

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

RIN 0648–XG342

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 High Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431–1499.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Agenda**

The Research Steering Committee will develop Council recommendations regarding the Research Review Policy and the purpose and functions of the RSC. They will also receive updates on improving the functionality of how research priorities are listed, Council Coordination Committee discussion, and other developments; develop any additional Council recommendations. The Committee will meet the NEFSC new Fishery Monitoring & Research Division Chief and receive updates on cooperative research activities; develop Council recommendations as well as receive an overview of the NEFMC's ongoing review of the Research-Set-Aside programs; develop Council recommendations. The Research Steering Committee will review completed research project on: An experimental fishery for silver hake/whiting in Small Mesh Area I and the Western Raised Footrope Exemption Area; develop Council recommendations. Address other business as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after the publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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

Dated: July 16, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2018–15454 Filed 7–18–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

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

RIN 0648–XG347

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a one day meeting of its Standing, Reef Fish, Mackerel and Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will convene on Thursday, August 2, 2017, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, located at 2225 N Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 877–6688.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4701 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Froeschke, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; *john.froeschke@gulfcouncil.org*, telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Thursday, August 2, 2018: 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

- I. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda
- II. Approval of May 31–June 1, 2018 SSC Minutes
- III. Selection of SSC representative at August 20–23, 2018 Council meeting in Corpus Christi, TX

Standing and Mackerel SSC Session

- IV. Options Paper—Modifications to Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Size and Possession Limits
 - a. Updated catch-per-unit effort indices for Gulf cobia
 - b. Review of draft options paper

Standing, Reef Fish and Shrimp SSC Session

- V. Update on Council Request regarding shrimp effort threshold reduction in the area monitored for juvenile red snapper bycatch

Standing and Reef Fish SSC Session

- VI. Review of Procedure for Red Grouper Interim Analysis
 - VII. Overview of revised SEDAR process: Research, operational, and interim tacks
 - VIII. Council staff proposed modifications to the SEDAR process
 - IX. Determine need for a red snapper research track assessment in 2020, followed by an operational assessment in 2021
 - X. Selection of Workgroup Appointees for SEDAR 64—Yellowtail Snapper Benchmark Assessment
 - XI. Specify the TORs for the 2020 operational assessments for gag and greater amberjack
 - XII. Review of Gray Snapper Global SPR Analysis
 - XIII. Draft Reef Fish Amendment 48/Red Drum Amendment 5
 - a. Review of revised reference sheet
 - b. Action 1—MSY proxies issues and alternatives
 - i. Summary of MSY Proxies Working Group meeting
 - ii. Revised MSY proxies alternatives
 - c. Action 4—OY alternatives
 - i. Draft OY buffer spreadsheet
 - d. Actions 2 and 3 (MSST and MFMT)
 - VI. Tentative 2018/19 SSC Meeting Dates
 - VII. Other Business—Meeting Adjourns
- The meeting will be broadcast via webinar. You may register for the

webinar by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar. <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/3383291116212545537>. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on www.gulfcouncil.org as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Gulf Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: July 16, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-15469 Filed 7-18-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG345

Marine Mammals; File No. 21329

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that John P. Wise, Sr., Ph.D., University of Louisville, Department of Pharmacology, 500 S Preston St., Suite 1319, Louisville, KY 40202 has applied in due form for a permit to receive, import, and export biological samples from marine mammals, sea turtles, and protected sharks for scientific research purposes.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before August 20, 2018.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 21329 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the 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.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. 21329 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to receive, import, and export specimens from marine mammals, sea turtles, and protected sharks under NMFS' jurisdiction to: (1) Determine concentrations of metals and other environmental contaminants in these species; and (2) establish a resource of marine mammal, sea turtle, and protected shark cell lines for use as model systems in the investigation of various factors related to the health of these protected species and as comparative tools to human studies (toxicity of metals, virology, etc.).

Import and export authority is requested worldwide and the number of animals requested per species is outlined in the take tables in the application.

No take of live wild animals would be involved; tissues would be received from the following sources: Marine mammals or sharks stranded dead or that died during rehabilitation; captive marine mammals or sharks held for public display or research; marine mammals and sharks taken in a legal fishery; marine mammals, sea turtles, or sharks sampled by other permitted researchers; and marine mammals or sharks killed during legal subsistence hunts. Once the cell lines are established, they may be transferred to other researchers for scientific research, including export to world-wide locations. The cell lines would not be sold for profit or used for commercial purposes. The requested duration of the permit is 5 years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: July 16, 2018.

Julia Marie Harrison,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-15459 Filed 7-18-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG326

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting (webinar).

SUMMARY: The Groundfish Subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council's) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a meeting via webinar to review a draft terms of