

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Inquire in writing to M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1665; Fax number (804) 287-1736. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS Web site <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/draftstandards.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: June 12, 2006.

**W. Ray Dorsett,**

*Assistant State Conservationist (Operations),  
Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Richmond, Virginia.*

[FR Doc. E6-9527 Filed 6-16-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of Industry and Security

#### Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Open Meeting

The Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory Committee (MPETAC) will meet on July 6, 2006 at 9 a.m. in Room 3884 of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration with respect to technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to materials processing equipment and related technology.

#### Agenda

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions.
2. Presentation of Papers and Comments by the Public.
3. Report on Wassenaar Experts Meeting.

4. MPETAC Future Activities.

5. Report on Proposed Changes to the Export Administration Regulation.

6. Other Business.

The meeting will be open to the public and a limited number of seats will be available. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent that time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. Written statements may be submitted at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to Committee members, the Committee suggests that presenters forward the public presentation materials two weeks prior to Yvette Springer at [Yspringer@bis.doc.gov](mailto:Yspringer@bis.doc.gov).

For more information, please contact Ms. Sprigner at 202-482-4814.

Dated: June 13, 2006.

**Yvette Springer,**

*Committee Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 06-5525 Filed 6-16-06; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.061306B]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

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

**ACTION:** Notification of a proposal for an EFP to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject EFP application submitted by Truex Enterprises contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The proposed EFP would test the safety and efficacy of harvesting surfclams and ocean quahogs from the Georges Bank Closure Area using a harvesting protocol developed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Assistant Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog regulations and Fishery

Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Assistant Regional Administrator proposes to recommend that an EFP be issued that would allow one commercial fishing vessel to conduct fishing operations that are otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The EFP would allow for an exemption from the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog Georges Bank (GB) Closure Area.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Comments on this document must be received on or before July 19, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this notice may be submitted by e-mail.

The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is [DA6114@noaa.gov](mailto:DA6114@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: "Comments on GB PSP Closed Area Exemption." Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on GB PSP Closed Area Exemption." Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tobey Curtis, Fishery Management Specialist, phone 978-281-9273.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Truex Enterprises of New Bedford, MA submitted an application for an EFP on March 30, 2006. Additional information was received on April 19, 2006, completing the application. The experimental fishing application requests authorization to allow the catch and retention for sale of Atlantic surfclams and ocean quahogs from within the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog GB Closure Area. This area, located east of 69°00 W. long. and south of 42°20 N. lat., was closed on May 25, 1990. This closure was implemented based on the advice from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after samples of surfclams from the area tested positive for the toxins (saxotoxins) that cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). These toxins are produced by the algae *Alexandrium fundyense* that can form blooms commonly referred to as red tides. Red tide blooms, also known as harmful

algal blooms (HABs), can produce toxins that accumulate in filter-feeding shellfish. Shellfish contaminated with the saxotoxin, if eaten in large enough quantity, can cause illness or death from PSP. Due, in part, to the inability to test and monitor this area for the presence of PSP, this closure was made permanent through Amendment 12 to the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP in 1999.

The primary goal of the study is to test the efficacy of the Protocol for Onboard Screening and Dockside Testing for PSP Toxins in Molluscan Shellfish (Protocol) developed by state and Federal regulatory agencies to test for presence of saxotoxins in shellfish. This protocol would facilitate the harvest of shellfish from waters susceptible to HABs, which produce the saxotoxins, but that are not currently under rigorous water quality monitoring programs by either state or Federal management agencies. The Protocol is currently under final review by the FDA. This project would only proceed once the FDA has endorsed the final Protocol. The Protocol details procedures and reporting for harvesting, testing, and landing of shellfish harvested from areas that are susceptible to HABs prior to the shellfish from entering commerce. A copy of the Protocol, when finalized, will be available by contacting NMFS (see ADDRESSES).

The proposed project would conduct a trial for the sampling protocol in an exemption zone within the larger 1990 GB Closure Area with the F/V Seawatcher. This proposed exempted fishing activity would occur from approximately July-December 2006, using surfclam and ocean quahog quota allocated to Truex Enterprises under the Federal individual transferable quota (ITQ) program. The applicant has estimated a harvest of 176,000 bushels of surfclams and 80,000 bushels of ocean quahogs from the exemption area. The exemption area was tested in cooperation with the FDA in the winter of 2006. No samples collected during that time were above acceptable levels for saxotoxins (80 µg toxin/100g of shellfish). In order for the proposed EFP to be issued the applicant would be required to obtain a permit from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) to land the product in New Bedford, Massachusetts. NMFS, FDA, MADMF, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health are working closely in reviewing this proposed project. This EFP would allow for an exemption from the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog GB Closure Area specified at 50 CFR 648.73(a)(4).

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

**Dated:** June 14, 2006.

**James P. Burgess,**

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060906A]

#### Marine Mammals; File Nos. 1093-1834 and 774-1847

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

**ACTION:** Notice; withdrawal of application, and receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following two actions related to permits for research on marine mammals: Susan Shaw, Ph.D., Executive Director, Marine Environmental Research Institute, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 1652, Blue Hill, ME 04614 (File No. 1093-1834) has withdrawn her application for a permit to conduct research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina concolor*) in Maine; and the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program (Rennie Holt, Ph.D., Principal Investigator), 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037 (File No. 774-1847) has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on Antarctic fur seals (*Arctophalus gazell*) and leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*).

**ADDRESSES:** The documents related to these actions are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Both files:

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)427-2521; File No. 1093-1834:

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9394; and File No. 774-1847:

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

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the application File No. 774-1847 should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of

Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Swails or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 14, 2006 a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 13102) that an application had been filed by Susan Shaw. The applicant requested a 5-year permit to investigate the utility of free-ranging harbor seals as a mammalian sentinel species for coastal contamination and associated health risks for top consumers in the marine food chain. After completing revisions the applicant plans to resubmit the application in the fall.

A permit (File No. 774-1847) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant requests a five-year permit to continue a long-term ecosystem monitoring program of pinniped species in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. The applicant proposes to take up to 710 Antarctic fur seals and 20 leopard seals annually. The animals would be captured, measured, weighed, tagged, blood sampled, and have time-depth recorders, VHF transmitters, and platform terminal transmitters attached. A subset of fur seals would be given an enema, have a tooth extracted, milk sampled, and be part of a doubly-labeled water study on energetics. A subset of leopard seals would be blubber and muscle sampled. Additionally, the applicant would conduct regional census surveys. The applicant also requests authorization for the research-related mortality of up to three Antarctic fur seals and one leopard seal annually.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application File No. 774-1847 to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

**Dated:** June 12, 2006.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

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