

ADDRESSES: The LOA, LOA request, and supporting documentation are available online at: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey-activity-gulf-mexico. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Wachtendonk, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

On January 19, 2021, we issued a final rule with regulations to govern the unintentional taking of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activities conducted by oil and gas industry operators, and those

persons authorized to conduct activities on their behalf (collectively “industry operators”), in Federal waters of the U.S. GOM over the course of 5 years (86 FR 5322, January 19, 2021). The rule was based on our findings that the total taking from the specified activities over the 5-year period will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of those species or stocks for subsistence uses. The rule became effective on April 19, 2021.

Our regulations at 50 CFR 217.180 *et seq.* allow for the issuance of LOAs to industry operators for the incidental take of marine mammals during geophysical survey activities and prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other means of affecting the least practicable adverse impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat (often referred to as mitigation), as well as requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Under 50 CFR 217.186(e), issuance of an LOA shall be based on a determination that the level of taking will be consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under these regulations and a determination that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers.

NMFS issued an LOA to Echo on January 5, 2023, for the take of marine mammals incidental to a two-dimensional (2D) high resolution seismic survey in Lease Block G14576 (Main Pass Area 91) effective through June 30, 2023. Please see the **Federal Register** notice of issuance (88 FR 4973, January 26, 2023) for additional detail regarding the LOA and the survey activity.

Echo initially anticipated that the activity would occur at some point between January 5 and June 30, 2023. Echo subsequently conveyed to NMFS that the survey would occur later than previously expected. Echo has requested modification to the expiration date of the LOA (from June 30, 2023, to December 31, 2023) to account for any potential delays. There are no other changes to Echo’s planned activity. Since issuance of the LOA, no survey work has occurred.

Authorization

NMFS has changed the expiration date of the LOA from June 30, 2023 to December 31, 2023. There are no other changes to the LOA as described in the January 26, 2023, **Federal Register** notice of issuance (88 FR 4973): the specified survey activity; estimated take by incidental harassment; and small

numbers analysis and determination remain unchanged and are herein incorporated by reference.

Dated: June 22, 2023.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,
Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–13717 Filed 6–27–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD103]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public hybrid meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Puerto Rico District Advisory Panel (PR–DAP) will hold a public hybrid meeting to discuss the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The PR–DAP public hybrid meeting will be held on July 18, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Atlantic Standard Time (AST).

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott Isla Verde Resort, 7012 Boca de Cangrejos Avenue, Carolina, Puerto Rico 00979.

You may join the PR–DAP public hybrid meeting (via Zoom) from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following addresses:

Join Zoom Meeting: DAP–PR <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88004907357?pwd=ZnRPL0g4ekMzWHRJUzA1K1FoRnV0dz09>

Meeting ID: 880 0490 7357

Passcode: 849982

One tap mobile

+17879451488,,
88004907357#,,,,*849982# Puerto Rico

+17879667727,,
88004907357#,,,,*849982# Puerto Rico

Dial by your location:

- +1 787 945 1488 Puerto Rico
- +1 787 966 7727 Puerto Rico
- +1 939 945 0244 Puerto Rico
- +1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 880 0490 7357

Passcode: 849982

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88004907357?pwd=ZnRPL0g4ekMzWHRJUzA1K1FoRnV0dz09>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Miguel Rolón, Executive Director,

Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903; telephone: (787) 398-3717.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items included in the tentative agenda are:

July 18, 2023

9:30 a.m.–11 a.m.

—How to Improve Data Collection Analysis for Puerto Rico Fisheries—Adyan Rios, SEFSC

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

—The Southeast Region's Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy Implementation Plan for Underserved Communities: and Examination of Barriers and Development of Actionable Solutions—Heather Blough, NOAA Fisheries/SERO

12 p.m.–1 p.m.

—Lunch Break

1 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

—Status of Marine Reserve Areas in Puerto Rico—Liajaj Rivera, CFMC

1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

—Other Business

Other than the starting date and time the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items, at the discretion of the Chair. The meeting will begin on July 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. AST, and will end on July 18, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. AST.

Special Accommodations

For any additional information on this public hybrid meeting, you may contact Diana Martino, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903; telephone: (787) 226-8849.

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

Dated: June 23, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-13769 Filed 6-27-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Electronic Monitoring Systems for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

AGENCY: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before August 28, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0372 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Cliff Hutt, Fisheries Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301-427-8503; or cliff.hutt@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for renewal and extension without revision of a current information collection request (ICR) 0648-0372 Electronic Monitoring Systems for Atlantic HMS. This renewal and extension is separate from the temporary ICR associated with Amendment 15 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery

Management Plan (0648-BI10), which is considering substantial revisions to 0648-0372. Amendment 15 will not be finalized before the current ICR expires, necessitating this separate renewal effort.

Vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and other electronic monitoring systems collect important information on fishing effort, catch, and the geographic location of fishing effort and catch for certain sectors of the Atlantic HMS fleet. Data collected through these systems are used in both domestic and international fisheries management, including for law enforcement, stock assessments, and quota management purposes. Atlantic HMS vessels required to use VMS are pelagic longline, bottom longline (directed shark permit holders in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), and gillnet (directed shark permit holders consistent with the requirements of the Atlantic large whale take reduction plan requirements at 50 CFR 229.39(h)) vessels. In addition to VMS, pelagic longline vessels are also required to have electronic monitoring systems to monitor catch and account for bluefin tuna interactions, and, when appropriate, monitoring the harvest of shortfin mako sharks.

NMFS Office of Law Enforcement monitors fleet adherence to gear- and time-area restrictions with VMS position location data. Gear restricted areas and time-area closures are important. Atlantic HMS management tools that have been implemented to reduce bycatch of juvenile swordfish, sea turtles, and bluefin tuna, among other species. Electronic monitoring data from the pelagic longline fleet are used by NMFS to accurately monitor bluefin tuna catch by the pelagic longline fleet, to ensure compliance with Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) limits and requirements, and to ensure that the Longline category bluefin tuna quota is not over-harvested. Additionally, electronic monitoring is used to verify disposition of retained shortfin mako sharks, when retention is allowed, consistent with binding international agreements. VMS reporting of bluefin tuna catch is used to monitor IBQ allocations in real-time.

Atlantic HMS fisheries are managed under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Atlantic Tunas Conservation Act (ATCA). Under the MSA, management measures must be consistent with the National Standards, and fisheries must be managed to maintain optimum yield, rebuild overfished fisheries, and prevent overfishing. Under ATCA, the Secretary