

Moore (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 12, 2021.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-00909 Filed 1-14-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA709]

Whaling Provisions; Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Quotas

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

ACTION: Notice; notification of quota for bowhead whales.

SUMMARY: NMFS notifies the public of the aboriginal subsistence whaling quota for bowhead whales that it has assigned to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), and of limitations on the use of the quota deriving from regulations of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). For 2021, the quota is 93 bowhead whales struck. This quota and other applicable limitations govern the harvest of bowhead whales by members of the AEWC.

DATES: Applicable January 15, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mi Ae Kim, (301) 427-8365.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Aboriginal subsistence whaling in the United States is governed by the Whaling Convention Act (WCA) (16 U.S.C. 916 *et seq.*). Under the WCA, IWC regulations shall generally become effective with respect to all persons and vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, within 90 days of notification from the IWC Secretariat of an amendment to the IWC Schedule (16 U.S.C. 916k). Regulations that implement the WCA, found at 50 CFR 230.6, require the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to publish, at least annually, aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas and any other limitations on aboriginal subsistence whaling deriving from regulations of the IWC.

At the 67th Meeting of the IWC, the Commission set catch limits for

aboriginal subsistence use of bowhead whales from the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock. The bowhead and other aboriginal subsistence whaling catch limits were based on a joint request by Denmark on behalf of Greenland, the Russian Federation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the United States, accompanied by documentation concerning the needs of the Native groups.

The IWC set a seven-year block catch limit of 392 bowhead whales landed. For each of the years 2019 through 2025, the number of bowhead whales struck may not exceed 67, with unused strikes from the three prior quota blocks carried forward and added to the annual strike quota of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit is added to the strike quota for any one year. At the end of the 2020 harvest, there were 33 unused strikes available for carry-forward, so the combined strike quota set by the IWC for 2021 is 100 (67 + 33).

An arrangement between the United States and the Russian Federation ensures that the total quota of bowhead whales landed and struck in 2021 will not exceed the limits set by the IWC. Under this arrangement, the Russian natives may use no more than seven strikes, and the Alaska natives may use no more than 93 strikes.

Through its cooperative agreement with the AEWC, NOAA has assigned 93 strikes to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. The AEWC will in turn allocate these strikes among the 11 villages whose cultural and subsistence needs have been documented, and will ensure that its hunters use no more than 93 strikes.

At its 67th Meeting, the IWC also provided for automatic renewal of aboriginal subsistence whaling catch limits under certain circumstances. Commencing in 2026, bowhead whale catch limits shall be extended every six years provided: (a) The IWC Scientific Committee advises in 2024, and every six years thereafter, that such limits will not harm the stock; (b) the Commission does not receive a request from the United States or the Russian Federation for a change in the bowhead whale catch limits based on need; and (c) the Commission determines that the United States and the Russian Federation have complied with the IWC's approved timeline and that the information provided represents a status quo continuation of the hunts.

Other Limitations

The IWC regulations, as well as the NOAA regulation at 50 CFR 230.4(c),

forbid the taking of calves or any whale accompanied by a calf.

NOAA regulations (at 50 CFR 230.4) contain a number of other prohibitions relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling, some of which are summarized here:

- Only licensed whaling captains or crew under the control of those captains may engage in whaling.
- Captains and crew must follow the provisions of the relevant cooperative agreement between NOAA and a Native American whaling organization.
- The aboriginal hunters must have adequate crew, supplies, and equipment to engage in an efficient operation.
- Crew may not receive money for participating in the hunt.
- No person may sell or offer for sale whale products from whales taken in the hunt, except for authentic articles of Native American handicrafts.
- Captains may not continue to whale after the relevant quota is taken, after the season has been closed, or if their licenses have been suspended. They may not engage in whaling in a wasteful manner.

Dated: January 12, 2021.

Alexa Cole,

Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2021-00878 Filed 1-14-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XY074]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Initiation of a 5-Year Review for the Arctic, Okhotsk, Baltic, and Ladoga Subspecies of the Ringed Seal; Extension of Information Request Period

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

ACTION: Notice; extension of information request period.

SUMMARY: NMFS hereby extends the information request period on the notice of initiation of a 5-year review of the Arctic (*Pusa hispida hispida*), Okhotsk (*Pusa hispida ochotensis*), Baltic (*Pusa hispida botnica*), and Ladoga (*Pusa hispida ladogensis*) subspecies of the ringed seal under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

DATES: Information must be received by March 26, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Submit your information, identified by docket number NOAA–NMFS–2020–0014, by either of the following methods:

- *Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:* Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2020-0014](http://www.regulations.gov/), click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your submission of information.

- *Mail:* Submit written information to Jon Kurland, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Records Office, Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668.

Instructions: NMFS may not consider submissions of information if they are sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the comment period ends. All submissions of information received are a part of the public record and NMFS will post the submissions for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender is publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous submissions of information (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Olson, NMFS Alaska Region, 907–271–2373, tammy.olson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 27, 2020, we announced the initiation of a 5-year review of four subspecies of the ringed seal under the ESA (85 FR 76017). As a part of that notice, we solicited information relevant to the review and announced a 60-day information request period to end on January 26, 2021. NMFS received two requests to extend the information request period to March 26, 2021, in order to provide additional time to gather relevant information and prepare submissions in a thorough manner. We are therefore extending the close of the information request period to March 26, 2021, as requested, to provide additional time for public input.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: January 12, 2021.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–00844 Filed 1–14–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA806]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Technical Advisory Panel (EBFM TAP) will hold a two-day public virtual meeting each, to address the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. The SSC and TAP will hold a one-day joint public virtual meeting.

DATES: The public virtual meetings will be held as follows:

SSC, February 1–2, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; SSC and EBFM TAP joint meeting, February 3, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and EBFM TAP meeting, February 4, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 5, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. All meetings will be at Atlantic Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: You may join the SSC and TAP public virtual meetings via Zoom, from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following address:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87172662536?pwd=dLR3VnVCem5uV1JHa2hiSGZjTVMwZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 7266 2536

Passcode: 998029

One tap mobile

+17879667727,, 87172662536#,,,,

*998029# Puerto Rico

+19399450244,, 87172662536#,,,,

*998029# Puerto Rico

Dial by your location

+1 787 966 7727 Puerto Rico

+1 939 945 0244 Puerto Rico

+1 787 945 1488 Puerto Rico

Meeting ID: 871 7266 2536

Passcode: 998029

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87172662536?pwd=dLR3VnVCem5uV1JHa2hiSGZjTVMwZz09>

In case there are problems and we cannot reconnect via Zoom, the meeting will continue using GoToMeeting. You may join from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following address:

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/715099885>

Join from a video-conferencing room or system.

Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or inroomlink.goto.com Meeting ID: 715099885@099885 Or dial directly: 715099885@67.217.95.2 or 67.217.95.2##715099885 New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when the meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/715099885>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Graciela García-Moliner, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1903, telephone: (787) 403–8337.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items included in the tentative agendas will be discussed:

SSC Meeting

February 1, 2021

10 a.m.–10:15 a.m. AST

—Call to Order

—Roll Call

—Adoption of Agenda

10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

—Overview and Discussion SSC’s

Ecosystem Conceptual Model (ECM)

Work to Date—Richard Appeldoorn

(Presented at 172nd CFMC Meeting)

12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

—Lunch

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.

—Review and Finalize Ecosystem

Conceptual Model

3 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

—Break

3:15 p.m.–5 p.m.

—Finalize Ecosystem Conceptual Model

—One ECM or 3 ECMs, one each for

Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John and

St. Croix?

—ECM integration into EBFM

—SSC Recommendations to the CFMC

February 2, 2021

10 a.m.–12 p.m. AST

—Update Spiny Lobster Acceptable

Biological Catch—Adyan Rios, SEFSC

—IBFMP Spiny Lobster Amendment—

Sarah Stephenson, SERO Review

Components of the Draft Framework

Amendment to the Puerto Rico, St.

Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix

Fishery Management Plans (FMP) to

Modify Spiny Lobster Management

Reference Points Based on SEDAR 57

Stock Assessments.

12 noon–1 p.m.

—Lunch

1 p.m.–3 p.m.

—SSC Recommendations to CFMC on

Spiny Lobster

3 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

—Break

3:15 p.m.–5 p.m.

—Other Business