

Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panels on April 2, 2019 (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES**). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss potential changes to commercial management measures, including the state-by-state commercial quota allocations managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, federal in-season closure regulations, and other measures. The Council recently initiated an amendment to consider these and other issues; however, they agreed to postpone development of management alternatives until later in the year after the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Black Sea Bass Commercial Working Group has made further progress on options for revisions to the state-by-state commercial quota allocations.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 14, 2019.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-05124 Filed 3-18-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG875

Marine Mammals; File No. 22311

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that David Johnston, Ph.D., Duke University, Marine Science and Conservation, 135 Duke Marine Lab Road, Beaufort, NC 28516, has applied in due form for a permit to receive specimens of northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before April 18, 2019.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page,

<https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 22311 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 3705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. 22311 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Carrie Hubard, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216) and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to receive fur samples from up to 20 northern fur seals taken during subsistence hunts in Alaska. These samples will be used in the development of a new adhesive system for rapidly affixing biologging tags to seals and sea lions. The requested duration of the permit is five 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: March 14, 2019.

Julia Marie Harrison,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-05125 Filed 3-18-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG895

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 739-3000.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The committee will discuss and develop options, strengths, and weaknesses of several strategies for permitting vessels to fish and receive catch allocations which could be consistent with example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) catch management. It is not the intent to reduce capacity or re-qualify vessels and the committee will not discuss specific qualification criteria at this time. These strategies will eventually be incorporated into a draft Georges Bank eFEP. The committee will also discuss related business, including additional tasking for the Plan Development Team to complete a draft eFEP. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this

notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 14, 2019.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-05123 Filed 3-18-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG891

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice; public listening sessions.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold seven listening sessions and one webinar to solicit public comments on a possible limited access program for the recreational party and charter fishery to the Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) Fishery Management Plan. **DATES:** Written public comments must be received on or before 5 p.m. EST, Friday, May 17, 2019. These meetings will be held between April 4, 2019 and May 10, 2019. For specific dates and times see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The hearings will be held in Seabrook, NH, Avalon, NJ, Wells, ME, Narragansett, RI, Chatham, MA, Plymouth, MA and Gloucester, MA. For specific locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

Public comments: Mail to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill #2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Mark the outside of the envelope

“Listening Sessions for the Recreational Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Party and Charter Fishery”. Comments may also be sent via fax to (978) 465-3116 or submitted via email to comments@nefmc.org with “Listening Sessions for the Recreational Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Party and Charter Fishery” in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council is seeking public input on the possibility of developing a limited access program for the recreational groundfish party and charter fishery. After information is gathered through the listening sessions, the Groundfish Committee will consider possibly recommending to the Council an initiation of an amendment, with input from the Recreational Advisory Panel and Groundfish Plan Development Team, through a series of public meetings during 2019. The schedule is as follows:

1. Thursday, April 4, 2019 from 5:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m.; Seabrook Public Library, 25 Liberty Lane, Seabrook, NH; phone: (603) 474-2044.

2. Monday, April 8, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.; Icona Golden Inn, 7849 Dune Drive, Avalon, NJ; phone: (609) 368-5155.

3. Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 5:45-7:45 p.m.; Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, ME; phone: (207) 646-8181.

4. Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.; Corless Auditorium, University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882; phone: (401) 874-6222.

5. Tuesday, May 7, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.; Chatham Community Center, 702 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633; phone: (508) 945-5175

6. Wednesday, May 8, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.; Hampton Inn, 10 Plaza Way, Plymouth, MA; phone: (508) 747-5000.

7. Thursday, May 9, 2019 from 5:45-7:45 p.m.; Sawyer Free Library, 2 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA; phone: (978) 281-9763.

8. Friday, May 10, 2019 from 1-3 p.m.; Webinar Session; Register to participate <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8873736532644639746>. Audio only call +1 (213) 929-4232; access code 494-243-526.

Additional information is available on the Council website, <https://www.nefmc.org/library/limited-access-listening-sessions-for-recreational->

fisheries. The public also should be aware that the sessions will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas Nies (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 14, 2019.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-05122 Filed 3-18-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG893

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 177th Council meeting by teleconference and webinar to take actions on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region. The Council will also hold a Biological Opinion Review Advisory Panel meeting by teleconference and webinar.

DATES: The Biological Opinion Review Advisory Panel meeting will be held on April 2, 2019, and the 177th Council meeting will be held on April 4, 2019. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held by teleconference and webinar. The teleconference numbers are U.S. toll-free (888) 482-3560 or International Access: +1 (647) 723-3959, and Access Code: 5228220. The webinar can be accessed at: <https://wprfmc.webex.com/join/info.wpcouncilnoaa.gov>.

The host site for the Biological Opinion Review Advisory Panel meeting teleconference will be the Council Conference Room, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI. The following venues will also be host sites for the 177th Council Meeting