

presentation from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center on in-season catch monitoring for Atlantic Spanish mackerel. Finally, the AP will update their fishery performance reports for Atlantic king mackerel and Atlantic Spanish mackerel.

Special Accommodations: These meetings are 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: September 24, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-19781 Filed 9-25-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XG082]

Marine Mammals; File No. 29889

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS' Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8901 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037 (Responsible Party: Douglas Krause, Ph.D.), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on pinnipeds in the Antarctic peninsula region.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 28, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 29889 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Young or Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the

authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to take six pinniped species in the Antarctic Peninsula region, primarily at Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, as part of a long-term ecosystem monitoring and research program established in 1986. The six species are: Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*), southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophaga*), leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*), and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*). The applicant also requests permission to import tissue samples collected from any animals captured and from salvaged carcasses of any species of pinniped or cetacean found in the study area.

The applicant requests to capture and handle Antarctic fur seals, leopard seals, and Weddell seals. Research on captured animals could include administering drugs or other substances, capture and restraint, external and internal instrumentation, other intrusive sampling, and marking. Additional Antarctic fur seals, leopard seals, and Weddell seals, as well as southern elephant seals, crabeater seals, and Ross seals would be taken annually by harassment during aerial and ground surveys, including behavioral observations, photo-identification, and use of uncrewed aircraft systems. The applicant has requested an annual mortality allowance of: two Antarctic fur seal adults or juveniles; five Antarctic fur seal pups; two leopard seal adults or juveniles; and two Weddell seal adults or juveniles. The research would occur over 10 years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 24, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-19789 Filed 9-25-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XG083]

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 Executive Committee.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Executive Committee via webinar to discuss staff benefits and the Council budget and workplan.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held via webinar. Webinar registration is required.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405. Details are included in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Carmichael, Executive Director, SAFMC; phone (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; FAX (843) 769-4520; email: john.carmichael@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting information, including the webinar registration link, online public comment form, agenda, and briefing book materials will be posted on the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/council-meetings/>. Comments become part of the Administrative Record of the meeting and will automatically be posted to the website and available for Council consideration.

At this meeting the Council's Executive Committee will review the 2026 Council budget status, planned activities for 2027, and the draft 2027 operating budget. The Committee will also consider paid parental leave benefits for Council staff and planning for public hearings. The meeting will include a closed session to discuss personnel and contract topics.

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