

Issues Identified for Discussion Under This Amendment

This action will consider measures that require changes to the NE multispecies FMP. Measures may be developed and adopted in a future action. The Council may consider several types of management measures, including, but not limited to:

- No action; no additional measures would be adopted;
- Establishing individual accumulation caps, or sector accumulation caps, on a stock-specific or fishery-wide level;
- Establishing limits or caps of fishing privileges limit measures fleet-wide or separately for inshore and offshore fleets;
- Establishing usage caps for vessels fishing on a NE multispecies permit;
- Other measures to promote diversity within the fleet; and,
- Establishing performance indicators relating to the two objectives identified for the amendment (in addition to or instead of limits or caps).

The Council may deviate from these examples and develop additional approaches, consistent with their description in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Standard Guidelines. The above issues under consideration are described in greater detail in the scoping document itself; copies may be obtained from the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) or via the Internet at <http://www.nefmc.org/>.

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

Dated: December 16, 2011.

Steven Thur,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-32694 Filed 12-20-11; 8:45 am]

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

RIN 0648-XA875

International Affairs; Identification of Nations Whose Fishing Vessels Are Engaged in Fishing in Waters Beyond Any National Jurisdiction That Target or Incidentally Catch Sharks

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On March 24, 2011, NMFS published a notice and requested information regarding nations whose

vessels are engaged in fishing in waters beyond any national jurisdiction that target or incidentally catch sharks.

However, upon further reflection and review of the statute, NMFS proposes to begin the process of making identifications by January 4, 2012, and publish the first identifications in the January 2013 Biennial Report to Congress, coincident with the next identification process under the IUU fishing and bycatch provisions of the Moratorium Protection Act.

DATES: Effective December 21, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheri McCarty, NMFS Office of International Affairs. (301) 427-8369.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Shark Conservation Act of 2010 (S.850) amended the Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826d-k) to require actions be taken by the United States to strengthen shark conservation. Specifically, these amendments to the Moratorium Protection Act require the Secretary of Commerce to identify: (1) Nations whose fishing vessels are engaged, or have been engaged during the preceding calendar year, in fishing activities or practices in waters beyond any national jurisdiction that target or incidentally catch sharks; and (2) nations that have not adopted a regulatory program to provide for the conservation of sharks, including measures to prohibit removal of any of the fins of a shark (including the tail) and discarding the carcass of the shark at sea, that is comparable to that of the United States, taking into account different conditions. The Secretary is required to begin making identifications not later than January 4, 2012.

NMFS solicited information from the public on activities of fishing vessels from foreign nations engaged in shark catch beyond any national jurisdiction on March 24, 2011 (76 FR 16616), and indicated that it anticipated making the first identifications under this statute by January 4, 2012. However, upon further reflection and review of the statute, NMFS proposes to begin the process of making identifications by January 4, 2012, and publish the first identifications in the January 2013 Biennial Report to Congress, coincident with the next identification process under the IUU fishing and bycatch provisions of the Moratorium Protection Act. This approach is consistent with the statute and will treat all identified nations equally. If identifications were made in January 2012, it would provide potentially-affected foreign nations only one year to become familiar with the

new shark provisions before identification decisions were made and only one year to take the necessary actions to receive a positive certification. NMFS has already started collecting and analyzing information that could help the agency determine which nations may have vessels engaging in fishing activities or practices on the high seas that target or incidentally catch sharks.

Dated: December 15, 2011.

Rebecca Lent,

Director, Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-32690 Filed 12-20-11; 8:45 am]

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

RIN 0648-XA880

Marine Mammals; Issuance of Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that individuals and institutions have been issued Letters of Confirmation for activities conducted under the General Authorization for Scientific Research on marine mammals. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for a list of names and address of recipients.

ADDRESSES: The Letters of Confirmation and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office: Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Protected Resources, Permits Division, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested Letters of Confirmation have 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 General Authorization allows for bona fide scientific research that may result only in taking by level B harassment of marine mammals. The following Letters of Confirmation (LOC) were issued in Fiscal Year 2011.

File No. 15683: Issued to Dr. David Mann, University of South Florida, St.