

in the economic and social analyses developed when proposing and evaluating fishery management actions. The data are also used in annual reports such as Fisheries of the United States and is provided to other agencies, academia, and industry members as needed and allowed through the Magnuson Stevens Act.

This year, we are proposing to modify the survey to allow respondents to mark themselves as more than one type of operation (*i.e.*, Processor, wholesaler, cold storage, and/or other) and we are asking them to specify the number of processing line workers they have, if they are a processor.

II. Method of Collection

Responses are submitted by mail, via postage-paid envelopes provided by NOAA Fisheries. If preferred by the processor, an electronically fillable pdf can also be provided and transmitted via encrypted messaging. Lastly, as an alternative option, interested processors can request an online account to our Fisheries One Stop Shop (FOSS) portal and enter and submit data electronically.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0018.

Form Number(s): NOAA Forms 88–13, 88–13C.

Type of Review: Regular submission, revision of a current information collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 620.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 310 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of

public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2023–15851 Filed 7–25–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD186]

International Affairs; Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Consultative Committee Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces a public meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Consultative Committee. This meeting will help to ensure that the interests of U.S. stakeholders in the fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean are adequately represented at the Annual Meeting of the Organization. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Consultative Committee members and all other interested U.S. stakeholders are invited to attend.

DATES: The meeting will be held August 16, 2023, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at National Marine Fisheries Service's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Please notify Shannah Jaburek (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by August 16, 2023, if you plan to attend the meeting in person or remotely. The meeting will be accessible by webinar—instructions will be emailed to meeting participants who provide notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannah Jaburek, *Shannah.jaburek@noaa.gov*, (978) 282–8456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) is a regional fisheries management organization that coordinates scientific study and cooperative management of the fisheries resources of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, excluding salmon, tunas/marlins, whales and sedentary species. NAFO was established in 1979 by the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. The United States acceded to the Convention in 1995, and has participated actively in NAFO since that time. In 2005, NAFO launched a reform effort to amend the Convention in order to bring the Organization more in line with the principles of modern fisheries management. As a result of these efforts, the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries entered into force in May 2017.

NAFO currently has 13 Contracting Parties, including Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

16 U.S.C. 5607 provides that the Secretaries of Commerce and State shall jointly establish a NAFO Consultative Committee (NCC) to advise the Secretaries on issues related to the NAFO Convention. Membership in the NCC is open to representatives from the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the States represented on those Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the fishing industry, the seafood processing industry, and others knowledgeable and experienced in the conservation and management of fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. NMFS, and the U.S. government more generally, are committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility at all levels, including within the communities we serve and protect. Consistent with this commitment, NMFS is taking steps aimed at increasing the diversity of stakeholder voices that represent the United States in our international fisheries engagements, including by promoting greater diversity and representation of underserved communities in the pool of potential candidates for appointment as NCC members. Through this notice, NMFS is

also taking steps to advance a transparent process that promotes equity, inclusion, and accessibility when seeking nominees to serve in these important roles. As such, NMFS encourages nominations for women and for individuals from underserved communities that meet the knowledge, experience, and other legal requirements of the positions described in this notice. See Executive Order (E.O.) 13985 (Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government) § 2 (defining “underserved communities” as “populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life,” “such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.”). E.O. 13985 is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/25/2021-01753/advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government>.

Members shall be appointed to a 2-year term and are eligible for reappointment. The NCC is exempted from the Federal Advisory Committee Act. NCC members are invited to attend all non-executive meetings of the U.S. Commissioners and at such meetings, and unless information at those meetings is otherwise protected, NCC members are given an opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of study and investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of issues relating NAFO fisheries. In addition, NCC members may attend all public meetings of the NAFO Commission and any other meetings to which they are invited.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the NCC, please contact Shannah Jaburek (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) for additional details. The NAFO Annual Meeting will be held September 22–28, 2023, in Vigo, Spain. Additional information about the meeting can be found at: <https://www.nafo.int/Meetings/AM>.

Special Accommodations

The meeting location is physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Dated: July 20, 2023.

Alexa Cole,

Director, NOAA Fisheries Office of International, Affairs, Trade, and Commerce.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD163]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental To Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Marine Site Characterization Surveys Offshore of New Jersey

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to Ocean Wind II, LLC (Ocean Wind II) to incidentally harass marine mammals during marine characterization surveys off New Jersey.

DATES: This Authorization is effective from July 31, 2023, through July 30, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the original application and supporting documents (including NMFS **Federal Register** notices of the original proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) 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 incidental take authorization may be provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

The definitions of all applicable MMPA statutory terms cited above are included in the relevant sections below.

History of Request

On October 1, 2021, NMFS received a request from Ocean Wind II for an IHA to take marine mammals incidental to high-resolution geophysical (HRG) marine site characterization surveys offshore of New Jersey in the area of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s (BOEM) Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf Lease Area (OCS–A) 0532 and associated Export Cable Route (ECR) area. Ocean Wind II requested authorization to take small numbers of 16 species (comprising 17 stocks) of marine mammals by Level B harassment only. NMFS published a notice of the proposed IHA in the **Federal Register** on March 16, 2022 (87 FR 14823). After a 30-day public comment period and consideration of all public comments received, we subsequently issued the IHA on May 19, 2022 (87 FR 30453), which was effective from May 10, 2022 through May 9, 2023.

Ocean Wind II conducted the required marine mammal mitigation and monitoring and did not exceed the authorized levels of take under previous IHAs issued for surveys offshore of New Jersey (see 87 FR 30452, May 19, 2022). These previous monitoring results are available to the public on our website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/>