

during rehabilitation; and other authorized persons. Parts from U.S. stranded animals received under separate authorization may be exported for analysis. The parts would be used to understand persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, and trace elements in marine mammals. The permit would be valid for 5 years from the date of issuance.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: January 5, 2024.

Julia M. Harrison,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-00349 Filed 1-9-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD607]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 4-day hybrid meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will convene Monday, January 29 through Thursday, February 1, 2024, 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m., CST daily.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will take place at Hyatt Centric French Quarter, located at 800 Iberville Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, January 29, 2024; 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m., CST

The meeting will begin with the Administrative/Budget Committee reviewing and discussing the Proposed Standing and Special Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Reorganization for June 2024 Appointments, Ad Hoc and Standing Advisory Panels, Proposed 2024 Activities and Budget, and the 2020–2023 Administrative Award Anticipated Funding and Proposed Carryover Projects. The committee will review and approve Proposal Activities for Phase II Inflation Reduction Act Funding for the Regional Management Councils and finalize the Steering Committee makeup for the Recreational Initiative.

The Law Enforcement Committee will review summaries from the Law Enforcement Technical Committee discussion on Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Advanced Landings Notifications and additional topics.

The Data Collection Committee will receive a summary report from the Ad Hoc Charter For-hire Data Collection Advisory Panel meeting including recommendations and next steps for For-hire Electronic Reporting. Hold a discussion on Marine Recreational Information Program-Fishing Effort Survey (MRIP-FES) Inventory and Action Plan for the Gulf of Mexico and receive an update on the Status of the Timeline on the Implementation of the Commercial Logbooks.

The Shrimp Committee will receive an update on Early Adopter Program for Shrimp Cellular Vessel Monitoring Systems (cVMS) and discuss Shrimp Future Project: Workshops to Address Current Challenges and Future Scenario Planning.

Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m., CST

The Reef Fish Committee will review and discuss draft options for Modification of Mid-Water Snapper Complex Composition and Catch Limits, Gag Grouper Management Measures and Final Action: Draft Abbreviated Framework Action: Modifications to Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper. The committee will also review Permit Requirements for Participation in Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Programs and review the 2023 Gulf Red Grouper Recreational Landings and Quota Closure.

The Sustainable Fisheries Committee will discuss Allocations and Allocation Review Policy and Summary of SSC Discussion on Incorporation Social Science Theory and methods in Ecosystem Assessments.

Immediately following the Sustainable Fisheries Committee, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will Host a General Question and Answer Session.

Wednesday, January 31, 2024; 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m., CST

The Outreach and Education Committee will review the 2023 Communications Improvement Plan Progress and 2023 Analytics, 2023 In-Person Event Outreach Progress and 2024 Plan, and Communications Guidelines Book Review. The committee will discuss Fishery Ecosystem Plan Outreach, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Stakeholder Engagement and Management Timeline Tool. The committee will receive an update on Return 'Em Right Best Practices Manual and review other items from the O&E Technical Committee Summary.

At approximately 10:45 a.m., CST, the Council will reconvene with a Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes. The Council will receive updates on NMFS National Seafood Strategy Regional Implementation Plan, update from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico and Opportunities to Advance Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) in Gulf of Mexico Fisheries through the Southeast EEJ Implementation Plan; and, discuss Exempted Fishing Permit Application.

Following lunch, the Council will hold public comment testimony from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., CST for Final Action Item: Draft Abbreviated Framework Action: Modifications to Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper, receive comments on the Southeast EEJ Implementation Plan and Exempted Fishing Permit Application; including, open testimony on other fishery issues or concerns. Public comment may begin earlier than 1:30 p.m. CST but will not conclude before that time. Persons wishing to give public testimony in-person must register at the registration kiosk in the meeting room. Persons wishing to give public testimony virtually must sign up via the link on the Council website. Registration for virtual testimony is open at the start of the meeting, Monday, January 29, at 8:30 a.m., CST and closes 1 hour before public

testimony begins on Wednesday, January 31, at 12:30 p.m. CST. Public testimony may end before the published agenda time if all registered in-person and virtual participants have completed their testimony.

Thursday, February 1, 2024; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., CST

The Council will receive Committee reports from Administrative/Budget, Law Enforcement, Data Collection, Shrimp, Reef Fish, Sustainable Fisheries, Education and Outreach, and recommendations on Exempted Fishing Permit Application. The Council will receive updates from the following supporting agencies: Louisiana Law Enforcement Efforts; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE); Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Department of State.

The Council will discuss Council Planning and Primary Activities and Other Business items, Litigation Update. Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting; both in-person and virtual participation available. You may register for the webinar to listen-in only by visiting <https://www.gulfcouncil.org> and click on the Council meeting on the calendar.

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on the website as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid or accommodations should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348-1630, at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 5, 2024.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-00363 Filed 1-9-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2024-0055]

USPTO Public Engagement Partnership: Public Meeting Series To Enhance Outreach to the Public on Patent Policies and Procedures

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is announcing the Public Engagement Partnership meeting series to facilitate increased engagement with the public about the patent system. The USPTO will host the first meeting of the Public Engagement Partnership series virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters on March 1, 2024. The purpose of this meeting is to provide education about the patent system and to share ideas, experiences, and insights related to the administration of the system.

DATES: The first public meeting will take place on March 1, 2024, from 1–5 p.m. ET. Persons seeking to attend, either virtually or in person, must register by February 29, 2024, at the web page in the **ADDRESSES** section below.

ADDRESSES: Register at www.uspto.gov/patents/initiatives/PublicEngagementPartnership. The first public meeting will take place virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters, Clara Barton Auditorium, 600 Dulany St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Registration is required for both virtual and in-person attendance. All major entrances to the building are accessible to people with disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Horner, Acting Senior Lead Administrative Patent Judge, at 571-272-4596 or Linda.Horner@uspto.gov. You can also send inquiries to PublicEngagementPartnership@uspto.gov. Please direct all media inquiries to the Office of the Chief Communications Officer at 571-272-8400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO's mission is to drive U.S. innovation, inclusive capitalism, and

global competitiveness with the ultimate goal of increasing innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity for the benefit of all Americans and people around the world. In fulfilling this mission, the USPTO appreciates that its work impacts our country's economic prosperity and, in turn, the public. In January of 2023, the USPTO engaged with the public at a listening session regarding USPTO collaboration with other government agencies to ensure that the patent system is not being used to unjustifiably delay competition beyond that reasonably contemplated by applicable law. At this listening session, members of the public expressed a desire to increase engagement with the USPTO about the patent system.

To expand outreach efforts, the USPTO seeks to form a partnership with members of the public, including, for example, advocacy groups, public interest-focused nonprofits, academics, and civil society. The Public Engagement Partnership will provide an opportunity to bring the public and the USPTO together through a series of engagements to offer education about the patent system and to share ideas, experiences, and insights related to the administration of the system.

The USPTO will hold the inaugural meeting of the Public Engagement Partnership meeting series virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, on March 1, 2024. Presentations at this first meeting will provide foundational education about the patent system and the USPTO's practices and policies. The meeting will also include a panel discussion with representatives of the public interest community and advocacy groups on areas of particular interest. Subsequent meetings in the series will build on this foundational information. For example, future meetings will include presentations on tools for understanding a patent and existing mechanisms for participation in the patent procurement process, such as third-party submissions. Meetings will also cover participation in the enforcement of patents before the USPTO via ex parte reexamination requests, and petitions for inter partes review and post-grant review before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. These mechanisms are available to the public at large.

Instructions for and Information on the Public Meeting

The public meeting will take place virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters, Clara Barton Auditorium, 600 Dulany St., Alexandria, VA 22314, on March 1, 2024, from 1–5 p.m. ET. The agenda is available on the USPTO