

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Request for Comment; Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Ocean Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR).

**ACTION:** Notice of public comment.

**SUMMARY:** On behalf of the Ocean Policy Committee, Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) as Co-Chairs of the Ocean Policy Committee, the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council (NOMECC Council) requests input from all interested parties on the development of an Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Ocean Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (U.S. EEZ) (“National Strategy”). Through this Request for Information (RFI), the NOMECC Council seeks input from the public on engaging stakeholders in developing the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy, and the processes that will ensure implementation is informed by and responsive to all sectors through sustained engagement and effective partnerships.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by October 30, 2020 November 12, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the National Strategy may be downloaded or viewed at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/20200611-FINAL-STRATEGY-NOMECC-Sec.-2.pdf>. Responses should be submitted via email to [nomecc.execsec@noaa.gov](mailto:nomecc.execsec@noaa.gov). Include “Public Comment on Implementation Plan for the National Strategy” in the subject line of the message. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender is publicly accessible. NOAA will accept anonymous comments. Clearly indicate which section and page number, if applicable, submitted comments pertain to. All submissions must be in English. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for responsible preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the response.

*Instructions:* Response to this RFI is voluntary. Respondents need not reply to all questions listed. For all submissions, clearly indicate which questions are being answered. Email attachments will be accepted in plain text, Microsoft Word, or Adobe PDF formats only. Each individual or institution is requested to submit only one response. OSTP may post responses to this RFI, without change, on a Federal website. NOAA, therefore, requests that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be submitted in response to this RFI. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization (NOMECC) Council Co-Chairs; Dr. Alan Leonardi, NOAA, [alan.leonardi@noaa.gov](mailto:alan.leonardi@noaa.gov), 301-734-1016; RDML Shepard Smith, NOAA, [shep.smith@noaa.gov](mailto:shep.smith@noaa.gov), 202-510-5561; Dr. John Haines, USGS, [jhaines@usgs.gov](mailto:jhaines@usgs.gov), 703-648-6422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Presidential Memorandum, Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska, 84 FR 64699 (Nov. 19, 2020), the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council (NOMECC Council), on behalf of the Director of the OSTP and the Chairman of the CEQ, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Ocean Policy Committee, and working through its Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee and in coordination with the Administrator of NOAA, seek public input and information for development of an Implementation Plan for the National Strategy. The NOMECC Council has commenced development of the Implementation Plan and is soliciting public input through this RFI to obtain information from a wide range of stakeholders, including academia, private industry, and other relevant organizations and institutions to provide input on stakeholder engagement in developing and executing the Implementation Plan. The public input provided in response to this RFI will inform the NOMECC Council as it continues to develop the Implementation Plan.

**Questions To Inform Development of the Implementation Plan**

Through this RFI, the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council seeks responses to the following questions to

inform development of an Implementation Plan for the National Strategy on Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization that is responsive to cross-sector requirements and engages all interested sectors in the implementation.

1. What does successful implementation look like to your organization, sector, or interest group? How do you anticipate your organization or sector will participate in the NOMECC implementation?

2. What specific implementation actions would be of value to your organization/sector?

3. How should the Council appropriately engage your organization and/or sector in developing an implementation plan? How should we engage your organization to get ongoing feedback throughout implementation?

4. What activities is your organization currently undertaking, has recently undertaken, or is planning that may support or benefit from NOMECC implementation? What processes and connections would be required to realize those opportunities?

5. What publicly accessible databases and archives does your organization offer that may house data relevant to NOMECC?

6. Who are the additional partners that are needed to effectively plan and execute a successful NOMECC program in the future, as well as those that can help disseminate information from this work to various audiences? How could Federal agencies more effectively engage these partners? If there are barriers to this cooperation, please describe. Please do not only limit your responses to organizations that are traditionally involved in this work, but also think how we can engage other groups that can make important contributions.

Dated: September 24, 2020.

**David Holst,**

*Chief Financial and Administrative Officer,  
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research,  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P**

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

[RTID 0648-XA566]

**Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold virtual meetings of its Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC) and Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (NCFAC) to discuss and make recommendations on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

**DATES:** The FIAC will meet on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the NCFAC will meet on Thursday, October 29, 2020, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. All times listed are Hawaii standard times. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** Each of the meetings will be held by web conference. Audio and visual portions for all of the web conferences can be accessed at: <https://wprfmc.webex.com/join/info.wpcouncilnoaa.gov>. Web conference access information will also be posted on the Council's website at [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org). For assistance with the web conference connection, contact the Council office at (808) 522-8220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public comment periods will be provided in the agenda. Information on how to provide public comment will be posted on the Council's website at [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org). The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

#### Schedule and Agenda for the FIAC Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Overview of the Council and FIAC Role
3. Round Table on Industry Issues
  - A. American Samoa
  - B. Hawaii
  - C. Guam
  - D. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
4. Fishery Development and Management
  - A. American Samoa Diversification
  - B. Mariana Islands
    - i. Establishing Guam as a Hub for Pelagic Fisheries in Micronesia
    - ii. Review of the Guam 50 mile Longline and Bottomfish Closures

- iii. Pilot Project for longline fishing in CNMI
- C. Hawaii
  - i. Hawaii Seafood branding
  - ii. Public/Private Management of Harbor Facilities
  - iii. Main Hawaiian Islands Management Review
- D. Region-wide
  - i. Aquaculture
  - ii. Protected Species
  - iii. Executive Order 13910-Council Priorities
5. Other Issues
6. Public Comment
7. Discussion and Recommendations
8. Other Business

#### Schedule and Agenda for the NCFAC Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 2020, 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. NCFAC History
3. NCFAC Duties and Charge
  - A. Marine Recreational Information Program Regional Implementation Plan
  - B. Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports
  - C. Council Research Priorities
  - D. Electronic Reporting and Non-Commercial Data Collection
4. Discussion on Non-Commercial Fishery Issues
  - A. Data Issues
  - B. Protected Species Issues
5. Public Comment
6. Discussion and Recommendations
7. Other Business

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 7, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-22559 Filed 10-9-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA542]

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

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) on October 28, 2020.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held via webinar on October 28, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

#### ADDRESSES:

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Registration is required. Webinar registration, an online public comment form, and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meeting at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/current-advisory-panel-meetings/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Dolphin Wahoo AP will meet via webinar. Agenda items for the AP meeting include: Review of recent and developing Council actions, review of Amendment 10 to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan addressing annual catch limits, accountability measures, allocations, and other management parameters for Dolphin and Wahoo, development of a fishery performance report for Wahoo, an update on Dolphin Wahoo Participatory Workshops being conducted by the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, discussion of the economic effects of COVID-19, feedback on climate change and regional management, an update on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Citizen Science Program, and other business. The AP members will discuss these issues and provide recommendations for Council consideration as appropriate.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is 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.*