

**Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team
December 17-19, 2007
Philadelphia, PA**

PROPOSED AGENDA

DAY ONE: AFTERNOON

Welcome and Introductions

1:00 PM

- Welcome (*CONCUR and Gouveia*)
- Meeting Purpose (*CONCUR and Gouveia*)
- Introductions
 - CONCUR, NMFS staff, HPTRT members

Meeting Approach

1:20 PM

- Review and confirm proposed Meeting Agenda (*CONCUR*)
- Review and confirm proposed Ground Rules (*CONCUR*)
- Consider HPTRT membership needs and changes (*CONCUR*)

Background Briefings

1:40 PM

- Review of events since last HPTRT meeting (*Johnson – 15 minutes*)
 - TRP history; plan effectiveness to-date
 - Observations on recent bycatch and compliance
 - Status of GOM/BOF harbor porpoise stock
- CONCUR Stakeholder Interviews (*CONCUR – 15 minutes*)
 - CONCUR presentation of key findings
- HPTRP Updates from Previous Meetings and Recent Activities (*Johnson – 15 minutes*)
 - Activities since previous HPTRT meetings convened in 2000
 - 2006-2007 HPTRP Outreach Meetings
- Review of relevant fishery management plans – status and upcoming activities (*Perra – 15 minutes*)
 - Groundfish FMP
 - Monkfish/dogfish FMP

Break

2:40 PM

Current Harbor Porpoise Information

2:55 PM

- Presentation and clarifying questions on the following topics:
 - Abundance and Population Information (*Palka – 30 minutes*)
 - Recent abundance surveys and population estimates
 - Updated Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level for harbor porpoises
 - Observer Program Overview (*Van Atten – 20 minutes*)
 - Purpose; marine mammal information collected
 - Vessel selection process
 - Summary of Bycatch Patterns (*Palka/Orphanides – 40 minutes*)
 - Regional review of observed harbor porpoise takes
 - Review of compliance with HPTRP requirements
 - Effectiveness of pingers
 - Bycatch Review and Estimates Information (*Orphanides – 30 minutes*)
 - Description of harbor porpoise bycatch estimates
 - Enforcement Update and Activities (*Williams – 15 minutes*)

Public Comments

5:10 PM

Preview of Day Two

5:25 PM

Adjourn

5:30 PM

DAY TWO: FULL DAY

Welcome and Overview **8:30 AM**

- Overview of Day Two agenda and focus (*CONCUR*)
- Questions and Comments from Day One (*CONCUR*)

Primary Discussion Topics: NMFS Recommended Regulatory Amendments¹ **8:45 AM**

- Topic 1: Presentation, discussion of problem identification and consideration of Gulf of Maine recommendations to reduce harbor porpoise bycatch (*Johnson*)
 - Massachusetts Bay Closure Area expansion (relates to Item 1 in the Discussion Paper)
 - Cape Cod South Closure Area expansion (relates to Item 2 in the Discussion Paper)
 - NMFS pinger testers to aid enforcement efforts with the PRS-275 unit (relates to Item 5 in the Discussion Paper) (*Higgins and Johnson*)

Break/Caucus Opportunity (as needed) **10:45 AM**

Primary Discussion Topics: Continued **11:00 AM**

- Topic 2: Presentation, discussion of problem identification and consideration of regulatory text corrections and clarifications (relates to Items 6 through 17 in the Discussion Paper) (*Johnson*)

Lunch Break **12:00 PM**

Primary Discussion Topics: Continued **1:15 PM**

- Topic 3: Presentation, discussion of problem identification and consideration of Mid-Atlantic recommendations to reduce harbor porpoise bycatch (*Johnson*)
 - Address observed bycatch in northern waters off New Jersey (relates to Item 4 in the Discussion Paper)

Break/Caucus Opportunity (as needed) **3:15 PM**

¹ See document 2a) in the HPTRT meeting binder for supporting materials.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Primary Discussion Topics: Continued **3:30 PM**

- Topic 4: Limitations of authorizing scientific research (*Johnson*)
 - Allowing permit applications to be submitted to NMFS for scientific research to be conducted within a HPTRP managed area (relates to Item 20 in the Discussion Paper)

Review Key Discussion Points from the Day **4:15 PM**

Public Comments **4:30 PM**

Preview of Day Three **4:45 PM**

Adjourn **5:00 PM**

DAY THREE: MORNING ONLY

Welcome and Overview **8:30 AM**

- Overview of Day Three agenda and focus (CONCUR)
- Review Day Two recommendations and discussion points (CONCUR)
- Questions and Comments from Day Two (CONCUR)

Primary Discussion Topics: Continued **8:50 AM**

- Topic 5: Identification of Priority Gear Research (relates to Items 18 and 19 in the Discussion Paper) (30 minutes)
 - Harbor Porpoise Bycatch Reduction Gillnet Study (*Salvador*)
 - Other Ideas

Engage Remaining Issues from Earlier Discussions **9:20 AM**

- Opportunity for caucusing, as needed

Break **10:00 AM**

Engage Remaining Issues from Earlier Discussions **10:15 AM**

- Opportunity for caucusing, as needed

Public Comments **11:00 AM**

Meeting Summary and Next Steps **11:15 AM**

- Recap key meeting results
- Outline game plan to identify information needs
- Review next steps and interim assignments

Adjourn **12:00 PM**