The applicant proposes to continue studies of the population structure, trends in relative abundance, distribution, genetics, zoogeography, and epidemiology of green and hawksbill sea turtles in the coastal waters of Puerto Rico. Up to 140 sea turtles of each species would be captured annually by hand or tangle net for photographs, temporary marking, measurements, weights, blood and tissue sampling, and flipper and passive integrated transponder tagging. A subset of 10 turtles of each species would receive a satellite tag (epoxy attachment) prior to release. Another 140 hawksbill turtles and 50 green turtles annually would be harassed during unsuccessful hand captures. The permit would be valid for up to 10 years from the date of issuance.

Julia Marie Harrison,
Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2021–11349 Filed 5–27–21; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
[RTID 0648–XB133]

Endangered Species; File No. 25694

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.
SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Carlos Diez, Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 9020708, Viejo San Juan, PR 00901, has applied in due form for a permit to take green (Chelonia mydas) and hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.
DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before June 28, 2021.
ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting “Records Open for Public Comment” from the “Features” box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov, and then selecting File No. 25694 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.
Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 25694 in the subject line of the email comment.
Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Hapeman or Jordan Rutland, (301) 427–8401.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

ADDRESS: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2021–0042, by the following method:
• Electronic Submissions: Submit all public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov and enter NOAA–NMFS–2021–0042 in the Search box. Click the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. The EFP applications will be available under Supporting and Related Materials through the same link.
Instructions: Comments must be submitted by the above method to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Massey, West Coast Region, NMFS, (562) 436–2462, lynn.massey@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is authorized by the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745, which allow NMFS Regional Administrators to authorize exempted fishing permits (EFPs) to test fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited.
At its April 2021 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended that NMFS approve three EFP applications for the 2021–2022 Pacific sardine fishing year. All three applications, two from the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) and one from the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCPKG), are renewal requests for an exemption from the expected prohibition on primary directed fishing for Pacific sardine during the 2021–2022 fishing year; the purpose of the requests are to collect Pacific sardine as part of industry-based scientific surveys. The Council considered these EFP applications concurrently with the 2021–2022 annual harvest specifications for Pacific sardine because expected Pacific
Program: Fishery Permit (EFP) To Allow Fishing

research costs and avoid unnecessary

fishermen and processors to offset

will be sold by the participating

individual haul of fish captured with a

portion of each point set (e.g.,

a total of 300 mt of Pacific sardine

participating vessels to directly harvest

this EFP would allow up to six

identified by aerial spotter pilots and

uncertainty by capturing CPS schools

aims to quantify that level of

spotter pilots. The CPS–NCS survey

San Francisco area since the summer of

California Bight, and in the Monterey-

nearshore waters in the Southern

California Bight, and in the Monterey-

San Francisco area since the summer of

2017. Currently, there is uncertainty in

the biomass estimates from aerial

spotter pilots. The CPS–NCS survey

aims to quantify that level of

uncertainty by capturing CPS schools

identified by aerial spotter pilots and

validating the biomass and species

composition of the schools. If approved,

this EFP would allow up to six

participating vessels to directly harvest

a total of 300 mt of Pacific sardine
during the 2021–2022 fishing year. A

portion of each point set (i.e., an

individual haul of fish captured with a

purse seine net) would be retained for

biological sampling, and the remainder

will be sold by the participating

fishermen and processors to offset

research costs and avoid unnecessary
discard.

(2) Request for Renewal of Exempted

Fishery Permit (EFP) To Allow Fishing

of Pacific Sardine For Biological

Samples in 2021 Nearshore Research

Program: The CWPA submitted a

renewal application for their CPS Nearshore Cooperative

Survey (NCS) program. The purpose of

this EFP project is to continue to
develop a sampling methodology for

estimating CPS biomass in shallow

waters that are not accessible to NOAA

survey ships. Since 2012 the California

Department of Fish and Wildlife, in

partnership with the CWPA, has been

conducting aerial surveys to estimate

the biomass and distribution of Pacific

sardine and certain other CPS in

nearshore waters in the Southern

California Bight, and in the Monterey-

San Francisco area since the summer of

2017. Currently, there is uncertainty in

the biomass estimates from aerial

spotter pilots. The CPS–NCS survey

aims to quantify that level of

uncertainty by capturing CPS schools

identified by aerial spotter pilots and

validating the biomass and species

composition of the schools. If approved,

this EFP would allow up to six

participating vessels to directly harvest

a total of 300 mt of Pacific sardine
during the 2021–2022 fishing year. A

portion of each point set (i.e., an

individual haul of fish captured with a

purse seine net) would be retained for

biological sampling, and the remainder

will be sold by the participating

fishermen and processors to offset

research costs and avoid unnecessary
discard.

(3) Exempted Fishery Permit to

continue an industry-federal-state

collaborative acoustic survey for CPS in

nearshore waters: The WCPCG

submitted a renewal application for

their Nearshore Surveillance Acoustic

Trawl Methodology Survey of North

West Coastal Waters EFP project. Since

2017, the WCPCG has been working

with NMFS’ SWFSC and the

Washington Department of Fish and

Wildlife for biological sampling, and

the remainder of the set would be

released from the purse seine net

immediately after collecting the

biological samples.

Altogether, these EFP projects total

830 mt. If NMFS does not issue these

EFPs, then this 830-mt portion of the

ACL would be available for harvest by

other permissible fishing activities
during the 2021–2022 fishing year (e.g.,

live bait or minor directed harvest).

After publication of this document in

the Federal Register, NMFS may

approve and issue permits to

participating vessels after the close of

the public comment period. NMFS will

consider comments submitted in

deciding whether to approve the

applications as requested. NMFS may

approve the applications in their

entirety or may make any alterations

needed to achieve the goals of the EFP

projects. NMFS may also approve

different amounts of Pacific sardine

allocation for each EFP project if any

changes are made to the 2021–2022

proposed sardine harvest specifications

before final implementation.

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


Jennifer M. Wallace,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable

Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–11331 Filed 5–27–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration

[RTID 0648–XB109]

Caribbean Fishery Management

Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries

Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),

Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public virtual

meetings.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery

Management Council’s (Council)

District Advisory Panels (DAPs) will

hold public virtual meetings to address

the items contained in the tentative

agenda included in the SUPPLEMENTARY

INFORMATION.

DATES: The DAPs public virtual

meetings will be held as follows: St.

Croix DAP, June 15, 2021, from 10 a.m.
to 12 p.m.; Puerto Rico DAP, June 15,
2021, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; St. Thomas/

St. John DAP, June 16, 2021, from 10
a.m. to 12 p.m. All meetings will be at

Eastern Day Time.

ADDRESSES: You may join the DAPs

public virtual meetings (via Zoom) from

a computer, tablet or smartphone by

entering the following addresses:

DAP–STT/STJ

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/

86262657165?pwd=

aGQ4U25rME92d1p1TWo4d3Y3RGFrdz09

Meeting ID: 862 6265 7165

Passcode: 901759

One tap mobile

+17879451488,,86262657165#,,,,

*901759# Puerto Rico

+17879667727,,86262657165#,,,,

*901759# Puerto Rico

Dial by your location

+1 787 945 1488 Puerto Rico

+1 787 966 7727 Puerto Rico

+1 939 945 0244 Puerto Rico

Meeting ID: 862 6265 7165

Passcode: 901759

DAP–PR

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/

86222659918?pwd=

elVvQT09UitRcnBJRqVpW4eI3SEZ6

rdz09

Meeting ID: 862 2265 9918

Passcode: 623876

One tap mobile

+19399450244,,86222659918#,,,,

*623876# Puerto Rico

+17879451488,,86222659918#,,,,

*623876# Puerto Rico