

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 U.S. waters of the GOM over the course of 5 years (86 FR 5322). 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 section 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 Shell on October 1, 2022, for the take of marine mammals incidental to a 3-dimensional (3D) ocean bottom node (OBN) survey in Garden Banks Lease Block GB555 and GB556 and the surrounding 414 lease blocks effective through August 31, 2023. Please see the **Federal Register** notification of issuance (87 FR 55790, September 12, 2022) for additional detail regarding the LOA and the survey activity.

Shell initially anticipated that the activity would occur at some point between October 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023. Shell subsequently conveyed to NMFS that the survey would not be able to be completed by the original end date. Shell has requested modification to the expiration date of the LOA (from August 31, 2023, to September 15, 2023) to accommodate the survey delays.

#### Authorization

NMFS has changed the expiration date of the LOA from August 31, 2023 to September 15, 2023. There are no other changes to the LOA as described

in the September 12, 2023, **Federal Register** notice of issuance (87 FR 55790): the specified survey activity; estimated take by incidental harassment; and small numbers analysis and determination remain unchanged.

Dated: August 28, 2023.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD316]

#### New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public hybrid meeting of its Groundfish Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This hybrid meeting will be held on September 22, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

#### ADDRESSES:

**Meeting address:** This meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777–2500.

**Webinar registration URL**

**information:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5463173544525981530>.

**Council address:** New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Agenda

The Groundfish Committee will meet to discuss recommendations from the Recreational Advisory Panel and Groundfish Advisory Panel. They will discuss Atlantic Cod Transition Plan—a summary of fishery data from the Research Track stock assessment for Atlantic cod as well as Framework Adjustment 66/Specifications and

Management Measures—an update on the development of draft alternatives and a report from the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC). The Committee will discuss Framework Adjustment 68/Acceptable Biological Catches (ABC) Control Rules—the findings from the facilitated meeting and Groundfish Committee motions from meeting held on August 17, 2023 as well as 2024 Council Priorities—possible groundfish priorities for the Council to consider for 2024, and provide recommendations to the Council, as appropriate. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

#### Special Accommodations

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

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

Dated: August 31, 2023.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Workplace Violence Prevention and Response Forms

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance