

Dated: October 16, 2020.

Jeffrey I. Kessler,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the Order
- IV. Discussion of the Methodology
- V. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2020-24049 Filed 10-30-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA608]

North 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Groundfish Plan Teams will meet via webconference.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Monday, November 16, 2020 through Friday, November 20, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Alaska Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be a webconference. Join online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1724>.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Cleaver or Steve MacLean, Council staff; phone: (907) 271-2809 and email: sara.cleaver@noaa.gov or Steve.MacLean@noaa.gov. For technical support please contact our administrative staff; email: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Monday, November 16, 2020 to Friday, November 20, 2020

The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Plan Teams will compile and review the annual BSAI and GOA Groundfish

Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) reports, and recommend final groundfish harvest and prohibited species specifications for 2021/22. The Plan Teams will also review the Economic Report and the Ecosystem Status Report and assessments. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1724>, prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone; or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1724>.

Public Comment

Public comment letters should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1724>.

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

Dated: October 28, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2020-24212 Filed 10-30-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA257]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an application submitted by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to amend an existing Exempted Fishing Permit contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The amended Exempted Fishing Permit would provide one vessel participating in an electronic monitoring program with an exemption to conduct exploratory fishing using cod ends with smaller mesh than otherwise permitted. The Exempted Fishing Permit would

test the effect of different codend mesh combinations on the catch of pollock and Gulf of Maine haddock while on trips targeting Acadian redfish.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed exempted fishing permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 17, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by either of the following methods:

- **Email:** nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "GMRI MREM EFP Amendment."

- **Mail:** Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "GMRI MREM EFP Amendment."

Copies of the supplemental information report (SIR) developed in support of this project may be obtained by contacting Claire Fitz-Gerald, Fishery Policy Analyst at the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 978-281-9255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Grant, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 1, 2020, NMFS granted an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to continue developing a maximized retention electronic monitoring (MREM) model and an accompanying dockside monitoring (DSM) program to monitor high-volume bottom-trawl vessels in the groundfish fleet. For more information on the details of the EFP see the notice published April 9, 2020 (85 FR 19931). The Gulf of Maine Research Institute, in conjunction with the Northeast Sector Service Network and a commercial fishing business, has submitted an application to amend the EFP. The amended EFP would allow one vessel participating in the MREM program an additional exemption from the minimum mesh size requirements for the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank regulated mesh areas codified at 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(i) and (a)(4)(i) to use cod ends with either square or diamond mesh as small as 4.5 inches (11.4 cm). The exemption would be used to conduct exploratory fishing to increase the catch of pollock and Gulf of Maine haddock while on trips targeting Acadian redfish. This EFP would be effective for the 2020 and 2021 fishing years, through April 30, 2022. Because