

Assessment (EA) that implementation of the subject action is not a major Federal action having significant effects on the environment within the meaning of Executive Order 12114. NSF determined therefore, that an environmental impact statement would not be prepared. On April 11, 2003 (68 FR 17773), NMFS noted that the NSF had prepared an EA for the GOM calibration study. In accordance with section 6.01 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 216-6 (Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, May 20, 1999), NMFS has reviewed the information contained in NSF's EA and determined that the NSF EA accurately and completely describes the proposed action alternative, reasonable additional alternatives, and the potential impacts on marine mammals, endangered species, and other marine life that could be impacted by the preferred alternative and the other alternatives. As a result, NMFS has determined that it is not necessary to issue either a new EA or a Supplemental EA for the issuance of an IHA to LDEO for this activity. Therefore, based on this review and analysis, NMFS is adopting the NSF EA under NEPA. A copy of the NSF EA for this activity is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### Determinations

Based on the information contained in the LDEO application, the NSF EA, the April 11, 2003 notice (68 FR 17773) and this document, NMFS has determined that conducting a 3- to 4-day calibration study of the seismic airgun array onboard the *Ewing* in the northern GOM in 2003 by LDEO would result in the harassment of small numbers of marine mammals; would have no more than a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of stocks for subsistence uses. This activity will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by certain species of marine mammals. While the number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the vicinity of the survey activity, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be small. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment is low and will be avoided through the incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned in this document and required under the IHA. For these reasons therefore, NMFS

has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA have been met and the authorization can be issued.

#### Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to take small numbers of marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting calibration measurements of the seismic array onboard the *Ewing* in the northern GOM to LDEO for a 1-year period, provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in this document and the IHA are undertaken.

Dated: May 23, 2003.

**Donna Wieting,**

*Acting Chief, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052703A]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Oversight Committee in June, 2003. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, June 13, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Four Points By Sheraton, 407 Squire Road, Revere, MA 02151; telephone: (781) 284-7200.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The committee will review the public hearings and early written comments on Amendment 10 and hear preliminary advice from NMFS. They will also receive a progress report on Framework Adjustment 39 to the Multispecies

Fishery Management Plan, which will set the finfish measures associated with Amendment 10 access to Georges Bank closed areas.

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 (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: May 27, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052703B]

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The Council and its advisory entities will meet June 15-20, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings and hearing will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404; telephone: 650-570-5700.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 820-2280.