

— Recess —

Thursday, May 23, 2024

XIX. 9 a.m.–10 a.m.: CCC Workgroups/
Subcommittees

9 a.m.–9:15 a.m.

- Communications Committee
Councils MSA 50-year Anniversary
Update

9:15 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

- Habitat Working Group—*Dr. Lisa Hollensead/Dr. Graciela García-Moliner*

9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

- NEPA Working Group Report—*Dr. Graciela García-Moliner*

9:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m.

- EEJ Working Group Report—*Mr. Zach Yamada/Dr. Graciela García-Moliner*

— Break 10:15 a.m.–10:30 a.m. —

XX. 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m.: Public
Comments—*Mr. Carlos F. Farchette*

XXI. 11 a.m.–11:15 a.m.: 2025 CCC
Meetings—*Dr. Cate O'keefe*

XXII. 11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.: Other
Business and Wrap-Up—*Mr. Carlos F. Farchette*

- CCC Outcomes and Action Items

— ADJOURN —

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issues. The CCC will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the Magnuson-Stephens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Diana Martino, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1903, telephone: (787) 226–8849, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

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

Dated: April 24, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024–09213 Filed 4–29–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD881]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice of modification to expiration date of letter of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, its implementing regulations, and NMFS' MMPA Regulations for Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), notification is hereby given that NMFS has modified the expiration date of a Letter of Authorization (LOA) issued to WesternGeco for the take of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activity in the GOM.

DATES: This LOA is effective through July 31, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The LOA, LOA request, and supporting documentation are available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/marine-mammal-protection/issued-letters-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenna Harlacher, 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 U.S. waters of the 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 effecting 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 a LOA to WesternGeco on October 17, 2023, for the take of marine mammals incidental to a three-dimensional ocean bottom node survey in the Green Canyon and Walker Ridge protraction areas, including approximately 795 lease blocks, effective October 16, 2023, through April 30, 2024. Please see the **Federal Register** notice of issuance (88 FR 72739, October 23, 2023) for additional detail regarding the LOA and the survey activity.

WesternGeco has requested a modification of the April 30, 2024, expiration date, extending it to July 31, 2024, due to survey delays. There are no other changes to WesternGeco's planned activity.

Authorization

NMFS has changed the expiration date of the LOA from April 30, 2024, to July 31, 2024. There are no other changes to the LOA as described in the October 23, 2023, **Federal Register** notice of issuance (88 FR 72739): the specified survey activity; estimated take by incidental harassment; and small numbers analysis and determination remain unchanged and are incorporated here by reference.

Dated: April 23, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-09223 Filed 4-29-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD902]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Cook Inlet Salmon; Public Outreach Meetings

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

ACTION: Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold two in person public meetings and one webinar regarding Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon

Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Off Alaska (Salmon FMP). Amendment 16 establishes Federal management for the salmon fishery in the Federal (*i.e.*, EEZ) waters of upper Cook Inlet.

DATES: The first meeting will take place on May 15, 2024, in Kenai, Alaska, starting at 5:30 p.m. AKDT and concluding no later than 7:30 p.m. AKDT. The second public meeting will take place on May 16, 2024, in Homer, Alaska, starting at 5:30 p.m. AKDT and concluding no later than 7:30 p.m. AKDT. The webinar will take place on May 22, 2024, starting at 10 a.m. AKDT and concluding no later than 12 p.m. AKDT.

ADDRESSES:

- May 15, 2024: Kenai, Alaska
 - Quality Inn—Conference room
 - 10352 Kenai Spur Highway
- May 16, 2024: Homer, Alaska
 - Best Western Bidarka Inn—Upstairs conference room
 - 575 Sterling Highway
- May 22, 2024: Webinar
 - Cook Inlet Public Webinar
 - Wednesday, May 22 · 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
 - Time zone: America/Anchorage
 - Google Meet joining info
 - Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/qbp-wpqq-mkw>
 - Or dial: (US) +1 929-324-9506 PIN: 148 365 993#

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Hadfield, 907-586-7376.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public meetings will be held in Kenai, Homer and via webinar to discuss the permitting, recordkeeping and reporting requirements for commercial drift gillnet salmon fishing in the federally managed Cook Inlet drift EEZ salmon fishery.

In response to a 2016 decision of the Ninth Circuit of Appeals and the 2022 summary judgment opinion of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska in *United Cook Inlet Drift Association v. NMFS*, beginning in 2024 NMFS is establishing Federal management over all salmon fishing in the EEZ waters of upper Cook Inlet, consistent with all Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requirements. Because NMFS has not previously managed salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet EEZ, NMFS is conducting public meetings to explain the regulatory requirements for fishermen, processors and fish transporter participants and answer questions pertaining to these requirements.

Staff will provide information and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions. The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, May 15, 2024, in-person at 5:30 p.m., located at the following address: Kenai Quality Inn, 10352 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, Alaska.

- Thursday, May 16, 2024, in-person at 5:30 p.m., located at the following address: Best Western Bidarka Inn, 575 Sterling Highway, Homer, Alaska.

- Wednesday May 22, 2024, virtual webinar at 10 a.m., located at the following address: <https://meet.google.com/qbp-wpqq-mkw>. Registration is not required.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Amy Hadfield, 907-586-7376, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 25, 2024.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-09298 Filed 4-29-24; 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 (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; National Marine Sanctuary Nominations

AGENCY: National Oceanic and 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. This notice pertains to a requested renewal of the approved collection of information for national marine sanctuary nominations. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before July 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to