

develop and implement coastal nonpoint programs, which must be submitted to the **Federal Register** for approval. Prior to making such a finding, NOAA and the EPA invite public input on the agencies' rationale for this proposed finding.

**DATES:** Comments are due by March 16, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed findings document may be found on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (search for NOAA-NOS-2020-0168) and NOAA's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program website at <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/pollutioncontrol/>.

Comments may be submitted by:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter NOAA-NOS-2020-0168 in the Search box, then click the "Comment" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Joelle Gore, Chief, Stewardship Division (N/OCM6), Office for Coastal Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; phone (240) 428-7096; ATTN: Texas Coastal Nonpoint Program.

**Instructions:** All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personally identifiable information (for example, name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the commenter will be publicly accessible. The agencies will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The agencies will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Allison Castellan, Office for Coastal Management, NOS, NOAA, 202-596-5039, [allison.castellan@noaa.gov](mailto:allison.castellan@noaa.gov); or Brian Fontenot, EPA, 214-665-7286, [fontenot.brian@epa.gov](mailto:fontenot.brian@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 6217(a) of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), 16 U.S.C. Section 1455b(a), requires that each state (or territory) with a coastal zone management program previously approved under Section 306 of the

Coastal Zone Management Act must prepare and submit to the agencies a coastal nonpoint pollution control program for approval. Texas submitted its program to the agencies for approval after gaining federal approval of its coastal zone management program in 1996. The agencies provided public notice of and invited public comment on their proposal to approve, with conditions, the Texas program (68 FR 16784). The agencies approved the program by the **Federal Register** notice dated October 16, 2003, subject to the conditions specified therein (68 FR 59588). The agencies now propose to find, and invite public comment on the proposed findings, that Texas has satisfied the conditions associated with the earlier approval of its coastal nonpoint program.

The proposed findings document for Texas's program is available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (search for NOAA-NOS-2020-0168) and information on the Coastal Nonpoint Program in general is available on the NOAA website at <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/pollutioncontrol/>.

**Nicole R. LeBoeuf,**

*Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

**Radhika Fox,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB806]

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a three-day hybrid meeting for both in-person and virtual participation of its Standing, Reef Fish, Socioeconomic, and Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC).

**DATES:** The meeting will take place Tuesday, March 8, 2022 to Thursday, March 10, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., EST daily.

**ADDRESSES:** Those who prefer to attend the meeting in-person may do so at the

Gulf Council office. If you are unable or do not wish to travel, you may participate in the meeting via webinar. Registration information will be available on the Council's website by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and clicking on the "meeting tab".

**Council address:** Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ryan Rindone, Lead Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org), telephone: (813) 348-1630.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022; 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., EST**

The meeting will begin with Introductions and Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Verbatim Minutes and Meeting Summary from the January 11–13, 2022, meeting, and review of Scope of Work. The Committees will select an SSC Representative for the April 4–7, 2022, Gulf Council Meeting. Following, Committees will review the Estimating Absolute Abundance of Red Snapper off Louisiana; discuss the Results of Post-stratification Analysis by Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and Great Red Snapper Count (GRSC) Teams for Florida Absolute Abundance Data; review the Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper Interim Analysis; and review the Terms of Reference for the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 64: Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Update Assessment, and the SEDAR 85: Gulf of Mexico Yellowedge Grouper Operational Assessment. Public comment will be heard at the end of the day.

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022; 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., EST**

The Committees will review the Characterizing Fleet Behavior Using Analysis of Vessel Monitoring Service Data; review and discuss the National Academies of Report on the Impacts of Limited Access Privilege Programs in Mixed-use Fisheries; and evaluate the Updated SEFSC Catch Analysis for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper using the Great Red Snapper Count. Public comment will be heard at the end of the day.

**Thursday, March 10, 2022; 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., EST**

The Committees will continue evaluating the Updated SEFSC Catch Analysis for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper using the Great Red Snapper Count, followed by a review of an

Update on the Development of Brown and White Shrimp Empirical Dynamic Models. Lastly, the Committees will receive public comment before addressing any items under Other Business.

#### Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be also be broadcast via webinar. You may register for the webinar by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Council's intent to take-action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348-1630, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 9, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB798]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 26254

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701 (Responsible Party: Lori Quakenbush), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on ice seals in Alaska.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before March 16, 2022.

**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. 26254 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. 26254 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:** Sara Young or Carrie Hubbard, (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.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 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 applicant requests a permit to conduct scientific research on spotted (*Phoca largha*), ringed (*Pusa hispida*), bearded (*Erignathus barbatus*), and ribbon (*Histiophoca fasciata*) seals in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas of Alaska. The purpose of this research is to monitor the status and health of seal species by analyzing samples from the subsistence harvest and by documenting movements and habitat use by tracking animals with satellite transmitters. In addition to sampling harvested seals, the applicant would capture up to 50 bearded seals, 20 ribbon seals, 50 ringed seals, and 50 spotted seals per year that would be sedated, measured, sampled (*e.g.*, blood and skin), flipper tagged, and fitted with

transmitters. The applicant requests to capture an additional 50 bearded seals, 20 ribbon seals, 50 ringed seals, and 50 spotted seals per year that would be measured, sampled, and flipper tagged but not fitted with external instruments. The applicant also requests permission to harass non-target seals of all four pinniped species as well as beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*). The applicant requests up to five mortalities per species per year for pinniped captures and one mortality of a beluga whale annually due to accidental entanglement in pinniped capture nets. Samples would be imported from Russia, Canada, Svalbard (Norway) and exported to Canada for analyses. The permit would be valid for 5 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: February 8, 2022.

**Julia M. Harrison,**

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB803]

#### Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) will hold a public online meeting.

**DATES:** The online meeting will be held Friday, March 4, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time or until business for the day has been completed.