

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a public information meeting to gather input on the likely impacts of alternative spiny dogfish trip limits.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Thursday, April 7, 2016, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar with a telephone-only connection option.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255. The Council's Web site, [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org) also has details on the proposed agenda, webinar access, and briefing materials.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For 2016-18 specifications, the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils took no action on the spiny dogfish trip limit, which would maintain the current 5,000 pound trip limit. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has requested that the trip limit be increased to 6,000 pounds ([http://www.mafmc.org/s/2016\\_Spiny-Dogfish-to-GARFO\\_trip-limits-REB-edits\\_AH-2.pdf](http://www.mafmc.org/s/2016_Spiny-Dogfish-to-GARFO_trip-limits-REB-edits_AH-2.pdf)), and this webinar-based meeting will gather public input on the potential impacts of changing the spiny dogfish trip limit.

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 17, 2016.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE481**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 19706**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the California State University, Bakersfield [Responsible Party: Antje Lauer, Ph.D.], 9001 Stockdale Highway, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on pinnipeds for scientific research, and receive, import, and export specimens from these species.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before April 21, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 19706 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the 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.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include the File No. 19706 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rosa L. González or Jennifer Skidmore; phone: (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit 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), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to receive, import, and export blood sera from up to 500 California sea lions (*Zalophus*

*californianus*), 25 threatened Guadalupe fur seals (*Arctocephalus townsendi*), and 25 northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) in rehabilitation annually to perform immunodiffusion assays. In addition, the applicant proposes to perform the Spherusol skin test on up to 500 California sea lions in rehabilitation annually. The skin test includes administering a drug intradermally and subsequent observation, photograph/video of swelling/induration after a period of time (*i.e.*, hours). The objective is to research Coccidioidomycosis (Valley fever) on stranded marine mammals along California's coast. The goal is to successfully detect the animal's exposure to *Coccidioides* spp. and compare the sensitivity of the tests to further health studies on the above-named marine mammal species. A permit is requested for a 3-year period.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 16, 2016.

**Julia Harrison,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE501**

**National Essential Fish Habitat Summit Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Marine Fisheries Service will host a public meeting, consisting of representatives from the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and interested members of the public. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and share opportunities,