

Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) violations and the current status of regulatory actions that have previously been submitted for approval by NMFS.

The LEAP consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf states as well as NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA's General Counsel. A copy of the agenda and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813-228-2815.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by March 11, 2003.

Dated: February 24, 2003.

Theophilus R. Brainerd,

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

[FR Doc. 03-4683 Filed 2-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022403B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel in March 2003, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone. Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on March 19, 2003, and March 25, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, times, locations and agendas.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Portland, ME, and Danvers, MA.

Council address: 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA, 01950.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates, Times, Locations and Agendas

On Wednesday, March 19, 2003, the Herring Advisory Panel Meeting will meet at 10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101; telephone: 207-775-2311. The Panel will review results of the Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) assessment of the herring resource. They will identify issues for inclusion in the scoping document for Amendment 2 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). (Amendment 1 will address Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) issues separately.) They will also review a timeline for preparation of annual specifications and Amendment 2 development.

On Tuesday, March 25, 2003, the Herring Oversight Committee Meeting will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Ferncroft, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA, 01923; telephone: 978-777-2500. The oversight committee will review results of the TRAC assessment of the herring resource. They will finalize a list of issues to be included in the scoping document for Amendment 2 to the Herring FMP (Amendment 1 will address EFH issues separately). They will also discuss the timeline and location of the Amendment 2 scoping meetings. They will review timeline for preparation of annual specifications and Amendment 2 development.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this notice may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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 Council's intent to take final actions to address such emergencies.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations, 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: February 24, 2003.

Theophilus R. Brainerd,

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

[FR Doc. 03-4684 Filed 2-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021403D]

Marine Mammals; File No. 559-1442

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Mr. Salvatore Cerchio, Department of Biology and Museum of Zoology, 1109 Geddes Ave. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1079, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 559-144200 to extend the expiration date through June 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for re-view upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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)713-0376; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of 50 CFR 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the provisions of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.