

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XC814

**Mid-Atlantic 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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel (AP) will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Baltimore—BWI Airport, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, MD 21090; telephone: (410) 859–8400.

*Council Address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 526–5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this meeting is to review fishery performance and create AP Fishery Performance Reports for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass. These Fishery Performance Reports will be provided to the MAFMC and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission prior to development of specifications for the 2014 fishing year, including catch and landings limits and other management measures.

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 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the MAFMC's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for

sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 14, 2013.

**William D. Chappell,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XC703

**Endangered Species; File Nos. 17557 and 17273**

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permits.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the National Ocean Service Marine Forensic Lab (NOS Lab) [Responsible Party: M. Katherine Moore], 219 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412 (File No. 17557), and the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region, Protected Resources Division [Responsible Party: Mary Colligan], 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 (File No. 17273), have been issued permits to take marine mammal and endangered species parts for purposes of scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)427–8401; fax (301)713–0376;

File No. 17273: Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978)281–9328; fax (978)281–9394; and

File No. 17557: Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824–5312; fax (727)824–5309.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore, (301)427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 31, 2013, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 32622) that requests for a scientific research permits to take marine mammal and endangered species parts had been submitted by the above-named organizations. The requested permits have been issued

under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 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).

The NOS Lab (File No. 17557) has been issued a permit to receive, import, export, transfer, archive, and conduct analyses on an unlimited number of marine mammal and endangered species parts. Species include all cetaceans, pinnipeds (except for walrus), sea turtles (in the water), smalltooth (*Pristis pectinata*) and largetooth (*P. perotteti*) sawfish, shortnose (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), green (*A. medirostris*), Atlantic (*A. oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) and Gulf (*A. oxyrinchus desotoi*) sturgeon, black (*Haliotis cracherodii*) and white (*H. sorenseni*) abalone, chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum (*O. keta*), coho (*O. kisutch*) and sockeye (*O. nerka*) salmon, steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*), and totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*). Samples would be archived at the NOS Lab and used to support law enforcement actions, research studies (primarily genetics), and outreach education. No live takes from the wild would be authorized. The permit is valid for five years from the date of issuance.

The NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region (File No. 17273) has been issued a permit to collect, receive and transport 100 dead shortnose and 100 dead Atlantic sturgeon, or parts thereof, annually. Researchers also request authorization for the receipt and transport of up to 350 captive bred, dead shortnose sturgeon and up to 75 dead, captive bred Atlantic sturgeon annually from any U.S. facility authorized to hold captive sturgeon. The applicant requests authorization for the receipt, importation, exportation, transfer, archive and analysis of Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon parts and carcasses. Sturgeon samples would be obtained from individuals authorized to collect them in the course of scientific research, salvage activities, or taken during other authorized activities. Sturgeon parts and samples would be used to support law enforcement actions, research studies (primarily genetics), and outreach education. The permit is valid for five years from the date of issuance.

Issuance of these permits, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits (1) were applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered or threatened species, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and