

letter and most recent progress report may be obtained upon request by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires NOAA to conduct periodic evaluations of federally approved state and territorial coastal programs. The process includes one or more public meetings, consideration of written public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. During the evaluation, NOAA will consider the extent to which the state has met the national objectives, adhered to the management program approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance under the CZMA. When the evaluation is completed, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

You may participate or submit oral comments at the public meeting scheduled as follows:

*Date:* May 20, 2019.

*Time:* 5:30 p.m., local time.

*Location:* State Street Commons, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, State Street Commons Training Room (First Floor), 100 W. Water Street, Suite 6A, Dover, Delaware 19904.

Written public comments must be received on or before May 31, 2019.

Dated: April 25, 2019.

**Keelin Kuipers,**

*Acting Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

[FR Doc. 2019-09023 Filed 5-2-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XH015**

**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 Scallop Advisory Panel 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, May 22, 2019 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton Providence, 21 Atwells Avenue, Providence, RI 02903; phone: (401) 831-3900.

*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 Scallop Advisory Panel will review input from the Amendment 21 scoping process and provide direction on next steps for this action. They will develop research recommendations for the 2020/21 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) federal funding announcement. The panel will also receive and update on Scallop Committee tasking re: Measures to reduce bycatch of yellowtail flounder. They plan to consider the scope of the 2020/21 Scallop Specifications (slow growing scallops). Other business may be discussed as necessary.

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 these meetings. 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 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: April 30, 2019.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-09077 Filed 5-2-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XH006**

**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 Skate 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, May 22, 2019 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton Providence, 21 Atwells Ave., Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 831-3900.

*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:** The Committee will discuss Amendment 5/ Limited Access to the skate fishery—review Plan Development Team (PDT) analyses to date; continued discussion on the structure of a limited access program for the skate bait and wing fisheries including draft alternatives. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this 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 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. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. 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.

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

Dated: April 30, 2019.

### Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-09073 Filed 5-2-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE461

### Marine Mammals; Pinniped Removal Authority; Revised Authorization

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the availability of a revised authorization to the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho (states) for lethal removal of individually identifiable predatory California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) in the vicinity of Bonneville Dam to minimize pinniped predation on Pacific salmon and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus spp.*) listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon. This authorization is pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

**ADDRESSES:** Additional information about our determination may be obtained by visiting the NMFS West Coast Region's website: <http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov>, or by writing to us at: NMFS West Coast Region, Protected Resources Division, 1201 Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Anderson at the above address, by phone at (503) 231-2226, or by email at, [robert.c.anderson@noaa.gov](mailto:robert.c.anderson@noaa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

## Background

Section 120 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361, *et seq.*) allows the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, and the West Coast Regional Administrator of NMFS, the discretion to authorize the intentional lethal taking of individually identifiable pinnipeds that are having a significant negative impact on salmonids that are either: (1) Listed under the ESA, (2) approaching a threatened or endangered status, or (3) migrate through the Ballard Locks in Seattle. The authorization applies only to pinnipeds that are not: (1) Listed under the ESA, (2) designated as depleted, or (3) designated a strategic stock.

On January 27, 2016, NMFS received an application from the states to reauthorize the 2012 MMPA section 120 authorization through June 30, 2021. On March 28, 2016, NMFS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (81 FR 17141), announcing receipt of the states' application, and soliciting public comments on the application and any additional information that NMFS should consider in making its decision. On May 31, 2016, NMFS reconvened the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force (Task Force), which was open to the public, and during which it reviewed the states' application, public comments on the application, and other information related to sea lion predation on salmonids at Bonneville Dam. The Task Force completed and submitted its report to NMFS on June 22, 2016. Thirteen of the fourteen members recommended that NMFS approve the states' extension request, with one member dissenting. All decision documents, including a copy of the new authorization, are available on NMFS's West Coast Region web page (see **ADDRESSES**).

As part of the MMPA section 120 process, subsection (c)(5) states that after implementation of an approved application, the Task Force shall evaluate the effectiveness of the permitted intentional lethal taking or alternative actions implemented. If implementation was ineffective in eliminating the problem interaction, the Task Force shall recommend additional actions. If the implementation was effective, the Task Force shall so advise the Secretary, and the Secretary shall disband the Task Force.

Because the results of the final year of implementation were not available at the time the 2012 authorization was set to expire, NMFS deferred the assessment of the effectiveness of the permitted intentional lethal taking until

that information became available. In the interim, NMFS granted the states' request for a renewal on June 28, 2016, resulting in a new 5-year authorization starting July 1, 2016.

On March 1 and 2, 2017, NMFS reconvened the Task Force to evaluate the effectiveness of the states permitted intentional lethal taking at Bonneville Dam during the years 2012 through 2016. One of the recommendations provided to NMFS by the Task Force was to change the criteria in Term and Condition 1 of the June 28, 2016, authorization to expedite adding California sea lions to Appendix 1, thus expediting the process for identifying specific California sea lions for removal (*i.e.*, placement in permanent captivity or killing).

Currently, the states' MMPA section 120 authorization permits the states to lethally remove no more than 92 California sea lions annually. The program has never been fully implemented to achieve that level and as a result many believed it has not been as effective as it could be. Some Task Force members thought that increasing the number of individual California sea lions on the list of animals approved for removal might allow for increases in removal and a decrease in predation, while others recognized that staffing and resource limitations may prevent full implementation. Because individual residence time of California sea lions has decreased, there are fewer days/time that observers may see an animal eating salmon at the dam. Consideration was given to changing the criteria in the current Authorization to one or more of the following:

a. An animal may be removed if it is individually identifiable and has been seen eating salmon, or has been observed in the observation area for x days. (See options below for new number of days).

**Option 1:** Use data to analyze the probability of consumption of at-risk salmonids based on how many days an animal has been in the area. Then use this number to determine the appropriate number of observation days needed.

**Option 2:** Reduce the number of days of observation from 5 days to 3 days, regardless of a probability analysis;

**Option 3:** Reduce the number of days of observation from 5 days to 2 days, regardless of a probability analysis.

Based on the Task Force recommendation (Option 1), the states requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fisheries Field Unit (FFU) conduct an analysis to examine whether the changes proposed by the Task Force would improve the ability to identify