

through Tuesday, December 12, 2017. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. in the King Salmon/Iliamna Room on Monday, December 4 and continue through Wednesday, December 6, 2017. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Dillingham/Katmai Room on Tuesday, December 5, and continue through Saturday, December 9, 2017. The Halibut Charter Management Committee will meet Monday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Room TBD). The Legislative Committee will meet Tuesday, December 5, 2017, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Room TBD).

Agenda

Monday, December 4, 2017 Through Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues as well as an executive session. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

- (1) Executive Director's Report
- (2) Legislative Report
- (3) NMFS Management Report (including year-end inseason management report, Final 2018 Observer Annual Deployment Plan, Draft EM Policy Directive (T))
- (4) NOAA GC report (including conflict of interest report (T))
- (5) NOAA Enforcement Report
- (6) ADF&G Report
- (7) USCG Report
- (8) USFWS Report
- (9) Protected Species Report (including bowhead whale entanglement review)
- (10) IPHC Report (T)
- (11) 2018 Charter Halibut Management Measures
- (12) Charter Halibut Permits: Latent Capacity, RQE Ownership Caps
- (13) Self-guided Halibut Rental Boats
- (14) BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specifications—Final Specs
- (15) GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications—Final Specs
- (16) Small Sideboards
- (17) Bering Sea Cod Trawl CV Participation
- (18) Western GOA Pcod A Season Halibut PSC Rates
- (19) Western GOA Pollock C/D Season Timing Chinook PSC
- (20) Western GOA Pollock Trip Limits
- (21) Stranded Cod in GOA Trawl B Season
- (22) Fixed Gear CV Rockfish Retention
- (23) Chinook Salmon Excluder EFP Consultation
- (24) Staff Tasking

The Advisory Panel will address most of the same agenda issues as the Council.

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

- (1) BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specifications—Final Specifications
- (2) GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications—Final Specifications
- (3) Small Sideboards
- (4) Chinook Salmon Excluder EFP

In addition to providing ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, the SSC functions as the Council's primary peer review panel for scientific information as described by the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 302(g)(1)(e), and the National Standard 2 guidelines (78 FR 43066). The peer review process is also deemed to satisfy the requirements of the Information Quality Act, including the OMB Peer Review Bulletin guidelines.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically listed 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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: November 14, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-24962 Filed 11-16-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF825

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Advisory Panel to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Boston Logan Airport, 225 McClellan Highway, Boston, MA; phone: (617) 569-5250.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Advisory Panel will review Framework Adjustment 57/ Specifications and Management Measures, review the draft alternatives under consideration, the Groundfish Plan Development Team's (PDT) impact analysis, and make recommendations on preferred alternatives to the Groundfish Committee. They will also discuss Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring and review an updated draft outline prepared by the PDT of the likely range of alternatives and make recommendations to the Committee. The Advisory Panel will also hold a discussion of possible groundfish priorities for 2018 and make recommendations to the Committee. They also plan to discuss several recent Executive Orders that have been issued about streamlining current regulations, and NOAA is seeking public input on the efficiency and effectiveness of current regulations and whether they can be improved. Discuss whether there are any regulations in the Northeast Multispecies fishery management plan that could be eliminated, improved, or streamlined. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

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 these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action

under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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

Dated: November 14, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-24959 Filed 11-16-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF804

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, December 1, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For agenda details, see

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn BWI Airport, 1516 Aero Drive, Linthicum, MD 21090; telephone: (410)-691-0500.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331 or on their Web site at www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to review and approve the EAFM based risk assessment for the Mid-Atlantic fishery resources which has been under

development since early 2017. The Committee will review the final list of elements and the evaluation of risk posed by each element as recommended by Council staff. The Committee will make recommendations to the full Council for consideration at its December meeting in Annapolis, MD.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 14, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-24956 Filed 11-16-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF801

Endangered Species; File Nos. 20590 and 20610

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Nicole Phillips, Ph.D., The University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Biological Sciences, 118 College Drive #5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406 (File No. 20590) and David Portnoy, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 (File No. 20610), have applied in due form for permits to receive and import sawfish and scalloped hammerhead shark samples for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before December 18, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File Nos. 20590 or 20610 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room

13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Skidmore (File Nos. 20590 or 20610), Malcolm Mohead (File No. 20590), or Erin Markin (File No. 20610), (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

File No. 20590: The applicant (Dr. Phillips) is requesting authorization to import tissue samples from 5 species of listed sawfish including the smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*), largetooth sawfish (*P. pristis*), green sawfish (*P. zijsron*), dwarf sawfish (*P. clavata*), and narrow sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidate*) to assess the impact of population decline through genetic diversity. This study will use tissue samples obtained opportunistically from saws with known location data held in museums, educational and private collections to: (1) Assess whether there has been a recent loss of genetic diversity in sawfishes globally, and (2) evaluate the long-term survival outlook for sawfishes. The applicant proposes to import tissue samples from up to a total of 500 sawfish specimens, from all species, annually from at least Mexico, Belize, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Australia to The University of Southern Mississippi for analysis. The requested duration of the permit is five years.

File No. 20610: The applicant (Dr. Portnoy) is requesting authorization to import scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) tissue in the form of fin clips or small muscle biopsies from Belize (Central & SW Atlantic DPS, up to 50 samples), Trinidad (Central & SW Atlantic DPS, up to 50 samples), Mexico (Eastern Pacific DPS, up to 100 samples; NW Atlantic & GOM DPS, up to 50