

U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226), as applicable.

Dated: October 18, 2017.

**Julia Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017–22899 Filed 10–20–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XF755**

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) will meet to discuss proposed changes to management of the snapper grouper fishery, provide information, and receive updates. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The Snapper Grouper AP meeting will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel; 4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Snapper Grouper AP will review and provide recommendations on developing amendments to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (recreational and commercial visioning amendments and best fishing practices and recreational reporting amendment);

provide information to develop fishery performance reports on black sea bass and vermilion snapper; and receive updates on items including stock assessments, recreational data reporting projects, a proposed moratorium on for-hire permits, and other items.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business 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: October 18, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XF771**

#### Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meetings and hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a CNMI joint advisory group meeting consisting of the Council’s CNMI Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (REAC), CNMI Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Advisory Panel (AP) and CNMI members of its Plan Team, Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC), Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and Marine Planning and Climate Change Committee (MPCCC); and a Guam joint advisory group meeting consisting of the Council’s Guam REAC and Guam members of its Plan Team, FIAC, SSC, and MPCCC to discuss and make recommendations on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

**DATES:** The CNMI joint advisory group will meet on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and the Guam joint advisory group will meet on Friday, November 17, 2017, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. All times listed are local island times.

For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The CNMI joint advisory group meeting will be held at Saipan Fiesta Resort and Spa, P.O. Box 50129, Saipan, MP 96950, telephone: (670) 234–6412. The Guam joint advisory group meeting will be held at Hilton Guam Resort and Spa, 202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay, Guam 96913, telephone: (671) 646–1835.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public comment periods will be provided in the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

#### Schedule and Agenda for the CNMI Joint Advisory Group Meeting

*Wednesday, November 15, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.*

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Essential Fish Habitat
  - A. Update on Habitat Program
  - B. EFH Levels of Information
  - C. Review of Non-Fishing Impacts to EFH
  - D. Coordination on Non-Fishing Issues
3. Aquaculture Management
4. Public Comment
5. Other Business
6. Discussion and Recommendations
7. Training on Climate and Fisheries
  - A. Reason for Training
    - I. Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report
    - II. Fishing community outreach
    - B. Overview of Indicators
    - C. Climate variability: Oceanic nino index, pacific decadal oscillation
      - I. Overview and questions
      - II. Small group discussions
      - III. Plenary report out and discussion
    - D. Heat: Sea Surface Temperature, Degree Heating Week
    - E. Ocean acidification: Oceanic pH
    - F. Catchability: Sea level, sea surface height, wave energy and related factors (rough seas, winds, turbidity)
    - G. Discussion on scope of climate indicators being monitored

#### Schedule and Agenda for the Guam Joint Advisory Group Meeting

*Friday, November 17, 2017, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.*

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Essential Fish Habitat
  - A. Update on Habitat Program
  - B. EFH Levels of Information

- C. Review of Non-Fishing Impacts to EFH
- D. Coordination on Non-Fishing Issues
- 3. Aquaculture Management
- 4. Public Comment
- 5. Other Business
- 6. Discussion and Recommendations
- 7. Training on Climate and Fisheries
  - A. Reason for Training
    - I. Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report
    - II. Fishing community outreach
  - B. Overview of Indicators
  - C. Climate variability: Oceanic nino index, pacific decadal oscillation
    - I. Overview and questions
    - II. Small group discussions
  - III. Plenary report out and discussion
  - D. Heat: Sea Surface Temperature, Degree Heating Week
  - E. Ocean acidification: Oceanic pH
  - F. Catchability: Sea level, sea surface height, wave energy and related factors (rough seas, winds, turbidity)
  - G. Discussion on scope of climate indicators being monitored

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 18, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017-22905 Filed 10-20-17; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF370

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Sand Point City Dock Replacement Project in Sand Point, Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine

Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) to incidentally harass, by Level A and Level B harassment, marine mammals during construction activities associated with the Sand Point City Dock Replacement Project in Sand Point, Alaska.

**DATES:** This Authorization is valid from August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rob Pauline, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. An electronic copy of ADOT&PF's application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at:

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm). In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce 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 issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

The MMPA states that the term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, kill or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as: Any act of

pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

#### 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 incidental harassment authorization) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 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 IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and signed a Categorical Exclusion memo in September 2017.

#### Summary of Request

On September 16, 2016, NMFS received an application from ADOT&PF for the taking of marine mammals incidental to replacing the city dock in Sand Point, Alaska. On April 11, 2017, ADOT&PF submitted a revised application that NMFS determined was adequate and complete. ADOT&PF proposed to conduct in-water activities that may incidentally take, by Level A and Level B harassment, nine species of marine mammals. Proposed activities included as part of the Sand Point City Dock Replacement Project with potential to affect marine mammals include impact hammer pile driving and vibratory pile driving and removal. Neither ADOT&PF nor NMFS expect mortality to result from this activity and, therefore, an IHA is appropriate.

#### Description of Specified Activities

##### Overview

We provided a description of the proposed action in our **Federal Register** notice announcing the proposed authorization (82 FR 31400; July 6, 2017; 31400-31402). Please refer to that