

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: July 12, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-15150 Filed 7-14-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XC151]

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application modification from Blue Planet Strategies contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act require publication of this notice to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 1, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by the following method:

- *Email:* NMFS.GAR.EFP@noaa.gov.

Include in the subject line "Comments on Blue Planet Strategies EFP." If you cannot submit a comment through this method, please contact Allison Murphy at (978) 281-9122, or email at allison.murphy@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allison Murphy, Fishery Policy Analyst,

978-281-9122, allison.murphy@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Blue Planet Strategies was issued an exempted fishing permit (EFP) request on September 7, 2021. The purpose of this project is to test technologies for sub-surface gear marking and gear tracking technologies and prototypes for acoustic release of bottom stowed lift bags or vertical lines for retrieving fishing gear used in the New England groundfish, monkfish, and American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries for the purpose of reducing buoy line interactions with marine mammals. For 2022, this EFP authorized up to 12 participating vessels in 2022 to test ropeless systems in the Gulf of Maine Regulated Mesh Area (gillnet) and Lobster Management Areas 1 and 3 (lobster trap/pot). Blue Planet Strategies was granted exemptions from the following requirements:

1. Gear marking requirements at 50 CFR 697.21(b)(2) to allow for the use of a single buoy marker on a trawl of more than three traps; and
2. Gear marking requirements at § 648.84(b) to allow for the use of a single buoy marker on a gillnet.

One end of both the gillnet and lobster trap gear is required to be marked according to regulations, the other end will test a lift bag system or a stowed rope system, or a spooled rope system. Both gillnet and lobster gear will test either acoustic or modem gear marking technology. A maximum of 140 gillnet deployments were expected in 2022, with a soak time of 96 hours. A maximum of 800 lobster trap deployments were expected in 2022, with a maximum soak time of 4-8 days. Sampling is expected to largely occur from June through October in both 2021 and 2022, though the permit is approved through December 2022.

Blue Planet Strategies submitted a request to revise the EFP on June 21, 2022. Investigators wish to add one additional vessel that operates out of Chatham, Massachusetts and fishes in the Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area (statistical area 521) and Southern New England Regulated Mesh Area (statistical area 538). Therefore, investigators have requested a geographic expansion of the gillnet effort. No additional gear deployments are expected.

Investigators also request to modify the exemption from gear marking requirements at 50 CFR 697.21(b)(2) to allow for the use of no surface markings within a discrete portion of Area 1. Investigators wish to test the feasibility of using fully on-demand gear within

the shipping channel known as the "Southern Channel" or "Southern Route" in Frenchman Bay (Downeast Maine). This new work is expected to account for approximately 100 of the 800 deployments approved in 2022 (*i.e.*, no new effort will result from this modification). In addition to informing work to reduce the potential for entanglements, this research could help determine whether ropeless gear could allow fishermen to prosecute the fishery in shipping channels that are presently kept clear of fishing gear that uses vertical lines and buoys, minimizing the risk of gear conflict.

If approved, Blue Planet Strategies may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the study. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: July 11, 2022.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-15186 Filed 7-14-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XC146]

Fisheries of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a joint public meeting.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (GMFMC) will hold a joint meeting of their Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) via webinar.

DATES: The joint SSC meeting will take place Thursday, August 4, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar.

Council addresses: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public via webinar as it occurs. Webinar registration is required. Information regarding webinar registration will be posted to the SAFMC’s website at: <https://safmc.net/scientific-and-statistical-committee-meeting/>. The meeting agenda, briefing book materials, and online comment form will be posted to the SAFMC’s website two weeks prior to the meeting. Written comment on SSC agenda topics is to be distributed to the Committees through the Council office, similar to all other briefing materials. For this meeting, the deadline for submission of written comment is 9 a.m. EDT, Thursday, August 4, 2022.

The following agenda items will be addressed by the SSCs during the meeting:

1. Review, discuss, and provide feedback on the southeastern yellowtail snapper interim analysis projections and uncertainties. Provide fishing level recommendations using the previously reviewed Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 64 assessment and recent interim analysis for southeastern yellowtail snapper. (Joint South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico SSCs)

2. Review, discuss, and provide feedback on the operational assessment for South Atlantic Spanish mackerel projections and uncertainties, and provide fishing level recommendations. (South Atlantic SSC only)

The SSCs will provide guidance to staff and recommendations for Council consideration as appropriate.

Multiple opportunities for comment on agenda items will be provided during SSC meeting. Open comment periods will be provided at the start of the meeting and near the conclusion. Those interested in providing comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment. Additional opportunities for comment on specific agenda items will be provided, as each item is discussed, between initial presentations and SSC discussion. Those interested in providing comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment. All comments are part of the record of the meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 3 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: July 12, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-15152 Filed 7-14-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC171]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice; Issuance of 51 scientific research permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued 51 scientific research permits under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to the individuals and organizations listed in Table 1. The research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

ADDRESSES: The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to nmfs.wcr-apps@noaa.gov (please include the permit number in the subject line of the email).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Clapp, Portland, OR (ph.: 503-231-2314), Fax: 503-230-5441, email: Robert.Clapp@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice was published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests for permits and permit modifications had been submitted by the below-named applicants. To locate the **Federal Register** notice that announced our receipt of the applications and a complete description of the research, go to www.federalregister.gov and search on the permit number and **Federal Register** notice information provided in the table below.

TABLE 1—ISSUED PERMITS AND PERMIT MODIFICATIONS

Permit No.	RTID	Applicant	Previous Federal Register notice	Issuance date
1127-6M	0648-XB812 ..	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Fisheries Department; P.O. Box 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203 (Responsible Party: Kurt Tardy).	87 FR 8788; February 16, 2022.	April 18, 2022.
1135-11R	0648-XB812 ..	U.S. Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center; Columbia River Research Laboratory, 5501-A Cook-Underwood Rd.; Cook, WA 98605 (Responsible party: Amy C. Hansen).	87 FR 8788; February 16, 2022.	April 15, 2022.
1175-10R	0648-XB812 ..	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest; 10600 NE 51st Circle Drive, Vancouver, WA 98682 (Responsible Party: Dave F. Olson).	87 FR 8788; February 16, 2022.	April 18, 2022.