

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

[RTID 0648-XA511]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council is convening a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) via webinar 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 webinar will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3850303213161369355>. Call in information: +1 (562) 247-8422, Access Code 632-479-325.

**ADDRESSES:** *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 Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet to review recent stock assessment information from the 2020 Groundfish Management Track Assessments, information provided by the Council's Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) and recommend the overfishing limits and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder, Gulf of Maine (GOM) winter flounder, Acadian redfish, ocean pout, Atlantic halibut, wolffish, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder for fishing years 2022-23. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the 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. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

**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.

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

Dated: September 23, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

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

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Applications and Reporting Requirements for the Incidental Take of Marine Mammals by Specified Activities (Other Than Commercial Fishing Operations) Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on June 22, 2018 (83 FR 29212) during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

**Agency:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

**Title:** Applications and Reporting Requirements for the Incidental Take of Marine Mammals by Specified

Activities (other than Commercial Fishing Operations) Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

**OMB Control Number:** 0648-0151.

**Form Number(s):** None.

**Type of Request:** Regular submission (Revision to an existing information collection).

**Number of Respondents:** 188.

**Average Hours per Response:**

Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) Application: 281 hours; IHA Interim Report: 30 hours; IHA Draft Annual Report: 140 hours; IHA Final Annual Report: 28 hours; Letter of Authorization (LOA) Initial Application: 1200 hours; LOA Annual Application: 70 hours; LOA Draft Annual Report: 225 Hours; LOA Draft Final Report: 225 hours; LOA Final Annual Report: 70 hours; LOA Draft Comprehensive Report: 640 hours; LOA Comprehensive Final Report: 300 hours; Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Draft Annual Report: 140 hours; GOM Final Annual Report: 28 hours. Response times will vary for the public based upon the complexity of the requested action.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** 25,973.

**Needs and Uses:** This request is for a revision of a currently approved information collection.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) prohibits the "take" of marine mammals unless otherwise authorized or exempted by law. Among the provisions that allow for lawful take of marine mammals, sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA direct the Secretary of Commerce 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, after notice and opportunity for public comment, we find that the taking will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock(s) and will not have an immitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant). NMFS also must set forth the permissible methods of taking; other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat (mitigation); and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. NMFS Office of Protected Resources leads the process for the agency.

Issuance of an incidental take authorization (Authorization) under section 101(a)(5)(A) or 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA requires three sets of information collection: (1) A complete application for an Authorization, as set forth in our implementing regulations at