

the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 29433 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. 29433 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:

Jennifer Skidmore or Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The University of Alaska Museum functions as an archive for scientific parts and provides these to the global scientific community through their loan program for research. The museum is requesting authority to receive, import, and export parts from up to 200 individual cetaceans and 1,000 individual pinnipeds, excluding walrus, annually. The requested duration of the permit is 10 years.

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: March 12, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-05178 Filed 3-16-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF611]

Endangered Species Act; Taking of Endangered and Threatened Species Incidental to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Fisheries-Independent Gill Net Surveys in Texas Waters

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has applied for an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The permit application is for the incidental take of ESA-listed sea turtles associated with otherwise lawful fishery-independent gill net surveys within Texas bays and estuaries. NMFS is publishing this notice to allow other agencies and the public an opportunity to review and comment on the application and Conservation Plan. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be available for review.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than April 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The application is available for download and review at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/incidental-take-permits> and at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The application is also available upon request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

You may submit comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2026-0958, by Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter [NOAA-NMFS-2026-0958] in the Search box. Click on the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (e.g., name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not

submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. We will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Corcoran, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8453, kim.corcoran@noaa.gov OR Celeste Stout, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8436, celeste.stout@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the "taking" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The ESA defines "take" to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may issue permits, under limited circumstances, to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA provides for authorizing incidental take of listed species. NMFS regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are promulgated at 50 CFR 222.307.

Applicants seeking ITPs must submit an application and Conservation Plan that includes the requirements specified in Section 10(a)(2)(A) (see Conservation Plan section for details of what is required to be included in a Conservation Plan). If, following opportunity for public comment and evaluation of the application and Conservation Plan, NMFS finds that: (i) the taking will be incidental; (ii) the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of such taking; (iii) the applicant will ensure that adequate funding for the plan will be provided; (iv) the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and (v) the applicant will implement any other measures NMFS may require as being necessary and appropriate, NMFS shall issue the ITP.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are included in the permit application and Conservation Plan: green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles.

Background

On July 24, 2024, TPWD submitted an initial full draft application and Conservation Plan requesting take of ESA-listed species of sea turtles associated with their otherwise lawful

fisheries-independent gill net surveys within the Texas bays and estuaries as well as a small portion of Sabine Lake, LA. TPWD submitted revised draft applications and associated Conservation Plans on May 19, 2025 and December 22, 2025. Following review of these drafts, NMFS and TPWD held further discussions regarding the statutory and regulatory requirements for the application and Conservation Plan. On February 13, 2026, TPWD submitted a revised application for an ITP, including an updated Conservation Plan to monitor, minimize and mitigate the impacts of sea turtle entanglements incidental to their fisheries-independent gill net surveys, to the maximum extent practicable. NMFS deemed the application and Conservation Plan

adequate and complete on February 26, 2026.

Purpose and Objectives of TPWD’s Activities

The purpose and objectives of TPWD’s proposed activity are to monitor trends in finfish, shark, and macroinvertebrate communities throughout the estuarine waters of Texas to inform fisheries management. The data collected from TPWD fisheries-independent gill net surveys are used to inform stock status, inform listing status, manage Gulf of America-wide fisheries, create management plans, and generate scientific research. The existing gill net data spans nearly 50 years and TPWD relies on its continuity for management decisions.

Sea Turtle Take Estimates

TPWD is requesting take of each sea turtle species on a 3-year rolling time period (*i.e.*, take that occurs over any 3-year period). TPWD predicted total annual entanglements in TPWD gill nets using linear modeling and also used a simplified approach of estimating entanglements based on historical data (1983–2024; please see TPWD’s application and Conservation Plan for more information). After comparing model estimates to historical data, TPWD requested take based on the maximum number of entanglements within any given three-year period (see Table 1).

TABLE 1—TPWD’S REQUESTED TAKE OF ESA-LISTED SEA TURTLES

Species	Historical maximum turtles entangled in a 3-year period	Historical percentage of live entanglements	Rolling 3-year requested live take	Rolling 3-year requested mortality take	Rolling 3-year requested total take
Green	74	58.15	48	32	74
Loggerhead	2	75.00	2	1	* 3
Hawksbill	2	50.00	1	1	2
Kemp’s ridley	6	78.26	5	1	6

* Standard rounding convention to whole numbers led to sum greater than the maximum historic entanglements.

Conservation Plan

Section 10 of the ESA specifies that no permit may be issued by NMFS unless an applicant submits a Conservation Plan that specifies: (1) the impact which will likely result from such taking; (2) what steps the applicant will take to minimize and mitigate such impacts, and the funding that will be available to implement such steps; (3) what alternative actions to such taking the applicant considered and the reasons why such alternatives are not being utilized; (4) such other measures that NMFS may require as being necessary or appropriate for purposes of the plan.

TPWD’s Conservation Plan addresses each of the required elements of Section 10(a)(2)(A) and 50 CFR 222.307(b). In particular, TPWD has included measures to monitor, minimize, and mitigate the take of ESA-listed sea turtles incidental to fishery-independent gill net surveying. To avoid and minimize take of green, loggerhead, Kemp’s ridley, and hawksbill sea turtles, TPWD will constrain the sampling season to two 10-week seasons (fall and spring); identify hot spot grids (1-minute latitude by 1-minute latitude square grids where gill nets can be set and sampled in Texas bays and estuaries) to implement additional

species protections such as the “last in/first out” strategy to reduce gill net soak times; sampling grid removal from future surveys after one endangered species entanglement in that grid; net configurations, such as reducing net slack, and marker buoy attachment to improve visibility for monitoring entanglements and reducing the potential for entanglements; extended pre-deployment observation period; following Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network protocols and appropriate release and resuscitation protocols upon discovery of an entangled sea turtle; conducting surveys on “best” available weather days for gill net deployment; and continuous net repair to eliminate holes larger than 6 inch (in; 15.24 cm) stretched mesh.

TPWD also provided NMFS with assurances that adequate funding will be provided to support its Conservation Plan, including funds to support cold stunning recovery activities, shrimp fishery management and law enforcement, and habitat protection within Texas state bays and estuaries throughout the duration of the permit. The Conservation Plan also includes outreach, education, and a debris removal program, funded through state appropriations and supplemented by other sources such as Natural Resource Disaster Assessment and Sport Fish

Restoration, as funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with regular reporting requirements.

TPWD considered and rejected the following alternatives: (1) no-Action; (2) no setting of gill nets; (3) shifting from overnight setting of gill nets to daytime only sampling; (4) significantly shortening the duration gill nets are deployed; (5) reducing the number of gill nets set each season; (6) continuously monitoring (tending) gill nets while they are deployed; and (7) removing gill net mesh panels with mesh size greater than 5 in (12.7 cm) stretch mesh in size.

Please refer to TPWD’s ITP application and Conservation Plan, which can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/incidental-take-permits> for detailed information.

National Environmental Policy Act

Issuing an ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit constitutes a Federal action requiring NMFS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order 216–6, Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Policy Act (1999). NMFS will conduct the appropriate NEPA review prior to

making a final decision on TPWD's request for an ITP.

Next Steps

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments received during the comment period to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. If NMFS determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed sea turtles. NMFS will publish a notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 13, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-05183 Filed 3-16-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF576]

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 Joint Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel meeting 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 Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 9 a.m. EST Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/YVPoLTljQrGLr8hjysJxcQ>.

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 Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel will meet to receive a

final report on the Redfish Sector Exemption Review. They will also discuss updates on other Council groundfish priorities for 2026 (if available). Other business will be discussed as 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: March 13, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-05208 Filed 3-16-26; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[CPSC Docket No. 26-C0002]

Proposed Settlement Agreement, Stipulation, Order and Judgment, etc.; Shimano, Inc. and Shimano North America Holding, Inc.

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission publishes in the **Federal Register** any settlement that it provisionally accepts under the Consumer Product Safety Act. Published below is a provisionally accepted Settlement Agreement with Shimano, Inc. and Shimano North America Holding, Inc., containing a civil penalty in the amount of \$11,500,000 subject to the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement. The Commission provisionally accepted the proposed Settlement Agreement and

Order pertaining to Shimano, Inc. and Shimano North America Holding, Inc.

DATES: Any interested person may ask the Commission not to accept this agreement or otherwise comment on its contents by filing a written request with the Office of the Secretary by April 1, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to comment on this Settlement Agreement should send written comments to Comment 26-C0002, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone: (301) 504-7479 (office); email: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Liana G.T. Wolf, Senior Trial Attorney, Division of Enforcement and Litigation, Office of Compliance and Field Operations, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; lwolf@cpsc.gov; 240-743-8559 (mobile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the Settlement Agreement and Order appear below.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Brianna Bell,

Paralegal Specialist.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

CPSC Docket No.: 26-C0002

SHIMANO, INC. AND SHIMANO
NORTH AMERICA HOLDING, INC.

Settlement Agreement

1. In accordance with the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 2051-2089 ("CPSA"), and 16 CFR 1118.20, Shimano, Inc. and Shimano North America Holding, Inc. (collectively, "Shimano" or "the Firm"), and the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission ("Commission" or "CPSC"), through its staff, hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement ("Agreement"). The Agreement and the incorporated attached Order resolve staff's charges set forth below.

The Parties

2. The Commission is an independent federal regulatory agency, established pursuant to, and responsible for, the enforcement of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. 2051-2089. By executing the Agreement, staff is acting on behalf of the Commission, pursuant to 16 CFR § 1118.20(b). The Commission issues the Order under the provisions of the CPSA.

3. Shimano, Inc. is a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of