

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

0648–XN58

Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); Spring Species Working Group Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) announces its spring meeting with its Species Working Group Technical Advisors on April 5–7, 2009. The Committee will meet to discuss matters relating to ICCAT, including the 2008 Commission meeting results; research and management activities; global and domestic initiatives related to ICCAT; the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act-required consultation on the identification of countries that are diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT; the results of the meetings of the Committee's Species Working Groups; and other matters relating to the international management of ICCAT species.

DATES: The open sessions of the Committee meeting will be held on April 5, 2009, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., April 6, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., and April 7, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. as well as 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Closed sessions will be held on April 6, 2009, from 2:45 p.m. to approximately 6 p.m. and on April 7, 2009, from 9:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The phone number is 301–589–5200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melanie King at (301) 713–2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT will meet in open session to receive and discuss information on (1) the 2008 ICCAT meeting results and U.S. implementation of ICCAT decisions; (2) 2008 ICCAT and NMFS research and monitoring activities; (3) 2009 ICCAT activities; (4) global and domestic initiatives related to ICCAT (5) the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act-required consultation on the

identification of countries that are diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT; (6) the results of the meetings of the Committee's Species Working Groups; and (7) other matters relating to the international management of ICCAT species. The public will have access to the open sessions of the meeting, but there will be no opportunity for public comment.

The Committee will meet in its Species Working Groups for a portion of the afternoon of April 6, 2009, and of the morning of April 7, 2009. These sessions are not open to the public, but the results of the species working group discussions will be reported to the full Advisory Committee during the Committee's morning and afternoon open session on April 7, 2009. The Committee may also go into executive session on the afternoon of April 6, 2009, to discuss sensitive information relating to an upcoming intersessional meeting of ICCAT. This session would also be closed to the public.

Special Accommodations

The meeting location is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Melanie King at (301) 713–2276 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 25, 2009.

Rebecca J. Lent,

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

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

RIN 0648–XN10

Incidental Taking of Marine Mammals; Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to the Explosive Removal of Offshore Structures in the Gulf of Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of letters of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued one-year Letters of Authorization (LOA) to take marine mammals incidental to the explosive

removal of offshore oil and gas structures (EROS) in the Gulf of Mexico.

DATES: This authorization is effective from February 27, 2009 through February 26, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The application and LOAs are available for review 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 20910–3235 or by telephoning the contact listed here (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or online at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>. Documents cited in this notice may be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Goldstein or Ken Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301–713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Sections 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the NMFS to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by United States (U.S.) citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made by NMFS and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term “taking” means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt capture, or kill marine mammals.

Authorization for incidental taking, in the form of annual LOAs, may be granted by NMFS for periods up to five years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals, and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant). In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat (i.e., mitigation), and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating rounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations also must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring, and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking incidental to EROS were published on June 19, 2008 (73 FR 34889), and remain in effect from July 21, 2008 through July 19, 2013. For detailed information on this action, please refer to that