

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

RIN 0648-XE975

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council—Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of informational Webinars.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold two informational Webinars pertaining to the Council's 2016–2020 Vision Blueprint for the *Snapper Grouper* Fishery.

**DATES:** The Webinars will be held on November 21, 2016, to view the agenda see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** *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, SAFMC; 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:****Agenda**

The Council will hold two Webinars to inform the public on progress to date on implementation of priority items in the 2016–2020 Vision Blueprint for the *Snapper Grouper* Fishery. The Vision Blueprint is a long-term strategic plan for managing the *snapper grouper* fishery, and has been developed with stakeholder input. The Vision Blueprint identifies the goals, objectives, strategies, and actions that support the Vision for the *snapper grouper* fishery and centers around four goal areas: (1) Science; (2) Management; (3) Communication; and (4) Governance. The informal Webinars are being held as part of an annual evaluation of the Vision Blueprint and are designed to let the public know what the Council accomplished during the year in terms of addressing priority items within the Blueprint.

The Webinars will be conducted at 10 a.m. and at 6 p.m. The Webinars will be accessible via the Internet from the “Other Meetings” page of Council's Web site, at [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net). Registration for the Webinars is required. Register for the 10 a.m. Webinar, at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6323613905978491652>. Register for the

6 p.m. Webinar, at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5214638781622248964>. Additional information about the Council's Vision Blueprint is available from the “Vision Project” page of the Council's Web site, at [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net).

**Special Accommodations**

These Webinars are physically 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, 2016.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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

RIN 0648-XE841

**Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for Effects of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic Ocean**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the availability of the “Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Effects of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic Ocean.” The purpose of the FEIS is to evaluate, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementing the alternative approaches for authorizing take of marine mammals incidental to oil and gas activities in the Arctic Ocean pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) was a cooperating agency on this FEIS, and as such, this FEIS also evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementing the alternative approaches for authorizing geological and geophysical (G&G)

surveys and concurring on ancillary activities under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) in the Arctic Ocean. The North Slope Borough (NSB) was also a cooperating agency on this FEIS. The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service were consulting agencies, and NMFS coordinated with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission pursuant to our co-management agreement under the MMPA.

**DATES:** Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as other interested parties, are invited to review this FEIS. Comments must be received on or before November 21, 2016, to be considered for our Record of Decision. The Record of Decision will include information on the alternatives considered, the preferred alternative and why we chose it, and required mitigation and monitoring.

**ADDRESSES:** The FEIS is available for review online at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/arctic.htm>. You may submit comments on this document by:

- *Email:* [Candace.Nachman@noaa.gov](mailto:Candace.Nachman@noaa.gov).
- *Fax:* (301) 713–0376, Attn: Jolie Harrison.
- *Mail:* NOAA, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13805, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: Jolie Harrison.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Candace Nachman, Office of Policy, NMFS at (301) 427–8031, or Jolie Harrison, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS at (301) 427–8401.

**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 proposed authorization is provided to the public for review. The term “take” under the MMPA means “to harass, hunt, capture or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill.” 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