

TABLE 6—FEC SURVEY TAKE ANALYSIS <sup>1</sup>—Continued

Species	Authorized take	Abundance <sup>2</sup>	Percent abundance
Risso's dolphin .....	0	1,974	n/a
Blackfish <sup>3</sup> .....	0	9,535	n/a
Short-finned pilot whale .....	0	3,277	n/a

<sup>1</sup> Scalar ratios were not applied in this case due to brief survey duration.

<sup>2</sup> Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Garrison *et al.*, 2023). For Rice's whale, Atlantic spotted dolphin, spinner dolphin, and Risso's dolphin, the estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

<sup>3</sup> The "blackfish" guild includes melon-headed whales, false killer whales, pygmy killer whales, and killer whales.

Based on the analysis contained herein of WesternGeco's, TGS', FEC's, bp's, Viridien's, and LLOG's planned survey activities described in their respective LOA applications and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that for each LOA small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes (*i.e.*, less than one-third of the best available abundance estimate) and therefore the taking is of no more than small numbers for each LOA.

**Authorization**

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for each LOA request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under each LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued LOAs to WesternGeco, TGS, FEC, bp, Viridien, and LLOG, authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: May 4, 2026.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

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

**Endnotes**

<sup>i</sup> For purposes of acoustic exposure modeling, the GOA was divided into seven zones. Zone 1 is not included in the geographic scope of the rule.

<sup>ii</sup> Acoustic propagation modeling was performed for two seasons: Winter (December–March) and Summer (April–November). Marine mammal density data is generally available on a monthly basis, and therefore further refines take estimates temporally.

[FR Doc. 2026–09060 Filed 5–6–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Science Advisory Board**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth a new schedule and proposed agenda for a meeting of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) that will take place on June 4, 2026. During this meeting members will discuss issues outlined in the section on Matters to be Considered.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time ET. The time and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. For the latest agenda please refer to the SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/current-meetings/>.

**ADDRESSES:** The June 4, 2026 meeting will take place virtually. The link for the meeting will be posted, when available, on the SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/current-meetings/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Casey Stewart, Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11360, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone Number: 240–381–0833; Email: [noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov](mailto:noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov); or visit the SAB website at <https://sab.noaa.gov/current-meetings/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NOAA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) was originally established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997. In 2017, the SAB became a non-discretionary committee when Congress mandated that the SAB shall continue to maintain two specific subcommittees [Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Pub. L. 115–25) §§ 401, 508]. The SAB is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on long- and short-range strategies for research, education and

the application of science to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

*Status:* The June 4, 2026, meeting will be open to public participation with a 20-minute public comment period at time allocated on the published agenda. Public statements presented at the meeting should not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three minutes. Written comments for the June 4, 2026 meeting should be received by the SAB Executive Director's Office ([noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov](mailto:noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov)) by June 1, 2026 to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after this date will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

*Special Accommodations:* This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to the SAB Executive Director no later than 12:00 p.m. EDT on June 1, 2026.

*Matters to be Considered:* The meeting on June 4, 2026 will include the following topic(s): (1) A consent calendar for approval of the March 10–11, Minutes, (2) Working groups reports on several different topics for approval and submission to NOAA, (3) and review of the NOAA Cooperative Institute Review for Cooperative Institute for Climate, Ocean, & Ecosystem Studies (CICOES) and the Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology (CIROH) scientific programs.

Meeting materials, including work products, will also be available on the

SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/current-meetings/>.

**Nikola M. Garber,**

*Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2026–09062 Filed 5–6–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF762]

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council—Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Citizen Science Operations Advisory Panel via webinar.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Citizen Science Operations Advisory Panel (AP) via webinar on June 4, 2026.

**DATES:** The Citizen Science Operations AP meeting will be held via webinar on Thursday, June 4, 2026, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Meeting address: The meeting will be held via webinar and is open to the public. Webinar registration information and additional meeting details are available from the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/events/june-2026-citizen-science-operations-ap-meeting/>. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julia Byrd, Citizen Science Program Manager, SAFMC; phone 843/302–8439 or toll free 866/SAFMC–10; FAX 843/769–4520; email: [julia.byrd@safmc.net](mailto:julia.byrd@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Citizen Science Operations AP serves as advisors to the Council's Citizen Science Program. AP members include representatives from the Council's Citizen Science Advisory Panel Pool, NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and the Council's Science and Statistical

Committee. Their responsibilities include developing programmatic recommendations, reviewing policies, providing program direction/multi-partner support, identifying citizen science research needs, and providing general advice. Agenda items for this meeting include: a Citizen Science Program and Project update; discussion on tracking and sharing the Citizen Science Program Indicators; discussion on Citizen Science Program growth; and Operations AP membership reappointments and applications; and other business.

*Special Accommodations:* The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 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: May 5, 2026.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026–09051 Filed 5–6–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE974]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to S50S/LNG and S499 Bulkheads Replacement Project at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island

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

**ACTION:** Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorizations; request for comments on proposed authorizations and possible renewals.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the United States Navy (Navy) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to construction activities associated with the S50S/LNG and S499 Bulkheads Replacement Project at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport, Rhode Island (RI). Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue two consecutive 1-year incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on

possible one-time, 1-year renewals for each IHA that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met, as described in the Request for Public Comments section at the end of this notice. NMFS will consider public comments prior to making any final decision on the issuance of the requested MMPA authorizations.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than June 8, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS and should be submitted via email to [ITP.esch@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.esch@noaa.gov). Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>.

In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

*Instructions:* NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carter Esch, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS (301) 427–8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Section 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are proposed or, if the taking is limited to