

Small Numbers Determination

Under the rule, NMFS may not authorize incidental take of marine mammals in an LOA if it will exceed “small numbers.” In short, when an acceptable estimate of the individual marine mammals taken is available, if the estimated number of individual animals taken is up to, but not greater than, one-third of the best available abundance estimate, NMFS will determine that the numbers of marine mammals taken of a species or stock are

small (91 FR 20784, April 17, 2026). For more information, please see NMFS’ discussion of small numbers in the 2026 final rule (91 FR 20784, April 17, 2026). The take numbers for authorization are determined as described above and in the **Federal Register** notice of issuance for the original LOA (91 FR 24809, May 7, 2026), are used by NMFS in making the necessary small numbers determinations, through comparison with the best available abundance estimates (see discussion at 91 FR 20784, 20812, April 17, 2026). For this

comparison, NMFS’ approach is to use the maximum theoretical population, determined through review of current Stock Assessment Reports (SARs; <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessments>) and model-predicted abundance information (<https://seamap.env.duke.edu/models/SEFSC/GOM>). Information supporting the small numbers determinations is provided in table 1.

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS ¹

Species	Authorized take	Abundance ²	Percent abundance
Rice’s whale	0	51	n/a
Sperm whale	0	2,451	n/a
Kogia spp	0	1,385	n/a
Beaked whales	0	1,038	n/a
Rough-toothed dolphin	14	4,853	0.3
Bottlenose dolphin	1,961	166,538	1.2
Clymene dolphin	0	6,136	n/a
Atlantic spotted dolphin	109	21,506	0.5
Pantropical spotted dolphin	0	50,209	n/a
Spinner dolphin	0	2,991	n/a
Striped dolphin	0	16,102	n/a
Fraser’s dolphin	0	1,665	n/a
Risso’s dolphin	0	1,974	n/a
Blackfish ³	0	9,535	n/a
Short-finned pilot whale	0	3,277	n/a

¹ Scalar ratios were not applied in this case due to brief survey duration.
² 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.
³ The “blackfish” guild includes melon-headed whales, false killer whales, pygmy killer whales, and killer whales.

Based on the analysis contained herein of FEC’s proposed survey activity described in its LOA application, as subsequently modified by FEC, and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that 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.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA modification 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 the LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued a modification to the LOA to FEC authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: September 1, 2026.
Kimberly Damon-Randall,
Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2026–18142 Filed 9–3–26; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Reporting Requirements for the Ocean Salmon Fishery Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general

public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on June 22, 2026, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.
Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
Title: Reporting Requirements for the Ocean Salmon Fishery Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California.
OMB Control Number: 0648–0433.
Form Number(s): None.
Type of Request: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).
Number of Respondents: 40.
Average Hours per Response: 15 minutes.
Total Annual Burden Hours: 10 hours.
Needs and Uses: This is a request for an extension of a currently approved information collection. Ocean salmon

fisheries conducted in the U.S. exclusive economic zone, 3–200 nautical miles off the West Coast states of Washington, Oregon, and California are managed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Management measures for the ocean salmon fisheries are set annually, consistent with the Council's Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The FMP provides a framework for managing the ocean salmon fisheries in a sustainable manner, as required under the MSA, through the use of conservation objectives, annual catch limits and other management measures, reference points and status determination criteria described in the FMP. To meet these criteria, annual management measures, published in the **Federal Register** by NMFS, specify regulatory areas, catch restrictions, and landing restrictions based on the stock abundance forecasts. These catch and landing restrictions include area-, time- and species-specific quotas for the commercial ocean salmon fishery and generally require catch and landings to be reported to the appropriate state and tribal agencies to allow for timely and accurate accounting of the season's catch (50 CFR 660.404 and 50 CFR 660.408(o)). The best available catch and effort data and projections are presented by the state fishery managers in telephone conference calls involving the NMFS Regional Administrator and representatives of the Council. However, NMFS acknowledges that unsafe weather or mechanical problems could prevent commercial fishermen from making their landings at the times and places specified, and the MSA requires conservation and management measures to promote the safety of human life at sea. Therefore, the annual management measures will include provisions to exempt commercial salmon fishermen from compliance with the landing requirements when they experience unsafe weather conditions or mechanical problems at sea, so long as the appropriate notifications are made by, for example, at-sea radio and cellular telephone, and information on catch and other required information is given, under this collection of information.

In addition, NMFS has established measures to keep fishery impacts within conservation objectives for the California Coastal Chinook salmon (50 CFR 660.410(d)(3)). This information collection assists in the management of

the landing and possession limits to stay within established quotas for the California commercial salmon troll fishery. The State of California requires that fish tickets with the number of Chinook salmon landed be entered into the California Department of Fish and Wildlife electronic landing database. NMFS requires that this be completed within 24 hours of landing.

The annual management measures will specify the contents and procedure of the notifications, and the entities receiving the notifications (e.g., United States Coast Guard). Absent this requirement by the Council, the state reporting systems would not regularly collect this specific type of in-season radio report or electronic landing data. These provisions, and this federal collection of information, promote safety at sea, provide practical utility for sustainably managing the fishery, and ensure regulatory consistency across each state by implementing the same requirements in the territorial waters off each state. This information collection is intended to be general in scope by leaving the specifics of the notifications for annual determination, thus providing flexibility in responding to salmon management concerns in any given year.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Reporting under this emergency provision is infrequent.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

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

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0433.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2026–18180 Filed 9–3–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XG038]

Gulf Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) will hold a 2-day in-person meeting of its Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will be held in-person on Tuesday, September 29 (8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.) and Wednesday, September 30 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), 2026.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Gulf Council's office located at 4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607. Hybrid connection information will be available on the Council's website at www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the "meeting tab".

Council address: Gulf Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ryan Rindone, Lead Fishery Biologist, Gulf Fishery Management Council; ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org, telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, September 29, 2026; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. EDT

The meeting will begin with introductions and adoption of agenda, review and approval of Meeting Minutes and Summary from the July 2026 SSC meeting, and Scope of Work.

The SSCs will review and discuss SEDAR 94 West Florida Hogfish Stock Assessment, Mississippi and Alabama Creel Surveys, and Results of the 2024 Marine Recreational Information Program Pilot Study and Data Recalibration, including presentations, background materials and SSC Discussion.

Public comments, if any, will be heard at the end of the day.

Wednesday, September 30, 2026; 9 a.m.–3 p.m. EDT

The SSC will review and discuss SEDAR 94 West Florida Hogfish Yield Projections, SHELF Egg Project, Social Science Questionnaire for Gulf Species,