

3. Information related to technologies and strategies that could increase opportunities for or mitigate risks of aquaculture development.

4. Potential impacts to biological, physical, and ecological resources, including potential interactions with marine mammals and other species protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act or Endangered Species Act, Essential Fish Habitat designated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other sensitive, managed, or protected habitats in the Gulf of Alaska.

5. Potential impacts to the social, economic, and cultural environment, including but not limited to fishing sectors and industries, and Alaska Native and coastal communities.

6. Current or planned activities in or near the areas highlighted in this notice and their possible impacts on aquaculture development or the impact of aquaculture developments on those activities.

7. Other topics relevant to the Proposed Action and its impacts on the human environment.

Authority: E.O. 13921.

Dated: April 7, 2026.

Danielle Blacklock,

Director, Office of Aquaculture, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-07063 Filed 4-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF653]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is conducting five scoping meetings to solicit comments on ideas for fishery improvements in the monkfish and skate fisheries. The scoping is designed to identify the challenges the monkfish and skate fishing sectors are grappling with and to identify possible management measures for the Council to address those challenges in the future. In June of 2026, the Council will consider comments received during scoping and in December of 2026, the Council will consider these comments when developing 2027 Council work priorities. Given monkfish is jointly

managed with the Mid-Atlantic Council, during its August 2026 meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Council will receive the same scoping summary and an update on any outcomes of the June 2026 New England Council meeting.

DATES: These meetings and webinar will be held between Monday, April 27, 2026 and Monday, May 11, 2026. See supplementary information for more details on specific dates and times.

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:

1. Monday, April 27, 2026 from 4–6:30 p.m. The Westin Portland Harborview Hotel, 157 High Street, Portland, ME 04101.

2. Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 4–6:30 p.m. Fairfield Inn & Suites, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740.

3. Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 4–6:30 p.m. Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901.

4. Thursday, May 5, 2026 from 4–6:30 p.m. Stafford Township, 260 East Bay Avenue, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

5. Monday, May 11, 2026 from 4–6:30 p.m. via webinar. Please register for the webinar here: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/CjSy3wZ4SfSBSOgc87uRiQ>.

Public comments: The public comment deadline is on Monday, May 18, 2026. Mail to Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill #2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Mark the outside of the envelope “Monkfish and Skate Fishery Improvements Scoping Comments.” Comments may also be sent via email to comments@nefmc.org—with “Monkfish and Skate Fishery Improvements Scoping Comments” in the subject line.

Agenda

Council staff will brief the public on prior monkfish and skate priority ideas, recent monkfish catch per unit effort (CPUE) project review information, and the Monkfish and Skate 2025 Joint Management Summary Report before receiving comments. Staff seek feedback on gear-type dynamics, skate fishery components, and the differences between the northern and southern monkfish components to help the Council articulate and prioritize management objectives for both

fisheries in the future. These meetings will begin promptly at the time indicated above. If all attendees who wish to do so have provided their comments prior to the end time indicated, the meeting may conclude early. To the extent possible, the Council may extend scoping meetings beyond the end time indicated above to accommodate all attendees who wish to speak.

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

These meetings are 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: April 9, 2026.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-07110 Filed 4-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF678]

Marine Mammals; File No. 29014

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Erich Jarvis, Ph.D., The Rockefeller University 1230 York Ave, New York, NY 10065, has applied in due form for a permit to import marine mammal parts for scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before May 13, 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 home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 29014 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. 29014 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, (301) 427-8401.

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

The applicant proposes to import parts from up to 10 individuals annually from the following species: Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*), the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*), and the Short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*). These samples were collected by collaborators at the Universiti Malaya in Malaysia under other authorizations. Parts would be genetically sequenced to resolve a critical taxonomic uncertainty regarding coastal dolphin populations in the Straits of Malacca. 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: April 9, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-07094 Filed 4-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act Guidance

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: On April 9, 2026, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued a memorandum to the heads of Federal departments and agencies (agencies) on establishing, revising, adopting, and applying categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This guidance replaces initial guidance on the same subject issued on December 6, 2010.

DATES: This guidance was issued on April 9, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jomar Maldonado, Director for NEPA, 202-395-5750, Jomar.MaldonadoVazquez@ceq.eop.gov. The guidance is available for viewing online at www.nepa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On April XX, 2026, CEQ issued a memorandum entitled *Establishing, Revising, Adopting, and Applying Categorical Exclusions Under the National Environmental Policy Act* to provide guidance to Federal agencies regarding categorical exclusions. This guidance replaces guidance issued on December 6, 2010, entitled *Establishing, Applying, and Revising Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act*, which CEQ published at www.nepa.gov and reproduced in a **Federal Register** notice (75 FR 75628 (Dec. 6, 2010)). The 2010 Guidance is now rescinded.

Since CEQ issued the 2010 Guidance, Congress revised NEPA to (1) include, for the first time, a definition of “categorical exclusion,” and (2) establish a process by which an agency may adopt and use a categorical exclusion listed in another agency’s NEPA implementing procedures. 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1), 4336c. In addition, the 2010 Guidance was issued pursuant to and based on CEQ’s 1978 NEPA implementing regulations. CEQ has rescinded all iterations of its NEPA implementing regulations effective

April 11, 2025. *See* Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations, 90 FR 10610 (Feb. 25, 2025) (interim final rule); 91 FR 618 (Jan. 8, 2026) (final rule). Therefore, it is appropriate for CEQ to issue revised guidance at this time.

CEQ has long emphasized the importance of categorical exclusions as a core feature of NEPA practice to facilitate efficient and effective reviews in accordance with Congress’s intent. Congress also recognizes that categorical exclusions are a form of review that agencies use to comply with NEPA for proposed actions that normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. By identifying categorical exclusions as a threshold consideration for whether an EA or EIS is required, Congress has expressly directed agencies to consider which categories of actions they perform “normally” do not have significant effects. For these reasons, agencies should establish categorical exclusions to cover such categories of actions, adopt other agencies’ categorical exclusions where appropriate, and in all instances consider whether a proposed action is excluded pursuant to a categorical exclusion before beginning to develop an EA or EIS for that proposed action. *See* 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1), 4336c, 4336(a)(2), (b)(2).

The contents of the guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to create legal rights or obligations to any public party. The guidance does not establish new policy requirements. The guidance is intended only to provide clarity to the agencies regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. CEQ developed this guidance to expedite and simplify the permitting process and promote consistency as to NEPA’s implementation consistent with 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(B) and Section 5 of Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (90 FR 8353, Jan. 20, 2025).

The guidance is available at www.nepa.gov.

Katherine R. Scarlett,
Chairman.

[FR Doc. 2026-07115 Filed 4-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3325-FC-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Science, Technology and Innovation Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).