

Public Comment

Any interested party may request a hearing within 14 days of publication of this notice, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.310(c). Interested parties may submit case briefs not later than 14 days after the date of publication of this notice.¹⁰ Rebuttal comments, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed by no later than three days after the deadline for filing case briefs.¹¹ Any hearing, if requested, will normally be held two days after rebuttal briefs/comments are due, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.310(d)(1). Issues raised in the hearing will be limited to those raised in the respective case and rebuttal briefs.¹² Parties who submit case or rebuttal briefs in this CCR are requested to submit with each argument: (1) A statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities.¹³ Note that Commerce has temporarily modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information, until May 19, 2020, unless extended.¹⁴

Unless extended, consistent with 19 CFR 351.216(e), we intend to issue the final results of this CCR no later than 270 days after the date on which this review was initiated, or within 45 days of publication of these preliminary results if all parties agree to our preliminary findings.

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing this initiation and preliminary results notice in accordance with sections 751(b) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.216, 351.221(b)(1), (b)(4), and (c)(3), and 351.222(f)(2)(iv).

Dated: April 28, 2020.

Jeffrey I. Kessler,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2020-10025 Filed 5-8-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

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

[RTID 0648-XA089]

Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of the “Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.” Publication of this notice begins the official public comment period for this SPEA. The purpose of this Draft SPEA is to evaluate potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of unforeseen changes in research that were not analyzed in the 2015 SWFSC Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), or new research activities along the U.S. West Coast, throughout the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, and in the Scotia Sea area off Antarctica. Where necessary, updates to certain information on species, stock status or other components of the affected environment that may result in different conclusions from the 2015 PEA are presented in this analysis.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than June 10, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft SPEA should be addressed to Elise Kohli, Environmental Compliance Specialist, 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92307. The mailbox address for providing email comments is: nmfs.swfsc.spea@noaa.gov. NMFS is not responsible for email comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size. A copy of the Draft SPEA may be obtained by writing to the address specified above, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the internet at: fisheries.noaa.gov. Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elise Kohli, email: Elise.Kohli@noaa.gov, phone: (858) 334-2863.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SWFSC is the research arm of NMFS in the Southwest Region. The purpose of SWFSC fisheries research is to produce scientific information necessary for the management and conservation of living marine resources along the U.S. West Coast in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE), throughout the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) Ocean, and in the Scotia Sea area off Antarctica. SWFSC’s research is needed to promote both the long-term sustainability of the resource and the recovery of certain species, while generating social and economic opportunities and benefits from their use. Primary research activities include: Mid-water trawl surveys to support assessments of coastal pelagic species, salmon and groundfish in the CCE; longline surveys for life history studies in the CCE and highly migratory species tagging in the CCE; deep-set buoy surveys for tagging highly migratory species in the CCE; ecosystem surveys using active acoustic systems, other oceanographic equipment in the CCE and ETP; and surveys using unmanned systems in the Antarctic Research Area (ARA) and CCE.

NMFS has prepared the Draft SPEA under NEPA to evaluate several alternatives for conducting and funding fisheries and ecosystem research activities as the primary federal action. Additionally in the Draft SPEA, NMFS evaluates a related action—also called a “connected action” under 40 CFR 1508.25 of the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*)—which is the proposed promulgation of regulations and authorization of the take of marine mammals incidental to the fisheries research under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Additionally, because the proposed research activities occur in areas inhabited by species of marine mammals, birds, sea turtles and fish listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as threatened or endangered, this Draft SPEA evaluates activities that could result in unintentional takes of ESA-listed marine species.

The following (2) alternatives are currently evaluated in the Draft SPEA:

- No-Action/Status Quo Alternative—Conduct Federal Fisheries and Ecosystem Research with Scope and Protocols Similar to Past Efforts
- Preferred Alternative—Conduct Federal Fisheries and Ecosystem

¹⁰ See 19 CFR 321.309(c)(1)(ii).

¹¹ See 19 CFR 351.309(d)(1).

¹² See 19 CFR 351.310(c).

¹³ See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

¹⁴ See *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19*, 85 FR 17006 (March 26, 2020).

Research (New or Modified Research) with Mitigation for MMPA and ESA Compliance

The alternatives include a program of fisheries and ecosystem research projects conducted or funded by the SWFSC as the primary federal action. Because this primary action is connected to a secondary federal action (also called a connected action under NEPA), to consider authorizing incidental take of marine mammals under the MMPA, NMFS must identify as part of this evaluation “(t)he means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat.” (Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA [16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*]) NMFS must therefore identify and evaluate a reasonable range of mitigation measures to minimize impacts to protected species that occur in SWFSC research areas. These mitigation measures are considered as part of the identified alternatives in order to evaluate their effectiveness to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. The three action alternatives also include mitigation measures intended to minimize potentially adverse interaction with other protected species that occur within the action area. Protected species include all marine mammals, which are covered under the MMPA, all species listed under the ESA, and bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Potential direct and indirect effects on the environment are evaluated under each alternative in the Draft SPEA. The environmental effects on the following resources are considered: Physical environment, special resource areas, fish, marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, invertebrates, and the social and economic environment. Cumulative effects of external actions and the contribution of fisheries research activities to the overall cumulative impact on the aforementioned resources is also evaluated in the Draft SPEA for the three main geographic regions in which SWFSC surveys are conducted.

NMFS requests comments on the Draft SPEA for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Please include, with your comments, any supporting data or literature citations that may be informative in substantiating your comment.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*

Dated: May 5, 2020.

Kristen Koch,

*Director, Southwest Fisheries Science Center,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2020-09942 Filed 5-8-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XV181]

Council Coordination Committee Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting; information regarding the agenda.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) will host a virtual meeting of the Council Coordination Committee (CCC), consisting of the Regional Fishery Management Council chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors on May 27 to May 28, 2020. The intent of this meeting is to discuss issues of relevance to the Councils and NMFS, including issues related to the implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. All sessions are open to the public and time will be set aside for public comments at the end of each session.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, recess at 5:30 p.m. Eastern, reconvene at 1:30 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, May 28, 2018, and adjourn by 5:30 p.m. Eastern.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held online via WebEx. A link to the conference and instructions for submitting public comment will be available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/council-coordination-committee> and <http://www.fisherycouncils.org/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicholas Pieper by email at Nicholas.Pieper@noaa.gov or at (301) 427-8500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act established the CCC. The CCC consists of the chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors of each of the eight Regional Fishery

Management Councils or other Council members or staff. Updates to this meeting and additional information will be posted on <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/council-coordination-committee> and <http://www.fisherycouncils.org/> when available.

Proposed Agenda

Wednesday, May 27, 2020—1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Eastern

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Recent issues with Council Operations and NMFS Rulemaking
3. CARES Act—\$300M stimulus package for fisheries and aquaculture
4. NMFS Updates
 - a. Priorities
 - b. NS1 Technical Guidance Workgroups
 - c. Status of NMFS Policy Directives/ Prioritization development
 - d. NEPA Policy Update including Functional Equivalency
 - e. Status of Bycatch Initiatives
 - f. NMFS Guidance on Changing Stock Status from Known to Unknown
 - g. Offshore Wind Issues
5. Public Comment

Thursday, May 28, 2020—1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Eastern

1. Management and Budget Update
2. Legislative Issues
3. CCC Committees/Working Groups
 - a. Scientific Coordination Subcommittee
 - b. Habitat Working Group
4. Administrative
 - a. Update on Voting Recusals
 - b. Freedom of Information Act
5. Other Business
6. Public Comment

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The CCC will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Special Accommodations

If you have particular access needs please contact Nicholas Pieper at Nicholas.pieper@noaa.gov prior to the meeting for accommodation.

Dated: May 6, 2020.

Hélène Scalliet,

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

[FR Doc. 2020-10023 Filed 5-8-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P