

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS—Continued

Species	Authorized take	Scaled take <sup>1</sup>	Abundance <sup>2</sup>	Percent abundance
Spinner dolphin .....	<sup>4</sup> 152	n/a	2,991	5.1
Striped dolphin .....	4,750	1,363	16,102	8.5
Fraser's dolphin .....	379	109	1,665	6.5
Risso's dolphin .....	81	24	1,974	1.2
Blackfish <sup>5</sup> .....	3,087	911	9,535	9.5
Short-finned pilot whale .....	0	n/a	3,277	n/a

<sup>1</sup> Scalar ratios were applied to “Authorized Take” values as described at 86 FR 5322, 5404 (January 19, 2021) to derive scaled take numbers shown here.

<sup>2</sup> Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Garrison *et al.*, 2023). For Rice's whale, Atlantic spotted dolphin, spinner dolphin, and Risso's dolphin, the estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

<sup>3</sup> Includes 21 takes by Level A harassment and 259 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take (83.3) plus authorized Level A harassment take (20.5).

<sup>4</sup> Modeled take of bottlenose dolphins (n=6) and spinner dolphins (n=91) increased to account for potential encounter with a group of average size (Maze-Foley and Mullin, 2006).

<sup>5</sup> The “blackfish” guild includes melon-headed whales, false killer whales, pygmy killer whales, and killer whales.

Based on the analysis contained herein of Chevron's proposed survey activity described in its LOA application, as subsequently modified by Chevron, and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes (*i.e.*, less than one-third of the best available abundance estimate) and therefore the taking is of no more than small numbers.

#### Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA modification request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued a modification to the LOA to Chevron authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: November 13, 2025.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**[RTID 0648-XF281]**

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Committee via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/DcI5OhNvRIWi62HpbhUWUQ>.

**ADDRESSES:** *Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Agenda**

The Scallop Committee will meet to discuss Framework 40 (FW40): Review specifications alternatives in FW40 and select final preferred alternatives. FW40 will set specifications including the overfishing limit acceptable biological catch/annual catch limit, days-at-sea, access area allocations for Limited Access vessels, quota and access area trip allocation to the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Individual Fishing Quota component, Total Allowable Landings for the Northern Gulf of Maine management area, a target-Total Allowable Catch for LAGC incidental catch and set-asides for the observer and research programs for fishing year 2026, and default specifications for fishing year 2027. They also plan to review the draft Long-

Term Strategic Plan. The Committee will develop recommendations for possible 2026 scallop work priorities. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action 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 the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: November 14, 2025.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

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