-economics of the participant, fishing communities and the fishing industry in general if this alternative was implemented.

Alternative 2, the preferred alternative, would allow the west-coast-based DSLL fishery to continue operating on the high seas and expand to a maximum of six vessels. At six vessels, there could be some minor negative impacts to protected resource and finfish populations and some positive socioeconomic impacts for the participants and the fishing industry in general if this alternative was implemented. However, as discussed previously, this may just result in a shift in effort from one fishery to another, if demand for tuna remains the same. All U.S. longline vessels operating on the high seas outside of the U.S. EEZ are currently subject to the same controls that applied to Hawaii-based longline fishing vessels holding longline permits in 2003. The limitations and specifications for the fishing area, gear configurations, sea turtle and seabird mitigation measures, skipper workshops, etc. are consistent with current Federal regulations applicable to longline vessels targeting tuna under the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Pelagics FMP (implemented at 50 CFR part 665) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council's HMS FMP (implemented at 50 CFR part 660).

Other Documents

As required in Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), NMFS is engaged in formal consultations with NMFS's Protected Resource Division to determine if the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence and recovery of

any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Request for Comments

NMFS requests public comment on the draft environmental assessment of the West Coast Deep-set Longline Fishery Operating Outside of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 23, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E8-22818 Filed 9-26-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XK76

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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Salmon Technical Team (STT), Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Salmon Subcommittee, and Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will review proposed salmon methodology changes in a joint work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will be held Wednesday, October 15, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Marriott Courtyard Portland Airport, Columbia Ballroom, 11550 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 252-3200.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Chuck Tracy, Salmon Management Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council, (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the work session is to brief the STT and SSC Salmon Subcommittee on proposed changes to methods and standards used to manage ocean salmon fisheries. The work session will include review of proposed changes to the Sacramento River fall Chinook abundance forecast and harvest model,

and a preliminary sensitivity analysis of the Chinook and Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Models (FRAM).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the STT, SSC Salmon Subcommittee, and MEW 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 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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 24, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-22751 Filed 9-26-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XK31

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Seabird and Pinniped Research Activities in Central California

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) for a one-year authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to conducting seabird and pinniped research activities on Southeast Farallon Island, Año Nuevo Island, and Point Reyes National Seashore in central California. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS requests comments on its proposal to authorize PRBO to take, by Level B harassment, small numbers of several species of pinnipeds at Southeast Farallon Island, Año Nuevo