

assessment analyses, and describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: Data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Data/Assessment Scoping webinar are as follows: Participants will discuss data issues, as necessary, including the potential use of otolith count versus calendar ages in the assessment and discuss initial modeling issues, as needed.

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 action during this meeting. Action 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) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### 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: March 7, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-04485 Filed 3-11-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG790**

### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Acting Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This Exempted Fishing Permit would exempt seven commercial fishing vessels from limited access sea scallop regulations in support of a study on the feasibility of transplanting and monitoring scallops transplanted from one offshore area to another.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 27, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** [nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line "DA19-005 CFF Reseeding EFP."
- **Mail:** Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "DA19-005 CFF Reseeding EFP."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shannah Jaburek, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-282-8456.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Coonamesset Farm Foundation (CFF) submitted an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application in support of a project titled "Dispersal and Growth of Recently Transplanted Sea Scallops (*Placopecten magellanicus*) in an Offshore Grow-Out Area." The project would look primarily at the feasibility of transplanting/seeding scallops from one offshore area to another. The project would also demonstrate the feasibility of tracking the scallops once they have

been transplanted/seeded over a nine-month period. Researchers propose that information gained from this project on scallop growth and survival could be broadly applicable to future stock dynamic studies as well as a possible mitigation technique to help deal with global climate change.

To enable this research, CFF is requesting exemptions for seven commercial fishing vessels from the Atlantic sea scallop crew size restrictions at § 648.60(c); observer program requirements at § 648.11(g); Nantucket Lightship South and North Rotational Areas at § 648.60(e) and 648.60(g); and access area program requirements at § 648.59(a)(1)-(3), (b)(2), (b)(4).

This project would be conducted in three phases. An initial trip would harvest approximately 60 scallops to conduct a health assessment to ensure that disease transmission between areas will not occur. The second phase would have 1 vessel conducting dredging operations to harvest between 100,000-500,000 scallops on a single trip from Nantucket Lightship South and transplant them in Nantucket Lightship North. This trip would also include camera surveys when the scallops are transplanted and then at 12-, 24-, and 48-hour intervals. The third phase of the project would consist of five trips to the transplant area. The first four would only consist of camera surveys of the transplant area. The fifth and final trip would consist of a camera survey of the area and harvest activities of both natural set and transplant scallops for final size composition comparisons.

All tows to harvest scallops for transplanting would be conducted with one 15-foot (4.57 m) dredge for a duration of 10 minutes using an average tow speed of 4.5 knots. All dredge gear would conform to scallop gear regulations. A subset of approximately 10,000 scallops would be tagged with a unique identifier to both the top and bottom of the shell. An additional 25 scallops would be tagged with acoustic telemetry tags to help relocate transplanted scallop piles. All scallops, both tagged and untagged, would be lowered to the ocean bottom in covered baskets. Following transplant operations, CFF would use a stationary camera array tied on to the vessel to photographically document the drift of the transplanted scallops.

No catch sampling beyond tagging scallops would occur, therefore any non-scallop catch would not be retained for longer than needed to sort catch, and no catch would be landed for sale. All catch estimates for the project are listed in the table below.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED CATCH, BY SPECIES, FOR CFF EFP REQUEST

Common name	Estimated weight (lb)	Estimated weight (kg)
Sea Scallop .....	12,000	5,443
Yellowtail Flounder .....	20	9
Winter Flounder .....	20	9
Windowpane Flounder ....	60	27
Monkfish .....	100	45
Other Fish .....	120	54
Barndoor Skates .....	20	9
Northeast Skate Complex	500	227

CFF needs these exemptions to allow them to deploy gear in areas that are currently closed to scallop fishing. Participating vessels need crew size waivers to accommodate science personnel. The project would be exempt from the sea scallop observer program requirements because activities conducted on the trip are not consistent with normal fishing operations. Researchers from CFF will accompany each trip taken under the EFP.

The New England Fishery Management Council is currently devising a management strategy for these scallops in the 2020 fishing year and there is talk of allocating them through a specifications action. NMFS is particularly interested in receiving comment on how this EFP would intersect with the Council's developing management strategy.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: March 6, 2019.

**Karen H. Abrams,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-04413 Filed 3-11-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Estuarine Research Reserve System

**AGENCY:** Stewardship Division, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of approval for the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan revision.

**SUMMARY:** Under applicable Federal regulations, notice is hereby given that the Stewardship Division, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce approves the revised Management Plan for San Francisco Bay, California National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan. In accordance with applicable Federal regulations, the San Francisco Bay Reserve revised its Management Plan, which will replace the plan previously approved in 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bree Turner (Phone: 206-526-4641, Email: [Bree.Turner@noaa.gov](mailto:Bree.Turner@noaa.gov)) or Erica Seiden (Phone: 240-533-0781) of NOAA's National Ocean Service, Stewardship Division, Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM5, 10th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The revised Management Plan outlines the administrative structure; the research/monitoring, stewardship, education, and training programs of the Reserve; and the plans for future land acquisition and facility development to support Reserve operations.

The San Francisco Bay Reserve takes an integrated approach to management, linking research, education, coastal training, and stewardship functions. The Reserve has outlined how it will manage administration and its core program providing detailed actions that will enable it to accomplish specific goals and objectives. Since the last Management Plan, the Reserve has built out its core programs and monitoring infrastructure; conducted an educational market analysis and needs assessment to better meet teacher needs and underserved audiences; developed resource management and restoration management plans; and expanded the coastal training program through development of a five year strategy and partnership with the on-site wetland science program.

On December 21, 2017, NOAA issued a notice of a thirty day public comment period for the San Francisco Bay Reserve revised plan (82 FR 60588). Responses to the written and oral comments received, and an explanation of how comments were incorporated

into the final revised plan, are available in Appendix G of the revised plan.

The revised Management Plan will serve as the guiding document for the 3,710 acre San Francisco Bay Reserve. View the San Francisco Bay, California Reserve Management Plan at <http://www.sfbaynerr.org/resource-library/reserve-plans-reports/sf-bay-final-management-plan-2018-2023/>.

The revised management plan does not make substantial changes that are relevant to environmental concerns and does not raise significant new circumstances or information that may lead to new or different environmental impacts. It does not propose new construction, land acquisition, or changes in allowable or restricted uses. As such, the initial Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared at the time of designation is still valid and supplementation of the EIS is not required. NOAA has made the determination that the revision of the management plan will not have a significant effect on the human environment and qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A and the NOAA NEPA Companion Manual. An environmental assessment will not be prepared. Any specific actions that NOAA may fund or carry out in the future pursuant to this management plan will be subject to future NEPA and environmental review, as applicable.

**Authority:** 15 CFR 921.33.

Dated: March 4, 2019.

**Keelin Kuipers,**

*Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2019-04419 Filed 3-11-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

[Docket ID: USN-2018-HQ-0018]

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** 30-Day information collection notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 11, 2019.