DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XE817

Fisheries of the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet to discuss the SEDAR process and assessment schedule. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

DATES: The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet from 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

ADDRESSES: 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 Assessment Projects Status Reports
3. Review State-Sponsored Assessment Process: Goliath Grouper Benchmark Case Study
5. Review Data Best Practices Terms of References (TORs) and Charge statement.
7. 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.

[FR Doc. 2016–21189 Filed 9–1–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

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.nmfs.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
in the U.S. West Coast EEZ, under specific terms and conditions. According to regulations, a NMFS Regional Administrator may authorize “for limited testing, public display, data collection, exploratory, health and safety, environmental cleanup, and/or hazard removal purposes, the target or incidental harvest of species managed under an FMP [fishery management plan] or fishery regulations that would otherwise be prohibited” (50 CFR 600.745(b)). Issuance of an EFP, which is the proposed action analyzed in this EA, would provide such authorization as fishing with longline gear in the U.S. West Coast EEZ is currently prohibited under the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Highly Migratory Species Fisheries and Federal regulation at 550 CFR 660.712(a). The original application for the EFP was discussed during the March 2015 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting and published on the Council’s Web site at: http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/H3a_Att1_Dupuy_etal_MAR2015BB.pdf. A revised application for the EFP and the Council’s additional recommendations regarding EFP issuance were published in the Federal Register on May 22, 2015 (80 FR 29662).

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

Dated: August 30, 2016.

Emily H. Menashes,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Tanimoto, Coastal Management Specialist, Policy, Planning, and Communications Division, Office for Coastal Management at (808) 725–5253 or via email at jean.tanimoto@noaa.gov.

Electronic copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan may be found on the OCM Web site at http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/compliance/ or may be obtained upon request from coastal.info@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requirements of 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act) apply to the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements. Specifically, 40 CFR 1506.6 requires agencies to provide public notice of the availability of environmental documents. Likewise, the NERRS implementing regulations at 15 CFR 921.13(d) require NOAA to provide notice, in the Federal Register, of the DEIS availability and the public hearing. This notice is part of NOAA’s action to comply with these requirements.


John R. King,
Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2016–21059 Filed 9–1–16; 8:45 am]