analyze the impacts of the management alternatives being considered as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A draft EIS will be distributed for public review. During a 30-day public comment period which will include public hearings, the public may comment on any aspect of the draft EIS. Following a review of the comments, the Council will then choose preferred management measures for submission with the Final EIS to the Secretary of Commerce for publishing of a proposed and then final rule, both of which have additional comment periods.

Scoping Hearings

The Council will take and discuss scoping comments on this amendment at the following 12 scoping meetings dates and locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Dare County Commissioners Office, 954 Marshall Collins Drive, Room 168, Manteo, North Carolina 27954.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>NC Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office, 5285 Highway 70 West, Morehead City, North Carolina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>DNREC Auditorium, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at 6:30 p.m</td>
<td>NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources, 205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1, East Setauket, New York 11733.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Ocean City Municipal Airport, 12724 Airport Road, Berlin, Maryland 21811.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Ocean City Library, 1735 Simpson Avenue, Ocean City, New Jersey 08226.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 28, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Ocean County Administration Building, 101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey 08753.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 28, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Brevard County Government Center North, &quot;Brevard Room&quot;, 518 South Palm Ave., Titusville, Florida 32780.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at 7:00 p.m</td>
<td>URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, Rhode Island.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Ocean City Municipal Airport, 12724 Airport Road, Berlin, Maryland 21811.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Ocean City Library, 1735 Simpson Avenue, Ocean City, New Jersey 08226.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 16, 2018, at 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Internet webinar: Connection information to be available at <a href="http://www.mafmc.org">http://www.mafmc.org</a> or by contacting the Council.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Accommodations

The scoping hearings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders (302–674–2331, ext 251) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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


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

[FR Doc. 2018–12105 Filed 6–5–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XG246

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that 14 exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications warrant further consideration and is requesting public comment on the applications. Thirteen EFP applicants request an exemption from a prohibition on the use of unauthorized fishing gear to harvest highly migratory species (HMS), and one EFP applicant requests an exemption from a prohibition on the use of pelagic longline gear in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to harvest HMS under the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP). These applicants request the exemption to test the effects and efficacy of using deep-set buoy gear (DSBG), deep-set linked buoy gear (DSLBG), or deep-set short longline (DSSL) to harvest swordfish and other HMS off of the U.S. West Coast.

DATES: Comments must be submitted in writing by July 6, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the pending EFP applications, identified at the e-Rulemaking portal by NOAA–NMFS–2018–0063, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2018-0063, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Fanning, NMFS West Coast Region, 562–980–4198.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DSBG fishing trials have occurred for the past eight years under research permits (2011–2015) and EFPs (2015–2018) in the U.S. West Coast EEZ off California. The data collected from this fishing activity have demonstrated that about 95% of DSBG fish species caught are marketable (75% swordfish, 3% opah, and 17% marketable sharks). Non-marketable fish species catch rates have remained low and all non-marketable catch were released alive. Because DSBG is actively tended by the
NMFS is requesting public comment on the 13 DSBG/DLSBG applications recommended for consideration by the PFMC and the one DSSLL application received directly from the applicant pursuant to 50 CFR 600.745. If all applications were approved, the EFPs would allow up to 13 vessels to fish with DSBG, up to four vessels to fish with DLSBG, and one vessel to fish with DSSLL throughout the duration of each EFP, in portions of the U.S. West Coast EEZ. These vessels would be permitted to fish exempt from the prohibitions of the HMS FMP pertaining to non-authorized gear types. Aside from the exemption described above, vessels fishing under an EFP would be subject to all other regulations implemented in the HMS FMP, including measures to protect sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds.

NMFS will consider all public comments submitted in response to this Federal Register Notice prior to issuance of any EFP. Additionally, NMFS will analyze the effects of issuing EFPs in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and NOAA’s Administrative Order 216–6, as well as for compliance with other applicable laws, including Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), which requires the agency to consider whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence and recovery of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.  
Dated: June 1, 2018.  
Jennifer M. Wallace,  
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.  
[FR Doc. 2018–12167 Filed 6–5–18; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

### COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

**Agency Information Collection**  
**Activities:** Notice of Intent To Renew Collection 3038–0033, Notification of Pending Legal Proceedings

**AGENCY:** Commodity Futures Trading Commission.  
**ACTION:** Notice.