

the exception of reducing the type or amount of take).

2. A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

- Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

Dated: February 18, 2026.

**Shannon Bettridge,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026-03475 Filed 2-20-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF547]

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Southeast Data Assessment and Review 103 Data Webinar 2 for Caribbean Application of Alternate Assessment Methods.

**SUMMARY:** The Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 103 assessment process of Caribbean Alternate Assessment Methods will consist of a Development Workshop, a series of Assessment Webinars, and a Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 103 Data Webinar 2 will be held from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. EST April 1, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:**

*SEDAR address:* 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405. [www.sedarweb.org](http://www.sedarweb.org).

*Meeting address:* The SEDAR 103 Data Webinar 2 will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in

the meeting being extended from or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Emily Ott, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 302-8434. Email: [Emily.Ott@safmc.net](mailto:Emily.Ott@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the SEDAR process. SEDAR is a participatory process for developing, evaluating and reviewing information used for fisheries management advice. This multi-step process for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region may include (1) a Data stage, and (2) an Assessment stage, and (3) a Review stage. Each stage produces a report summarizing decisions made during that stage. A final stock assessment report is produced at the end of a SEDAR process documenting data sets used, model configurations and the opinions from the independent peer review. Participants for SEDAR projects are appointed by the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants may include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGO's); International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and Federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the SEDAR 103 Data Webinar 2 are as follows: Continue data review and discuss Pacific Island assessment history. Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the 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 aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: February 18, 2026.

**Becky J. Curtis,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026-03442 Filed 2-20-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF166]

#### Withdrawal of Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Phase 2 Modifications to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan To Reduce Mortality and Serious Injury of Large Whales in Commercial Trap/Pot and Gillnet Fisheries Along the U.S. East Coast

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; withdrawal.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is withdrawing the "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Phase 2 Modifications to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan to reduce mortality and serious injury of large whales in commercial trap/pot and gillnet fisheries along the U.S. East Coast."

**DATES:** The notice of intent to prepare an EIS published in the **Federal Register** on September 9, 2022 (87 FR 55405), is withdrawn as of February 23, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Protected Resources Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; or by email to [nmfs.gar.alwtrt@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.alwtrt@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Goebel, Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team Coordinator, Greater Atlantic Region. Telephone: 978-281-9175. Email: [nmfs.garfo.alwtrt@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.garfo.alwtrt@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) mandates that NMFS develop and implement Take Reduction Plans for preventing the depletion and assisting in the recovery of certain marine mammal stocks that are killed or

seriously injured incidental to commercial fisheries. Pursuant to the MMPA, NMFS convenes Take Reduction Teams composed of stakeholders to develop recommendations that achieve a short-term goal of reducing mortalities and serious injuries of marine mammals covered by the Take Reduction Plan to a rate below each stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level, which is defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. NMFS considers those recommendations when implementing Take Reduction Plans through the rulemaking process. The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (Team) was first convened in 1996 to recommend measures to reduce mortalities and serious injuries of right, humpback, and fin whales incidental to certain commercial fisheries. Since 1997, the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction (Plan) has been amended several times to reduce the impacts of fishing gear on large whales in U.S. waters through measures that include area closures, gear configuration requirements, and gear marking. On September 17, 2021, NMFS published a Plan amendment (86 FR 51970; (2021 rule), that implemented modifications to reduce mortalities and serious injuries caused by entanglement in the Northeast American lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fishery.

However, at the time, NMFS believed additional entanglement-related mortality and serious injury reduction would be needed to meet the goal set by the MMPA. As part of the rulemaking process that would establish these additional entanglement risk reduction measures, NMFS published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Phase 2 Modifications to the Plan on September 9, 2022 (87 FR 55405). NMFS reconvened the Team in Fall 2022 to develop recommendations for measures to further address entanglement risk in all East Coast fixed-gear fisheries managed under the Plan. In December 2022, shortly after the Team voted on recommendations, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA). The CAA deemed the 2021 rule sufficient to ensure that the continued Federal and State authorizations of the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries are in full compliance with the MMPA and Endangered Species Act for a period

ending December 31, 2028. The 2-year timeline for an EIS as defined by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 updates to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) makes the timeline for an EIS incompatible with the CAA's Congressionally mandated effective date of December 31, 2028, for a new Plan amendment. Therefore, NMFS withdraws this NOI to comply with NEPA requirements.

NMFS may issue NOIs to prepare EISs for future Plan amendments, including for any amendment that may be required December 31, 2028.

*Authority:* NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, and MMPA, 31 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*

Dated: February 19, 2026.

**Shannon Bettridge,**

*Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026-03579 Filed 2-20-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XF551]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 28985**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Minnesota Zoological Gardens, 13000 Zoo Boulevard, Apple Valley, MN 55124 (Responsible Party: John Frawley), has applied in due form for an enhancement permit for one captive Hawaiian monk seal (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*).

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before March 25, 2026.

**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. 28985 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 28985 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](mailto: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:** Jennifer Skidmore or Sara Young, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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).

The Minnesota Zoological Gardens proposes continued maintenance of one non-releasable Hawaiian monk seal for enhancement purposes. This animal would be provided with daily husbandry care and treatment for current medical conditions, routine veterinary care, and would be made available for opportunistic research. The zoo will continue public awareness through education and observation, and non-intrusive husbandry and medical studies conducted incidental to the routine care and husbandry of the animals. The permit is requested for a 10-year period.

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: February 18, 2026.

**Shannon Bettridge,**

*Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026-03474 Filed 2-20-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**