This five-year (sunset) review and this notice are in accordance with sections 751(c) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(f)(4).


Ronald K. Lorentzen,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2017–03038 Filed 2–14–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF086

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing Permits; Extension of Public Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; extension of comment period; and announcement of a public webinar.

SUMMARY: NMFS published a notice in the Federal Register on January 17, 2017, announcing the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Dr. David Kerstetter of Nova Southeastern University to evaluate pelagic longline (PLL) catch and bycatch rates from within the northern portion of the East Florida Coast (EFC) PLL Closed Area and compare those rates to rates from outside the EFC PLL Closed Area. The availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing the impacts of granting the application with certain terms and conditions was also announced in the same Federal Register notice. NMFS provided a 30-day comment period in the January Federal Register notice, but given interest from the public, NMFS is extending the comment period for the action to March 29, 2017, and conducting a public webinar on March 27, 2017, to facilitate public comments.


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Cockrell at (301) 427–8503 or Rick Pearson at (727) 824–5399.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The application and Draft EA, as well as public comments received thus far, are available for review on the HMS Management Division’s Web site at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/efp/index.html. NMFS invites comments on the specific terms and conditions of the EFP, if issued, and the analyses presented in the Draft EA.

Extension of Comment Period

The original comment period was scheduled to end on February 16, 2017. Given interest from the public and to allow additional time for Regional Fishery Management Councils to discuss the EFP application and Draft EA at upcoming meetings, NMFS is extending the public comment period for this action to March 29, 2017. Additionally, because of requests to hold a public meeting in South Florida regarding this issue, NMFS has decided to hold a public webinar to facilitate public comments from across the geographic range of the U.S. Atlantic PLL fishery.

Public Webinar

The public webinar will be held on March 27, 2017, from 1 p.m.–4 p.m. EST. Information on how to attend the webinar can be found on the HMS Management Division’s Web page at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/efp/pll_efp_webinar.html.


Karen H. Abrams,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–03010 Filed 2–14–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF187

Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery

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

ACTION: Notice of unsuccessful referendum.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF086

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Karen H. Abrams,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–03010 Filed 2–14–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF187

Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery

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ACTION: Notice of unsuccessful referendum.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

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Karen H. Abrams,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–03010 Filed 2–14–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF187

Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery

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

ACTION: Notice of unsuccessful referendum.
SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notice to inform persons of the unsuccessful referendum for a second fishing capacity reduction loan in the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery, effective January 17, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Sturtevant at (301) 427–8799, fax (301) 713–1306, or michael.a.sturtevant@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery is a commercial fishery in Alaska state waters and adjacent Federal waters. It encompasses the commercial taking of salmon with purse seine gear, and participation is limited to fishermen designated by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Congress authorized a $23.5 million loan to finance a fishing capacity reduction program in the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery. NMFS published proposed program regulations on May 23, 2011 (76 FR 29707), and final program regulations on October 6, 2011 (76 FR 61986), to implement the reduction program.

In 2012, NMFS conducted a referendum to determine the remaining fishermen’s willingness to repay a $13.1 million fishing capacity reduction loan to remove 64 permits. After a majority of permit holders approved the loan, NMFS disbursed payments to the successful bidders and began collecting fees to repay the loan. In August 2016, the Southeast Revitalization Association (SRA) submitted a second capacity reduction plan to NMFS and NMFS approved the second plan in October 2016. Since only $13.1 million was expended from the total loan amount, $10.4 remains available. Approval of this second referendum would have resulted in a second loan of $5.8 million and permanently retired an additional 22 permits from the fishery. The final regulations required NMFS to provide public notice before conducting a referendum to determine the industry’s willingness to repay a second fishing capacity reduction loan to purchase the permits identified in the second reduction plan.

Comments on the proposed referendum were accepted until 5 p.m. EST December 7, 2016. Between November 14 and November 17, 2016, NMFS held a series of public meetings with Southeast Alaska purse seine salmon permit holders and interested individuals. The meetings were held in Sitka, AK, Ketchikan, AK, Petersburg, AK, and Seattle, WA.

II. Present Status

As of October 21, 2016, there were 315 permits in the fishery designated as S01A by CFEC. These permanent permit holders were eligible to vote in this second referendum. NMFS mailed referendum information, voting instructions, and a referendum ballot to each of the permit owners. The referendum voting period commenced December 13, 2016 and ended on January 13, 2017. Any votes received by NMFS after 5 p.m. on January 13, 2017, were not counted. NMFS issued 315 ballots. 50 CFR 600.1107 (e)(3)(ii), states that “a successful referendum by a majority of the Permit Holders in the Reduction Fishery shall bind all parties and complete the reduction process,” therefore, a minimum of 158 ballots in favor of the buyback program was necessary to approve the new fees.

NMFS received 180 (57%) timely and complete ballots. 132 were for approving the proposed buyback. As a result, the proposed buyback referendum was not successful and the second buyback loan was not approved.

Dated: February 8, 2017.

Brian T. Pawlak,
CFO/Director, Office of Management and Budget, National Marine Fisheries Service.

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XE926


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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) implementing regulations we (NMFS) hereby give notice that we have issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to the U.S. Air Force, Eglin Air Force Base (Eglin AFB), to take two species of marine mammals, the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) and Atlantic spotted dolphin (Stenella frontalis), by harassment, incidental to a Maritime Weapon Systems Evaluation Program (Maritime WSEP) within the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR) in the Gulf of Mexico from February 4, 2017 through February 3, 2018. Eglin AFB’s activities are military readiness activities per the MMPA, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2004.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dale Youngkin, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals of a species or population stock, by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if, after NMFS provides a notice of a proposed authorization to the public for review and comment and that NMFS makes certain findings.

An Authorization for incidental takings for marine mammals shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting of such taking are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as “an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.”