

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

RIN 0648-XA665

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling and revising a public meeting of its Joint Skate/Whiting Committee and Whiting Advisory Panel on September 14, 2011 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Providence, 21 Atwells Avenue, Providence, RI 02903; *telephone:* (401) 831-3900; *fax:* (407) 751-0007.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; *telephone:* (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original meeting notice published on August 26, 2011, (76 FR 53417). The meetings were to be held on September 14 and 15, however, the meeting for September 15th is cancelled.

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

The Oversight Committee will review a Draft Final Skate Specifications Package for the 2012-13 fishing years and develop final recommendations for the September 2011 Council meeting. Beginning at 11 a.m., the Oversight Committee will meet jointly with the Whiting Advisory Panel to finalize and recommend potential management alternatives for Multispecies FMP Amendment 19 for the small mesh fishery (red hake, silver hake, offshore hake). These alternatives will include Annual Catch Limit (ACL) measures (allocations, buffers for management uncertainty, landings limits), Accountability Measures (AM), and possibly other measures to regulate the fishery and prevent catches from

exceeding the ACL. Committee recommendations to include alternatives in Draft Amendment 19 will be made at the September 26-29 Council meeting.

If necessary, the Whiting Advisory Panel may meet separately during the meeting. The Skate/Whiting Oversight Committee will also review a final draft skate specifications package and make recommendations at the Council meeting. The Oversight Committee may discuss other business regarding whiting and skate management.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's 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 Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at 978-465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: August 29, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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

RIN 0648-XA568

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to a Marine Geophysical Survey in the Arctic Ocean, September-October 2011

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) regulations, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an

Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to the University of Alaska Geophysics Institute (UAGI) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting a marine geophysical seismic survey in the Arctic Ocean during September-October 2011.

DATES: Effective September 5, 2011, through October 23, 2011.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the IHA and application may be obtained by writing to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>.

The National Science Foundation (NSF), which is providing funding to UAGI to conduct the survey, prepared an "Environmental Assessment of a Marine Geophysical Survey by the *R/V Marcus G. Langseth* in the Arctic Ocean, September-October 2011," prepared by LGL Ltd., Environmental Research Associates (LGL), on behalf of UAGI and NSF, which is also available at the same internet address. NMFS prepared its own Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which is available at the same internet address. Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Candace Nachman, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting of