SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

ADDRESSES:

SUMMARY:

ACTION:

AGENCY:

Fishing Permits

General Provisions for Domestic
Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions;

[RTID 0648–XB272]

Administration

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
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 Exempted Fishing Permit application
submitted by the Coonamessett Farm
Foundation contains all of the required
information and warrants further
consideration. 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 August 23, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written
comments by the following method:

• Email: nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov

Include in the subject line “CFF
Seasonal Scallop Survey EFP.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shannah Jaburek, Fishery Management
Specialist; shannah.jaburek@noaa.gov,
(978) 281–9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF)
submitted a complete application for an
Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to
conduct commercial fishing activities
that the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery
Management Plan regulations would
otherwise restrict. This EFP would
exempt the participating vessels from:
Atlantic sea scallop days-at-sea (DAS)
allocations at 50 CFR 648.53(b); crew
size restrictions at § 648.51(c); observer
program requirements at § 648.11(g);
minimum mesh size restrictions at
§ 648.51(b)(2); minimum ring size
restrictions at § 648,51(b)(3); dredge
obstruction restriction at
§ 648.51(b)(4)(ii); Closed Area II
restrictions in § 648.59 and 648.60;
dredge or net obstructions at
§ 648.51(b)(4)(iii); size and possession
limits at § 648 subsections B and D
through Q for biological sampling only,
and § 697.20 for lobster sampling and
tagging only.

CFF applied for an EFP on April 5,
2021, to conduct a scallop survey in
Georges Bank. This EFP would allow
CFF to conduct the survey over four, 7-
day survey trips on commercial scallop
vessels from August 17, 2021, through
July 30, 2022, at 50 fixed stations. The
survey stations would be located in
Closed Area II Southeast, Closed Area II
Southwest, Closed Area II extension,
and the eastern edge of the Southern
Flank Scallop Management Simulator
areas. The survey stations were chosen
to provide data about scallop spawning,
scallop meat quality, and seasonal
patterns of habitat use by bycatch
species caught in the scallop fishery.

Participating vessels would use two,
15-foot (4.6 m) turtle deflector dredges
with 10-inch (25.4 cm) twine tops, 4-
inch (10.2 cm) ring bags, 7-row aprons,
and 2:1 twine top hanging ratios. One
dredge would have a 50-mm cover net
attached to catch juvenile scallops and
other bycatch species that escape from
normal scallop dredges. The dredge
with the cover net would be towed for
10 minutes at 4.8 knots (8.9 km/hr). The
dredge without the cover net would be
towed for 30 minutes at 4.8 knots (8.9
km/hr). Dredges would be fished
alternatively.

CFF researchers would be
participating vessels at all times and
would direct sampling activities.
Scallop catch would be sorted into
baskets and weighed. A subsample of
catch would be measured and have meat
quality and other biological metrics
recorded. Flatfish bycatch would be
weighed and measured for length, and
reproductive data would be recorded for
windowpane, winter, and yellowtail
flounder. Crabs, moon snails, whelks,
and other scallop predators would be
weighed and counted. Sea stars would
be sampled using the same protocols as
scallops. Lobsters would have biological
measurements taken and will be
assessed for dredge damage. Lobsters
would also be tagged in collaboration
with the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen’s
Association. No catch will be landed for
sale.

If approved, the applicant may
request minor modifications and
extensions to the EFP throughout the
year. EFP modifications and extensions
may be granted without further notice if
they are deemed essential to facilitate
completion of the proposed research
and have minimal impacts that do not
change the scope or impact of the
initially approved EFP request. Any
fishing activity conducted outside the
scope of the exempted fishing activity
would be prohibited.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

[RTID 0648–XB234]

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental
to Specific Activities; Taking of Marine
Mammals Incidental to Pile Driving and
Removal Activities During the
Metlakatla Seaplane Facility
Refurbishment Project, Metlakatla,
Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental
harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
regulations implementing the Marine
Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as
amended, notification is hereby given
that NMFS has issued an incidental
harassment authorization (IHA) to the
Alaska Department of Transportation
and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF) to
incidentally harass, by Level B
harassment only, marine mammals
during pile driving/removal and
down-the-hole drilling (DTH) activities
for maintenance improvements to the
existing Metlakatla Seaplane Facility
(MSF) in Southeast Alaska.

DATES: This Authorization is effective
for one year from issuance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Egger, Office of Protected
Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.
Electronic copies of the application and
supporting documents, as well as a list
of the references cited in this document,
may be obtained online at: https://
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/
incidental-take-authorization-alaska-
department-transportation-metlakatla-
seaplane-facility. In case of problems
accessing these documents, or for
anyone who is unable to comment via
electronic mail, please call the contact
listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of
marine mammals, with certain
exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and
(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 et