

Council takes final action
Commission considers initiating addendum

Council Convenes With the ASMFC Bluefish Management Board

2027 Bluefish Specifications

Review recommendations from the SSC, Monitoring Committee, Advisory Panel, and staff

Review previously adopted 2027 specifications, including commercial and recreational measures, and revise as necessary

ASMFC Bluefish Board Only

ASMFC Bluefish Fishery Management Plan review

Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Overview and Recruiting

Review program status and provide feedback

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Business Session

Committee Reports (Scientific and Statistical Committee, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel); Executive Director's Report; Organization Reports; and Liaison Reports

Other Business and General Public Comment

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions 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).

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: July 22, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-15032 Filed 7-23-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF745]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Aak'w Landing Development Project, Juneau, Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to Turnagain Marine Construction (TMC) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Aak'w Landing Development Project in Juneau, Alaska.

DATES: This authorization is effective for 1 year from the date of notification by the IHA-holder, not to exceed 1 year from the date of issuance (July 20, 2026).

ADDRESSES: 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-sector>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jaclyn Daly, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

MMPA Background and Determinations

The MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Among the exceptions is section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) which directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment 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 the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed IHA.

Specifically, NMFS shall issue an IHA if it finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other "means of effecting the least [practicable] adverse impact" on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as "mitigation"). NMFS must also prescribe requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definitions of key terms, such as "take," "harassment," and "negligible impact," can be found in the MMPA and the NMFS' implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

On April 14, 2026, a notice of NMFS' proposal to issue an IHA to TMC for take of marine mammals incidental to the Aak'w Landing Development Project in Juneau, Alaska was published in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 20110). In that notice, NMFS indicated the estimated numbers, type, and methods of incidental take proposed for each species or stock, as well as the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures that would be required should the IHA be issued. The **Federal Register** notice also included analysis to support NMFS' preliminary conclusions and determinations that the IHA, if issued, would satisfy the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for issuance of the IHA. The **Federal Register** notice included web links to a draft IHA for review, as well as other supporting documents.

No public comments were received during the public comment period. With the exception of the minor changes to the amount of Steller sea lion takes authorized, as described below, there are no changes to the specified activity, the species taken, the proposed numbers, type, or methods of take, or the mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures in the proposed IHA notice. Further, no new information that would change any of the preliminary analyses, conclusions, or determinations in the proposed IHA notice has become available since that notice was published, and therefore, the preliminary analyses, conclusions, and determinations included in the proposed IHA are considered final.

Changes From the Proposed IHA to the Final IHA

In their application, TMC requested a total of 1023 takes of Steller sea lions incidental to the project (576 by Level A harassment and 447 by Level B harassment). As described in the proposed IHA notice, the method for calculating takes was based on the number of days of the project, expected occurrence rates, and the addition of 199 instances of Level B harassment to account for Steller sea lions at the Circle Point haulout (91 FR 20131). NMFS carried forward the request for 447 takes by Level B harassment in the notice of proposed IHA (441 takes of the eastern stock and 6 takes of the western stock). However, during the public comment period, NMFS identified that TMC mistakenly added 119 takes to the number of takes, by Level B harassment, requested (not 199 as described in the application and proposed IHA notice). NMFS subsequently confirmed this error with TMC and has authorized the correct total of 527 takes by Level B harassment of Steller sea lions (519 takes of the eastern stock and 8 takes of the western stock) which accurately follows the method described in the proposed IHA notice. NMFS also considered the amount of take for each Steller sea lion distinct population segment, as identified in the associated biological opinion and incidental take statement, issued on June 23, 2026. The amount of take authorized aligns with the ESA analysis.

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 (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 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 proposed IHA qualifies for categorical exclusion from further NEPA review.

Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency ensures 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 whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

NMFS authorized take of the Western distinct population segment (DPS) of Steller sea lions and Mexico and Western North Pacific DPSs of humpback whale, which are listed under the ESA. On June 23, 2026, NMFS Alaska Regional Office issued a biological opinion under section 7 of the ESA, on the issuance of an IHA and potential renewal to TMC under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS Office of Protected Resources. The biological opinion concluded that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of these species and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

Authorization

Accordingly, consistent with the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA, NMFS has issued an IHA to TMC for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Aak'w Landing Development Project in Juneau, Alaska.

Dated: July 21, 2026.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF894]

Fisheries of the Caribbean; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of development workshop.

SUMMARY: The Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 103 assessment process of Caribbean Application of Alternate Assessment Methods will consist of a Development Workshop, followed by a series of Application of Alternate Assessment Methods Webinars and a Review

Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SEDAR 103 Caribbean Application of Alternate Assessment Methods Development Workshop will be held from 1 p.m. on August 17, 2026, until 1 p.m. on August 21, 2026.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The SEDAR 103 Development Workshop will be held in person at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Miami Airport located at 3974 NW South River Dr, Miami, FL 33142. 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.

SEDAR address: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405. www.sedarweb.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Emily Ott, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 302–8434. Email: Emily.Ott@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with the NMFS and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the SEDAR process. SEDAR is a participatory process for developing, evaluating and reviewing information used for fisheries management advice. This multi-step process for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region may include (1) a Data stage, and (2) an Assessment stage, and (3) a Review stage. Each stage produces a report summarizing decisions made during that stage. A final stock assessment report is produced at the end of a SEDAR process documenting data sets used, model configurations and the opinions from the independent peer review. Participants for SEDAR projects are appointed by the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants may include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and Federal agencies.

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

A suite of alternate assessment methods suitable and practical for