

effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) USACE's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on 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 proposed action with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment.

Accordingly, NMFS determined that the issuance of the initial IHA qualified to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. NMFS has determined that the application of this categorical exclusion remains appropriate for this reissued IHA.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally, in this case with the Alaska Regional Office, whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

The effects of this proposed Federal action were adequately analyzed in NMFS' Biological Opinion for the Port of Nome Modification Project, dated July 27, 2023, which concluded that the take NMFS proposed to authorize through this IHA would not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or destroy or adversely modify any designated critical habitat.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to the USACE for in-water construction activities associated with the specified activity from May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026. All previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements from the initial 2021 IHA are incorporated.

Dated: April 17, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-08583 Filed 4-22-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD890]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings and Request for Comments

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

ACTION: Notice; public meetings and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold three public hearings (one as a webinar) and accept written comments regarding an action intended to revise the species separation requirements in the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries.

DATES: The hearings will be held between May 9, 2024 and May 16, 2024. Written comments must be received by May 30, 2024. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details, including the dates and times for all hearings.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for hearing details.

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

Written comments may be submitted to:

- *Email to:* jcoakley@mafmc.org (use subject "SCOQ Species Separation").

- *Via webform at:* <https://www.mafmc.org/comments/scoq-species-separation>.

- *Mail to:* Chris Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope "SCOQ Species Separation."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold three public hearings and accept written comments regarding an action intended to modify the current

species separation requirements in the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries. Additional details, including the public hearing document can be found at: <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-species-separation>.

Hearing 1—Webinar. Thursday, May 9, 2024. 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Connection details can be found at the Council's website calendar or <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-species-separation>.

Hearing 2—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Tuesday May 14, 2024. 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport. 9000 Bartram Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153; phone: (215) 365-4500.

Hearing 3—Braintree, Massachusetts. Thursday, May 16, 2024. 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Hyatt Place Boston/Braintree 50 Forbes Rd, Braintree, MA 02184; phone: (781) 848-0600.

Written comments are accepted at the hearings or via the submission methods described above, from May 1, 2024–May 30, 2024.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 18, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-08653 Filed 4-22-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Fastener Quality Act Insignia Recordal Process

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0028 Fastener Quality Act Insignia Recordal