necessary small numbers determinations, through comparison with the best available abundance estimates (see discussion at 86 FR 5322, 5391; January 19, 2021). For this comparison, NMFS' approach is to use the maximum theoretical population, determined through review of current stock assessment reports (SAR; *www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessments*) and model-predicted abundance information (*https://seamap.env.duke.edu/models/Duke/GOM/*). For the latter, for taxa where a density surface model could be produced, we use the maximum mean seasonal (*i.e.,* 3-month) abundance prediction for purposes of comparison as a precautionary smoothing of month-to-month fluctuations and in consideration of a corresponding lack of data in the literature regarding seasonal distribution of marine mammals in the GOM. Information supporting the small numbers determinations is provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS

Species	Authorized take [1]	Abundance [2]	Percent abundance
Rice's whale	0	51	n/a
Sperm whale	26	2,207	1.2
Kogia spp	[3] 10	4,373	0.2
Beaked whales	116	3,768	3.1
Rough-toothed dolphin	20	4,853	0.4
Bottlenose dolphin	95	176,108	0.1
Clymene dolphin	56	11,895	0.5
Atlantic spotted dolphin	38	74,785	0.1
Pantropical spotted dolphin	255	102,361	0.2
Spinner dolphin	68	25,114	0.3
Striped dolphin	22	5,229	0.4
Fraser's dolphin	6	1,665	0.4
Risso's dolphin	17	3,764	0.4
Melon-headed whale	37	7,003	0.5
Pygmy killer whale	9	2,126	0.4
False killer whale	14	3,204	0.4
Killer whale	0	267	n/a
Short-finned pilot whale	11	1,981	0.5

[1] Scalar ratios were not applied in this case due to brief survey duration.
[2] Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Roberts *et al.,* 2016). For those taxa where a density surface model predicting abundance by month was produced, the maximum mean seasonal abundance was used. For those taxa where abundance is not predicted by month, only mean annual abundance is available. For the killer whale, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.
[3] Includes 1 takes by Level A harassment and 9 takes by Level B harassment.

Based on the analysis contained herein of QuarterNorth's proposed survey activity described in its LOA application and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes and therefore is of no more than small numbers.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued an LOA to QuarterNorth authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: July 5, 2022.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2022–14740 Filed 7–11–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC168]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee will hold a public webinar meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2022, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. EDT. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. Connection information will be posted to the calendar prior to the meeting at *www.mafmc.org.*

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331; *www.mafmc.org.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526–5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee will meet via webinar to review previously adopted 2023 commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits, Annual Catch Targets, commercial quotas, and recreational harvest limits for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass and recommend changes as appropriate. In addition, the Monitoring Committee will review commercial management measures for all three species and recommend changes if needed. During this meeting, the Monitoring Committee will consider recent fishery performance as well as recommendations from the Advisory Panel, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and Council staff. Meeting materials will be posted to *www.mafmc.org.*

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: July 7, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2022–14786 Filed 7–11–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC126]

Marine Mammals; File No. 20648

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Heidi Pearson, Ph.D., University of Alaska—Southeast, 11120 Glacier Hwy, AND1, Juneau, Alaska 99801, has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 20648–01.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before August 11, 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. 20648 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. 20648 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: Courtney Smith, Ph.D., or Carrie Hubard, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 20648 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).

Permit No. 20648, issued on June 14, 2019 (84 FR 27767), authorizes the permit holder to conduct vessel-based and unmanned aerial surveys on the following species: fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae;* range-wide including those from the endangered Mexico Distinct Population Segment), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*), killer (*Orcinus orca*); minke (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) whales, Dall's (*Hocoenoides dalli*) and harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*), and Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*). Researchers may use the following methods on all or some of the above listed species: observation, photographic identification, photogrammetry, passive acoustic recording, tagging (suction-cup), remote biopsy and other biological sampling (breath/exhaled air, fecal, swabbed and sloughed skin), and sonar for prey mapping. A minor amendment to the permit, which increased the number of takes per animal from two to four, was issued on September 18, 2020. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to increase the number of annual biopsy takes of humpback whales authorized from 50 to 75, with a maximum of four biopsy samples per year from the same animal. Samples would be collected a minimum of 30 days apart. No changes to the permitted objectives, methods, or locations are proposed. The permit expires on June 1, 2024.

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 this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: July 6, 2022.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2022–14751 Filed 7–11–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC167]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for agenda details.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2022, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. Connection information will be posted to the calendar prior to the meeting at *www.mafmc.org.*

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331; *www.mafmc.org.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526–5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is for the Advisory Panel to create a Fishery Performance Report that includes advisor input on related specifications and management measures.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: July 7, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2022–14783 Filed 7–11–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P