

small compared to the available habitat around San Francisco Bay. The most likely impact to prey will be temporary behavioral avoidance of the immediate area. During pile driving and drilling, it is expected that fish and marine mammals would temporarily move to nearby locations and return to the area following cessation of in-water construction activities. Therefore, indirect effects on marine mammal prey during the construction are not expected to be substantial.

In summary and as described above, the following factors primarily support our determination that the impacts resulting from this activity are not expected to adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival:

- Mortality is not anticipated or authorized;
- Minimal impacts to marine mammal habitat are expected;
- Bubble curtain and other sound attenuating devices are used during impact pile driving will lessen the amount of behavioral disturbance and contribute to the alleviation of the likelihood of injury;
- Impacts are not occurring in rookeries, or known areas or features of special significance for foraging or reproduction in the project area;
- Anticipated incidents of Level B harassment consist of, at worst, temporary modifications in behavior; and
- Required mitigation measures (*i.e.*, shutdown zones) are expected to be effective in reducing the effects of the specified activity.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the likely effects of the specified activity on marine mammals and their habitat, and taking into consideration the implementation of the monitoring and mitigation measures, NMFS finds that the total marine mammal take from the activity will have a negligible impact on all affected marine mammal species or stocks.

Small Numbers

As noted above, only small numbers of incidental take may be authorized under Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for specified activities other than military readiness activities. The MMPA does not define small numbers and so, in practice, where estimated numbers are available, NMFS compares the number of individuals taken to the most appropriate estimation of abundance of the relevant species or stock in our determination of whether an authorization is limited to small numbers of marine mammals. Additionally, other qualitative factors

may be considered in the analysis, such as the temporal or spatial scale of the activities.

Take for all species authorized except harbor seal is less than five percent of their respective stock abundance. For harbor seal, the authorized take is less than 10 percent of the stock abundance. Based on this and the analysis contained herein of the proposed activity (including the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures) and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the population size of the affected species or stocks.

Unmitigable Adverse Impact Analysis and Determination

There are no relevant subsistence uses of the affected marine mammal stocks or species implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (incidental harassment authorizations with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is proposed for authorization or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

Dated: October 16, 2018.

Catherine Marzin,
*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2018-22923 Filed 10-19-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG575

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management AP meeting will take place November 6, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., November 7, 2018, from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and November 8, 2018, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meetings will be held at the Sirata Beach Resort and Conference Center, 5300 Gulf Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL 33706; phone: (727) 363-5100.

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 Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management AP meeting is open to the public and will be available via webinar as it occurs. Registration is required. Webinar registration information and other meeting materials will be posted to the Council's website at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/current-advisory-panel-meetings/> as it becomes available.

The Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management AP meeting agenda will include the following: An update on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Navy Fleet Training and Testing Area cooperatively developed by the Navy

and NOAA Fisheries; be provided an update and provide comments on Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) energy development activities with a focus on Renewable Energy development and industry planning in North Carolina and developing plans for other South Atlantic States; review and provide input on Council Web Services refinements developed for the Fishery Ecosystem II Dashboard; receive an overview of frigate and bullet mackerel as prey supporting the dolphin wahoo fisheries; receive an update on fishery independent research programs supporting stock and habitat assessment and ecosystem modelling including the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP-SA), Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction (MARMAP) and Southeast Fishery-Independent Survey (SEFIS); and receive a presentation on the ongoing mapping and characterization of South Atlantic deepwater by NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and the NOAA research vessel Okeanus Explorer ecosystems which serve as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)—Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC). The AP meeting will also include a discussion/breakout session to provide input on refining EFH information and online access for regional partner development of Environmental Impact Statements and supporting information for permit review addressing non-fishing threats in the region. AP members will also receive an update on NOAA Fisheries Ecosystem Based Fishery Management activities including a Climate Vulnerability Analysis, Ecosystem Status Report, Community Vulnerability and Ecosystem modelling. The AP will develop recommendations as necessary for consideration by the Council's Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee.

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: October 17, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-22990 Filed 10-19-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG531

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

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

ACTION: Notice of SEDAR 63 Review Workshop for Gulf of Mexico Menhaden.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 63 assessment of the Gulf of Mexico stock of Menhaden will be reviewed by an independent Panel at the Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

DATES: The SEDAR 63 Review Workshop will be held on November 6, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.; and November 7, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from, or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The SEDAR 63 Review Workshop will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton French Quarter Hotel, 541 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA 70130; phone: (504) 648-2322.

SEDAR address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405; www.sedarweb.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Byrd, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4366; email: julia.byrd@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing a workshop and webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report, which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which

datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report, which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: Data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Review Workshop are as follows:

Independent peer review of the assessment developed during the Data Workshop and Assessment Process. Panelists will review the assessment and document their comments and recommendations in a Summary Report.

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.*