

Point Blue's activities would have a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks and that the authorized take numbers of each species or stock were small relative to the relevant stocks (*e.g.*, less than 13 percent for all stocks). The numbers of California sea lions, harbor seals, and northern elephant seals proposed to be taken are identical to those authorized in the 2018–2019 IHA, while the numbers of Steller sea lions proposed to be taken have increased slightly. However, the increased numbers of Steller sea lions result in only minor increased percentage of stock proposed to be taken (*e.g.*, from 0.10 to 0.14 percent of the Eastern U.S. stock of Steller sea lions) and NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed take is still considered small relative to the relevant stock abundances. The mitigation measures and monitoring and reporting requirements as described above are identical to the initial IHA.

NMFS has preliminarily concluded that there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change from those reached for the initial IHA. This includes consideration of the estimated abundance of the California sea lion stock decreasing slightly and the increased estimated take of Steller sea lions. Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has preliminarily determined the following: (1) The required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the proposed authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the proposed authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) Point Blue's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action, and (5) appropriate monitoring and reporting requirements are included.

#### Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. No incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from

this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

#### Proposed Authorization

As a result of these preliminary determinations, NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to Point Blue for conducting seabird research and monitoring activities in central California for a period of one year from the date of issuance, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. A draft of the proposed IHA can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>.

#### Request for Public Comments

We request comment on our analyses (included in both this document and the referenced documents supporting the 2018–2019 IHA), the proposed authorization, and any other aspect of this notice of proposed IHA for the proposed seabird research and monitoring activities. Please include with your comments any supporting data or literature citations to help inform our final decision on the request for MMPA authorization.

Dated: August 21, 2020.

**Donna S. Wieting,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2020–18970 Filed 8–27–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA405]

##### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee will hold a public meeting to review annual specifications and management measures, and make any appropriate recommendations.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Monday, September 14, 2020, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar; the webinar link is: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/spinydogmc-2020/>.

**Council address:** Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526–5255. The Council's website, [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org) also has details on the proposed agenda, webinar access, and any briefing materials.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: August 25, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020–18965 Filed 8–27–20; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA403]

##### South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of the following: Snapper Grouper Committee; Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) Committee; Dolphin Wahoo Committee; and Executive Committee (partially Closed Session). The meeting week will also include a formal public comment session and a meeting of the Full Council (with a partially Closed Session). Due to public health concerns associated with COVID–19 and current travel restrictions, the meeting originally planned for Charleston, SC will be held via webinar.

**DATES:** The Council meeting will be held from 9 a.m. on Monday, September

14, 2020 until 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held via webinar. Webinar registration is required. Details are included in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 302-8440 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Meeting information, including agendas, overviews, and briefing book materials will be posted on the Council's website at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>. Webinar registration links for each meeting day will also be available from the Council's website.

*Public comment:* Written comments may be directed to John Carmichael, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (see **ADDRESSES**) or electronically via the Council's website at <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>. Comments received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (9/7/20) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record; please use the Council's online form available from the website. For written comments received after the Monday before the meeting must use the Council's online form available from the website. Comments will automatically be posted to the website and available for Council consideration. Comments received prior to 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020 will be a part of the meeting administrative record.

The items of discussion in the individual meeting agendas are as follows:

#### Full Council Sessions

Council Session I—Monday, September 14, 2020, 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. (Closed Session); Council Session II—Monday, September 14, 2020, 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.; and Council Session III—Thursday, September 17, 2020 from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.

*Council Session I, Monday September 14, 2020, 9 a.m. Until 12 p.m. (Closed Session)*

1. The Council will recommend applicants for open advisory panel seats.
2. The Council will recommend appointees for SEDAR stock assessment projects.
3. A legal briefing on litigation will also be held if needed.

*Council Session II, Monday, September 14, 2020, 1:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m. and Tuesday, September 15, 2020 From 9 a.m. Until 11 a.m.*

1. Newly appointed Council members will be sworn in.
2. The Council will develop a response to the President's Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth.
3. Council members will receive an update from NOAA Fisheries on recent emergency action requests to increase the bag limit for King Mackerel and the commercial trip limit for Vermilion Snapper and consider requesting additional emergency actions.
4. The Council will receive a report from NOAA Fisheries on the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology.
5. The Council will review sector allocation alternatives and recommend how to proceed.

*Snapper Grouper Committee, Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 11 a.m. Until 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Until 4:30 p.m.*

1. The Committee will receive an update from NOAA Fisheries on the status of amendments under review
2. The Committee will review the 2020 South Atlantic Red Snapper Season.
3. The Committee will review an options paper for modernizing the Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Program and consider approval for public scoping.
4. The Committee will review potential management measures to end overfishing and revise the rebuilding plan for Red Porgy and provide direction to staff.
5. The Committee will provide topics for consideration during the November 2020 meeting of the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel.

*SEDAR Committee, Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 4:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m.*

1. The Committee will review the SEDAR Statement of Works for assessments that will begin in 2023 and approve for Council consideration.
2. The Committee will receive an update from the SEDAR Steering Committee on the Research Track and Operational Assessment Process and consider recommendations.

*Dolphin Wahoo Committee, Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 9 a.m. Until 3:45 p.m.*

1. The Committee will review draft Amendment 10 to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP) with actions that currently address: Revisions to recreational data and catch level

recommendations, redefining Optimum Yield in the dolphin fishery, modifications to accountability measures, and other management revisions to the dolphin and wahoo fisheries. The Committee will review the draft Amendment and provide direction to staff.

2. The Committee will review draft Amendment 12 to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP with measures to add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as Ecosystem Component species to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP and consider final approval of the amendment for Secretarial review.

3. The Committee will receive a presentation on recent tagging studies conducted through the Dolphinfish Research Program.

4. The Committee will provide recommendations for management topics to be considered at the October meeting of the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel.

*Formal Public Comment, Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 4 p.m.*—Public comment will be accepted via webinar on items on the Council meeting agenda scheduled to be approved for Secretarial Review: Amendment 12 to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species). Public comment will also be accepted on all other agenda items. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter.

*Executive Committee, Thursday, September 17, 2020, 9 a.m. Until 12 p.m. (Partially Closed Session)*

Closed Session

1. The Committee will review the compositions of its Scientific and Statistical Committee and its Outreach and Communications Advisory Panel and provide recommendations for Council consideration.

2. The Committee will also review the Council's Sexual Harassment identification and prevention efforts.

Open Session

1. The Committee will review new travel forms and the Council's Priorities Work Schedule and provide recommendations as needed.

*Council Session III, Thursday, September 17, 2020, 1:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m.*

The Full Council Session III will begin with the Call to Order, adoption of the agenda, approval of minutes, and Council elections.

The Council will receive a staff report from the Executive Director, and updates on Outreach and Communications efforts, the Council's Citizen Science Program, and Atlantic coast climate change scenario planning.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center staff will provide reports on the status of commercial electronic logbooks and pandemic response impacts on surveys and fishery monitoring.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office staff will provide an update on the status of the For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment and a report on Protected Resources.

The Council will receive reports from the following committees: Snapper Grouper; SEDAR; Dolphin Wahoo; and Executive. The Council will also address advisory panel and SEDAR appointments.

The Council will receive agency and liaison reports, discuss other business and upcoming meetings, and take action as necessary.

Documents regarding these issues are available from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

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 identified in this notice 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 final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the meeting.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: August 25, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA373]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Office of Naval Research Arctic Research Activities

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of Renewal 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 a Renewal incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) to harass marine mammals incidental to Arctic Research Activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

**DATES:** This Renewal IHA is valid from September 10, 2020 through September 9, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Fowler, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the original application, Renewal request, and supporting documents (including NMFS **Federal Register** notices of the original proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. 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 incidental take authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other "means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact" on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as "mitigation measures"). Monitoring and reporting of such takings are also required. The meaning of key terms such as "take," "harassment," and "negligible impact" can be found in section 3 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1362) and the agency's regulations at 50 CFR 216.103.

NMFS' regulations implementing the MMPA at 50 CFR 216.107(e) indicate that IHAs may be renewed for additional periods of time not to exceed one year for each reauthorization. In the notice of proposed IHA for the initial authorization, NMFS described the circumstances under which we would consider issuing a Renewal for this activity, and requested public comment on a potential Renewal under those circumstances. Specifically, on a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-time one-year Renewal IHA following notice to the public providing an additional 15 days for public comments when (1) up to another year of identical, or nearly identical, activities as described in the Description of the Specified Activities and Anticipated Impacts section of this notice is planned or (2) the activities as described in the Specified Activities section of this notice would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a Renewal would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the Dates and Duration section of the notice of proposed IHA for the initial authorization, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to the needed Renewal IHA effective date (recognizing that the Renewal IHA expiration date cannot extend beyond one year from expiration of the initial IHA).

- The request for renewal must include the following:

- (1) An explanation that the activities to be conducted under the requested Renewal IHA are identical to the activities analyzed under the initial IHA, are a subset of the activities, or