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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB445]

Nominations for the 2022–2025 General Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to the United States Delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

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

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: National Marine Fisheries Service, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, is seeking nominations for the General Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC or Commission), as well as to a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) of the GAC. The purpose of the GAC and its SAS is to provide public input and advice to the U.S. delegation to aid in the formulation of policy and positions for meetings of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies. The SAS shall also function as the National Scientific Advisory Committee provided for in the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program.

DATES: Nominations must be received no later than November 29, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be directed to Barry Thom, Regional Administrator, NMFS West Coast Region, and may be submitted by any of the following means:

- Email *RegionalAdministrator.WCRHMS@noaa.gov* with the subject line: “General Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Subcommittee nominations”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Stahnke, West Coast Region, NMFS, at william.stahnke@noaa.gov, or at (562) 980-4088.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General Advisory Committee

The Tuna Conventions Act (TCA) provides that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the

Secretary of State, shall appoint a “General Advisory Committee” to advise the U.S. delegation to the IATTC. The GAC shall be composed of no more than 25 individuals who shall be representative of the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the IATTC, including non-governmental conservation organizations, providing an equitable balance among such groups to the maximum extent practicable. Members of the GAC shall be invited to attend all non-executive meetings of the U.S. delegation to the IATTC and at such meetings shall be given the opportunity to examine and be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission.

The Chair of the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Pacific Council) Advisory Subpanel for Highly Migratory Fisheries and the Chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Western Pacific Council) Advisory Committee shall be ex-officio members of the GAC by virtue of their positions advising those Councils. GAC members will be eligible to participate as members of the U.S. delegation to the Commission and its working groups to the extent that the Commission rules and space for delegations allow.

Meetings of the GAC, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public, and prior notice of meetings shall be made public in timely fashion. In accordance with Public Law 114–81, the GAC shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

Individuals appointed to serve as a member of the GAC shall serve without pay. While away from their homes or regular places of business to attend meetings of the GAC, they shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently by the Federal Government are allowed expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703. In addition, individuals appointed to serve as a member of the GAC shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort.

Scientific Advisory Subcommittee

The TCA also provides that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint persons to serve on the subcommittee of the GAC, referred to here as the “Scientific Advisory Subcommittee”. The SAS shall be composed of no fewer than 5 and no more than 15 qualified scientists with balanced representation from the public

and private sectors, including non-governmental conservation organizations. In determining whether a person is a qualified scientist the Secretary may consider, among other things, advanced degrees and/or publications in fields such as fisheries or marine science.

National Scientific Advisory Committee

The SAS shall also function as the National Scientific Advisory Committee which is required to be established pursuant to Article XI of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). In this regard, the SAS shall perform the functions of the National Scientific Advisory Committee as specified in Annex VI of the AIDCP. These functions include, but are not limited to:

(1) Receiving and reviewing relevant data, including data provided to NMFS by IATTC staff;

(2) Advising and recommending measures and actions to the U.S. Government that should be undertaken to conserve and manage stocks of living marine resources in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

(3) Making recommendations to the U.S. Government regarding research needs related to the eastern Pacific Ocean tuna purse seine fishery;

(4) Promoting the regular and timely full exchange of data among the AIDCP Parties on a variety of matters related to the implementation of the AIDCP; and

(5) Consulting with other experts, as necessary, in order to achieve the objectives of the AIDCP.

Members of the SAS/National Scientific Advisory Committee shall receive no compensation for their service.

General Provisions

Each member of the GAC shall be appointed for a term of three years, starting from the date of the appointment, and may be reappointed. The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State shall provide the GAC with relevant information concerning fisheries and international fishery agreements. The Secretary of Commerce shall provide to the GAC such administrative and technical support services that are necessary for its effective functioning in a timely manner.

Procedures for Submitting Applications

Applications for the GAC and the SAS/National Scientific Advisory Committee should be submitted to NMFS West Coast Region (see **ADDRESSES**). This request for applications is for first time nominees,

current members whose appointments will end in April 2022, and previous members. Self-nomination applications are acceptable. Applications should include all of the following information:

(1) Full name, address (home and business, if different), telephone, and email address of nominee;

(2) Specification about whether the application is for the GAC or the SAS/ National Scientific Advisory Committee or both;

(3) Nominee's organization(s) or professional affiliation(s) serving as the basis for the nomination;

(4) Background statement describing the nominee's qualifications and experience, especially as related to fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean or other factors relevant to the implementation of the Convention Establishing the IATTC or the AIDCP. Applications to the SAS should highlight advanced degrees and academic publications; and

(5) A written statement from the nominee of intent to participate actively and in good faith in the meetings and activities of either the GAC or the SAS/ National Scientific Advisory Committee, or both.

Applicants who submitted material in response to the **Federal Register** notice published by NMFS on October 30, 2018 (83 FR 54573), or prior, should resubmit their applications pursuant to this notice.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 951 *et seq.*

Dated: September 21, 2021.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB339]

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1: Birds, Marine Mammals, Oysters, and Sea Turtles and Finding of No Significant Impact

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA), and a Consent Decree with BP Exploration & Production Inc. (BP), the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Federal natural resource trustee agencies for the Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group (Regionwide TIG) prepared the Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1: Birds, Marine Mammals, Oysters, and Sea Turtles (RP/EA), and Finding of No Significant Impact. In the RP/EA, the Regionwide TIG selected projects to help restore living coastal and marine resources injured as a result of the DWH oil spill in the Regionwide Restoration Area under the "Birds", Marine Mammals", "Oysters", and "Sea Turtles" restoration types described in the Final Programmatic Damage Assessment Restoration Plan/ Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. The total cost to implement the Regionwide TIG's eleven selected projects is approximately \$99.6 million.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* You may access the RP/EA from the Regionwide TIG website at: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/regionwide>. Alternatively, you may request a CD of the RP/EA (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Copies are also available for review at the locations listed below (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Jamie Schubert, NOAA Restoration Center, (310) 427-8711, regionwide.tig@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

On April 20, 2010, the DWH mobile drilling unit exploded, causing a massive release of oil from the BP Exploration and Production Inc. (BP) Macondo well. The explosion and oil spill led to loss of life and extensive natural resource injuries. Oil spread from the deep ocean to surface and nearshore environments across the Gulf of Mexico, from Texas to Florida. Extensive response actions were undertaken to reduce harm to people and the environment. However, many of these response actions had collateral impacts on the environment and on natural resource services.

The DWH Federal and state natural resource trustees (DWH Trustees) conducted the natural resource damage assessment for the DWH oil spill under OPA (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*). Pursuant to OPA, Federal and state agencies act as trustees on behalf of the public to assess natural resource injuries and losses and to determine the actions

required to compensate the public for those injuries and losses. OPA further instructs the designated trustees to develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of the injured natural resources under their trusteeship, including the loss of use and services from those resources from the time of injury until the time of restoration to baseline (the resource quality and conditions that would exist if the spill had not occurred) is complete.

The DWH Trustees are:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), as represented by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management;
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Commerce;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Department of Natural Resources;
- State of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality;
- State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Geological Survey of Alabama;
- State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and
- State of Texas: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office, and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The DWH Trustees reached and finalized a settlement of their natural resource damage claims with BP in an April 4, 2016, Consent Decree approved by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Pursuant to that Consent Decree, restoration projects in the Regionwide Restoration Area are selected and implemented by the Regionwide TIG. The Regionwide TIG is composed of the DWH Trustees listed above.

Background

On September 24, 2019, the Regionwide TIG posted a public notice at <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov> requesting new or revised natural resource restoration project ideas for the Regionwide Restoration Area. The notice stated that the Regionwide TIG was seeking project ideas for the following Restoration Types: (1) Birds, (2) Marine Mammals, (3) Oysters; and