

Permit No.	RIN	Applicant	Previous Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
20590	0648-XF801	Nicole Phillips, Ph.D., The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive No. 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406.	82 FR 54334; November 17, 2017	February 22, 2018.
20610	0648-XF801	David Portnoy, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX 78412.	82 FR 54334; November 17, 2017	February 27, 2018.
21111	0648-XF485	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037 (Responsible Party: Lisa Ballance, Ph.D.).	82 FR 31948; July 11, 2017	February 15, 2018.
21198	0648-XF861	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Southeast Regional Office, Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30602 (Responsible Party: Allan Brown).	82 FR 57954; December 8, 2017	February 08, 2018.
21260	0648-XF827	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, 1845 Wasp Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96818 (Responsible Party: Charles Littnan, Ph.D.).	82 FR 56815; November 30, 2017	February 28, 2018.
21386	0648-XF909	North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 69, Barrow, AK 99723 (Responsible Party: Taqulik Hepa).	82 FR 60967; December 26, 2017	February 15, 2018.
21434	0648-XF861	Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, 904 South Morris Street, Oxford, MD 21654 (Responsible Party: Brian Richardson).	82 FR 57954; December 8, 2017	February 8, 2018.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

As required by the ESA, as applicable, issuance of these permit was based on a finding that such permits: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

Authority: The requested permits have been issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), 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), as applicable.

Dated: March 27, 2018.

Julia Harrison,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–06497 Filed 3–29–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XG124

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its Protected Species Advisory Committee (PSAC) meeting to review relevant sections of the draft 2017 annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report for the Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), American Samoa Archipelago FEP, Hawaii FEP, Mariana Archipelago FEP and Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA) FEP. The PSAC will also receive updates on matters related to fishery management and may make recommendations on these topics.

DATES: The meetings will be held between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on April 19 and 20, 2018. For the agenda, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The PSAC meeting will be held at the Council office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, phone: (808) 522–8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; phone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change and will be announced in advance at the meeting. The meeting will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Agenda

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Status of the Fourth Protected Species Advisory Committee Meeting Recommendations
4. Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act Updates
5. Insular and Pelagic Non-Longline Fisheries Issues
 - A. Review of the Draft 2017 FEP Annual SAFE Report for Insular Fisheries
 - i. Summary of relevant fishery data
 - ii. Protected species section
 - iii. Discussion and synthesis
 - B. Review of the Draft 2017 FEP Annual SAFE Report for Pelagic Non-Longline Fisheries
 - i. Summary of relevant fishery data
 - ii. Protected species section
 - iii. Discussion and synthesis
 - C. Council Fishery Actions on Insular

- and Pelagic Non-Longline Fisheries
6. Council's Research Priorities
 - A. Five-year Research Priorities
 - B. Cooperative Research Priorities
 - C. Discussion
 7. Public Comment

Friday, April 20, 2018, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8. Pelagic Longline Fisheries Issues
 - A. Review of the Draft 2017 FEP Annual SAFE Report
 - i. Summary of relevant fishery data: 2017 Hawaii and American Samoa Logbook Reports
 - ii. 2017 Protected species section
 - iii. 2017 Albatross Workshop Report
 - iv. Olive ridley and leatherback turtle analysis
 - v. Developing a standardized metric to monitor protected species interactions
 - vi. Discussion and synthesis
 - B. Council Fishery Actions on Pelagic Longline Fisheries
 - i. Framework for Managing Sea Turtle Interactions in the Hawaii Shallow-set Longline Fishery
 - a. Overview of the action
 - b. Characterization of loggerhead turtle interactions in the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery
 - c. Review of sea turtle impacts assessment approaches
 - ii. Other actions
 - C. Discussion on Emerging Issues, Data Gaps and Research Needs
9. Public Comment
10. Committee Discussion and Recommendations
11. Other Business and Next Meeting

Special Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 27, 2018.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-06484 Filed 3-29-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG123

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold two public scoping meetings via webinar pertaining to Amendment 42 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) of the South Atlantic Region. The amendment addresses modifications to sea turtle release gear requirements for the snapper grouper fishery.

DATES: The scoping meetings will be held via webinar on April 23 and April 24, 2018.

ADDRESSES: *Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The scoping meetings will be conducted via webinar accessible via the internet from the Council's website at www.safmc.net. The scoping meetings will begin at 6 p.m. Registration for the webinars is required. Registration information will be posted on the Council's website at www.safmc.net as it becomes available.

Amendment 42 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan

The draft amendment addresses changes to sea turtle release gear types for the commercial and for-hire components of the snapper grouper fishery. The National Marine Fisheries Service's Release Protocols for protected species were originally published in 2004, with updates in 2008 and 2010. A new update is ready for publication. In the pending update, three additional sea turtle release gears, used for handling and releasing incidentally caught sea turtles, have been approved by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC). The new gear requires less space on vessels while still providing the necessary function. For fishermen operating in the snapper grouper fishery to utilize the newly approved gears, they need to be listed as acceptable gear in the Snapper Grouper FMP and made a requirement in the regulations. The amendment would also revise the snapper grouper framework procedure to include modifications to protected resources release gear requirements and handling procedures after they are approved by the SEFSC to allow for

more timely modifications to these regulations.

During the scoping meetings, Council staff will present an overview of the amendment and will be available for informal discussions and to answer questions via webinar. Members of the public will have an opportunity to go on record to record their comments for consideration by the Council.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 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: March 27, 2018.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-06483 Filed 3-29-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG122

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council, NEFMC) will hold a three-day meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 through Thursday, April 19, 2018, beginning at 9 a.m. on April 17, 8:30 a.m. on April 18, and 8:30 a.m. on April 19.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355; telephone: (860) 572-0731; online at www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/connecticut/hilton-mystic-MYSMHHF/index.html.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492; www.nefmc.org.