

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting via webinar.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a webinar of its Observer Policy Committee on Friday, May 25, 2018 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 webinar will be held on Friday, May 25, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5227766963198472449>. Call in information: +1 (562) 247-8321, Attendee Access Code: 664-515-251.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar.

*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 Committee will review the draft National Marine Fisheries Service Procedural Directive on cost allocation in electronic monitoring programs for federally managed U.S. Fisheries, and consider a response. Other business will be discussed if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. 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.

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

Dated: May 7, 2018.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09953 Filed 5-9-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG235**

**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 Committee 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 Friday, June 1, 2018 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton, 1 Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; Phone: (781) 245-9300.

*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 committee will discuss the Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring draft alternatives and Plan Development Team (PDT) work related to the development of the action and make recommendations to the Council on the draft alternatives. The committee will also review Framework Adjustment 58 PDT work to date and make recommendations to the Council on items to include in the action (to be initiated at the June Council meeting). They will also review the Groundfish Advisory Panel recommendations and make recommendations to the Council.

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 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: May 7, 2018.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09956 Filed 5-9-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Marine Mammals and Endangered Species**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permits and permit amendments.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that permits or permit amendments have been issued to the following entities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

**ADDRESSES:** The permits and related documents are available for review 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore (Permit No. 21419 and Permit No. 21251), Courtney Smith

(Permit No. 21321), and Shasta McClenahan (14450-05, 14856-06, 16239-03, 17312-01, 18636-01, and 20556-01); at (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests for a permit or permit amendment had been submitted by the below-named applicants. To locate the **Federal**

**Register** notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the research, go to [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov) and search on the permit number provided in the table below.

Permit No.	RIN	Applicant	Previous <b>Federal Register</b> notice	Permit or amendment issuance date
14450-05 .....	0648-XS35 ....	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Responsible Party: Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149.	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017.	April 23, 2018.
14856-06 .....	0648-XB157 ..	Bruce R. Mate, Ph.D., Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University, Newport, OR 97365.	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017.	April 23, 2018.
16239-03 .....	0648-XC268 ..	Dan Engelhaupt, Ph.D., 1209 Independence Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455.	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017.	April 23, 2018.
17312-03 .....	0648-XC268 ..	Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Responsible Party: John Hildebrand, Ph.D.), University of California, 8635 Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA 92093 .....	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017.	April 23, 2018.
18636-01 .....	0648-XE075 ..	Iain Kerr, D.H.L., Ocean Alliance, 32 Horton Street, Gloucester, MA 01930.	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017.	April 23, 2018.
20556-01 .....	0648-XF508 ..	Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Responsible Party: Jonathan Ambrose), 2070 U.S. Highway 278 Southeast, Social Circle, GA 30025.	82 FR 32328; July 13, 2017	April 30, 2018.
21251 .....	0648-XG039 ..	Waikiki Aquarium (Responsible Party: Dr. Andrew Rossiter), 2777 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815.	83 FR 7455; February 21, 2018.	April 30, 2018.
21321 .....	0648-XG047 ..	Pacific Whale Foundation (Responsible Party: Stephanie Stack, M.Sc.), 300 Maalaea Road, Suite 211, Wailuku, HI 96793.	83 FR 8655; February 28, 2018.	April 23, 2018.
21419 .....	0648-XG029 ..	Shannon Atkinson, Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks, 17101 Point Lena Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801.	83 FR 7454; February 21, 2018.	April 23, 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 in Permit Nos. 20556-01, 21251, 21321, and 21419 are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

For Permit Nos. 14450-05, 14856-06, 16239-03, 17312-01, and 18636-01, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities on the human environment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the permit amendments would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination is documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on April 23, 2018.

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: May 7, 2018.

**Julia Marie Harrison,**  
Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-09959 Filed 5-9-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG227**

**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 Herring Committee 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 Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

*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 Herring Committee will review draft white paper on consideration of federal management for river herring and shad stocks and provide recommendations for the Council to consider at their June 2018 meeting. They will also have an initial discussion of measures to include in 2019-2021