

Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 109-479). The buybacks can be funded by a Federal loan to the industry or by direct Federal or other funding. Buyback regulations are at 50 CFR part 600.

The information collected by NMFS involves the submission of buyback requests by industry, submission of bids, referenda of fishery participants and reporting of collection of fees to repay buyback loans. For buybacks involving State-managed fisheries, the State may be involved in developing the buyback plan and complying with other information requirements. NMFS requests information from participating buyback participants to track repayments of the loans as well as ensure accurate management and monitoring of the loans. The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR parts 600.1013 through 600.1017 form the basis for the collection of information.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations; state, local or tribal government; individuals or households.

**Frequency:** Annually, monthly and on occasion.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Required to obtain or retain benefits.

This information collection request may be viewed at [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent

within 30 days of publication of this notice to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: May 31, 2018.

**Sarah Brabson,**  
NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG233**

**Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop and Stock Assessment Review Committee Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS and the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) will convene the 65th SAW Stock Assessment Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing stock assessments of Sea Scallop and Atlantic Herring. The Northeast Regional SAW is a formal scientific peer-review process for evaluating and presenting stock assessment results to managers for fish stocks in the offshore U.S. waters of the northwest Atlantic. Assessments are prepared by SAW working groups and reviewed by an independent panel of stock assessment experts called the

Stock Assessment Review Committee, or SARC. The public is invited to attend the presentations and discussions between the review panel and the scientists who have participated in the stock assessment process.

**DATES:** The public portion of the Stock Assessment Review Committee Meeting will be held from June 26, 2018—June 29, 2018. The meeting will commence on June 26, 2018 at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. Please see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the daily meeting agenda.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the S.H. Clark Conference Room in the Aquarium Building of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Weinberg, 508-495-2352; email: [james.weinberg@noaa.gov](mailto:james.weinberg@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For further information, please visit the NEFSC website at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov>. For additional information about the SARC meeting and the stock assessment review, please visit the NMFS/NEFSC SAW web page at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/>.

**Daily Meeting Agenda—SAW/SARC 65 Benchmark Stock Assessment for Sea Scallop and Atlantic Herring (Subject to Change; All times are approximate and may be changed at the discretion of the SARC Chair).**

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

10 a.m.–10:30 a.m .....	Welcome Introductions .....	James Weinberg, SAW Chair; and SARC Chair (TBD).
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m .....	Scallop Assessment Presentation .....	Dvora Hart.
12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m .....	Lunch.	
1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m .....	Scallop Presentation (cont.) .....	Dvora Hart.
3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m .....	Break	
3:45 p.m.–5:45 p.m .....	Scallop SARC Discussion .....	TBD, SARC Chair.
5:45 p.m.–6 p.m .....	Public Comment Period.	

*Wednesday, June 27, 2018*

8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m .....	Herring Assessment Presentation .....	Jon Deroba.
10:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m .....	Break.	
10:45 a.m.–12:30 a.m .....	Herring presentation (cont.) .....	Jon Deroba.
12:30–1:30 p.m .....	Lunch.	
1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m .....	Herring SARC Discussion.	
3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m .....	Public comments.	
3:45 p.m.–4 p.m .....	Break.	
4 p.m.–6 p.m .....	Revisit with Presenters (Scallop).	

*Thursday, June 28, 2018*

8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m .....	Revisit with Presenters (Herring).	
10:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m .....	Break.	

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m .....	Review/Edit (Scallop). Assessment Summary Report
12:15–1:15 p.m .....	Lunch.
1:15 p.m. -2:45 p.m .....	Review/Edit (Scallop). Assessment Summary Report
2:45 p.m.–3 p.m .....	Break.
3 p.m.–6 p.m .....	Review/Edit (Herring). Assessment Summary Report

Friday, June 29, 2018

9 a.m.–5 p.m .....	SARC Report Writing.
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The meeting is open to the public; however, during the ‘SARC Report Writing’ session on Friday June 29th the public should not engage in discussion with the SARC.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Special requests should be directed to James Weinberg at the NEFSC, 508–495–2352, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 31, 2018.

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648–XG059**

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Demolition and Reuse of the Original East Span of the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge**

**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 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to incidentally harass, by Level B harassment only, marine mammals during the dismantling and reuse of the original East Span of the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge (SFOBB) in the San Francisco Bay (SFB).

**DATES:** This Authorization is applicable from May 24, 2018 to May 23, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sara Young, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401. Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. 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 (as delegated to NMFS) 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 reviewed 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 Categorical Exclusion B4 (incidental harassment authorizations with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) 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.

**Summary of Request**

On January 9, 2018, NMFS received a request from Caltrans for an IHA to take marine mammals incidental to the demolition and reuse of the original East Span of the SFOBB in San Francisco Bay. Caltrans’ request is for take of seven species of marine mammals, by Level B harassment. Neither Caltrans