SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Monday, September 19 and Tuesday, September 20, 2016

The agenda will include a review of the Draft 2017 Observer Annual Deployment Plan, the lead level 2 discussion paper, the EM (Electronic Monitoring) analysis and 2017 EM Plan, other analytic project priorities, and scheduling and other issues. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at http://www.npfmc.org/observer-program/

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271–2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 30, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Diana Evans, Council staff; telephone: (907)–271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting address: The Steering Committee meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571–1000.

SEDAR address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405; www.sedarweb.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Carmichael, Deputy Executive Director, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: john.carmichael@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion are as follows:

1. Review SEDAR Steering Committee Agenda, Tuesday, September 20, 2016, 1 p.m.–5 p.m. and Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

2. Review Assessment Projects Status Reports


4. Review State-Sponsored Assessment Process: Goliath Grouper Benchmark Case Study


6. Review Data Best Practices Terms of References (TORs) and Charge statement.


8. Update on the NOAA Fisheries Stock Assessment Prioritization Plan: Cooperator progress and SEDAR role.

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 identified 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see ADDRESSES) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Dated: August 30, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XE853

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has completed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider the potential impacts of authorizing an exempted fishing permit (EFP) for longline vessels to fish within the U.S. West Coast exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: Written comments on the draft EA must be submitted by October 3, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the draft EA should be submitted to the Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802. Comments may also be submitted by email to RegionalAdministrator.WCRHMS@noaa.gov.

The EA is available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office: The Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802; or on NMFS’ West Coast Region Web site: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/highly_migratory_species_rules_req.html.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amber Rhodes (ph: 562–980–3231; email: Amber.Rhodes@noaa.gov) or Chris Fanning (ph: 562–980–4198; email: Chris.Fanning@noaa.gov), Long Beach, CA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Draft EA was completed to consider potential impacts of issuing an EFP authorizing the applicants to fish with longline gear