

East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative, and review allocations for species that meet the time-based criteria in the Council's Allocation Review Trigger Policy.

**SEDAR Committee, Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 3 p.m. Until 5 p.m.**

The Committee will receive a report from the SEDAR Steering Committee, discuss changes to the SEDAR process and identify key stocks, and review species selected for 2026 assessments.

**Habitat and Ecosystem Committee, Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 10 a.m.**

The Committee will discuss Coral Amendment 10 addressing a fishery access area and consider resubmission to the Secretary of Commerce.

**Snapper Grouper Committee, Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 10 a.m. Until 3:45 p.m., and Thursday, September 19, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 12 p.m.**

The Committee will receive an update on Exempted Fishing Permits for red snapper and receive an update on the status of amendments under review from NOAA Fisheries. The Committee will consider public hearing input on Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 36 addressing ropeless gear in the Black Sea Bass pot fishery and vessel limits for Gag and Black Grouper, modify the amendment as necessary, and consider recommending the amendment for Secretarial approval. The Committee will consider public hearing input on Amendment 55 addressing management measures for Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper, modify the amendment if necessary, and consider recommending the amendment for Secretarial review. The Committee will also continue to discuss management measures for Black Sea Bass through Snapper Grouper Amendment 56 and provide input to staff for topics for the fall 2024 meeting of the Snapper Grouper AP.

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 4 p.m.*—Public comment will be accepted from individuals attending the meeting in person and via webinar on all items on the Council meeting agenda. The Council Chair will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter based on the number of individuals wishing to comment.

**Council Session II, Thursday, September 19, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m. and Friday, September 20, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 12 p.m.**

The Council will receive a litigation brief if needed and elect a Council Chair and Vice Chair.

The Council will receive updates on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary activities and the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Re-Visioning. The Council will receive Committee reports, review the Council Workplan and upcoming meetings, and discuss any other business as needed.

Documents regarding these issues are available from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 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: August 22, 2024.

**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**

[RTID 0648-XE214]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a meeting of its Herring Advisory Panel 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 meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* This meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

*Webinar registration URL information:* <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/j/9191919191>

*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 Herring Advisory Panel will meet to review draft Atlantic herring specifications and river herring and shad catch caps for fishing years 2025-2027 and recommend preferred alternatives. In response to the results of the 2024 management track stock assessment and to meet conservation and management objectives for Atlantic herring, possibly continue discussion on whether to recommend additional management measures to the Committee, including the possibility of initiating a framework adjustment or considering in-season adjustments for 2024 and 2025 catch limits, along with any other recommendations as appropriate. The Panel will make recommendations to the Atlantic Herring Committee, as appropriate, and discuss other business, 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 22, 2024.

### 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

[RTID 0648-XE143]

### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Invenergy Wind Offshore, LLC's Marine Site Characterization Surveys in the New York Bight

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of renewal 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 Invenergy Wind Offshore, LLC (IWO) for the renewal of their 2023 IHA to take marine mammals incidental to marine site characterization surveys in waters off of New Jersey and New York in the New York Bight.

**DATES:** This authorization is effective from August 21, 2024 through July 30, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of the initial IHA application, Renewal IHA request, Renewal IHA, and supporting documents, including **Federal Register** notices of the initial proposed and final authorizations, the initial IHA, and the proposed IHA Renewal, 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:** Austin Demarest, 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 promulgated or, if the taking is limited to harassment, an incidental harassment authorization is issued.

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 here as "mitigation measures"). NMFS must also prescribe requirements pertaining to monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definition of key terms such as "take," "harassment," and "negligible impact" can be found in the MMPA and NMFS's implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

NMFS' regulations implementing the MMPA at 50 CFR 216.107(e) indicate that IHAs may be renewed for additional periods of time not to exceed one year for each reauthorization. In the notice of proposed IHA for the initial IHA, NMFS described the circumstances under which we would consider issuing a renewal for this activity and requested public comment on a potential renewal under those circumstances. Specifically, on a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-time 1-year renewal of an IHA following notice to the public providing an additional 15 days for public comments when (1) up to another year of identical, or nearly identical, activities as described in the Detailed Description of Specified Activities section of the initial IHA issuance notice is planned or (2) the

activities as described in the Description of the Specified Activities and Anticipated Impacts section of the initial IHA issuance notice would not be completed by the time the initial IHA expires and a renewal would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the **DATES** section of the notice of issuance of the initial IHA, provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to the needed renewal IHA effective date (recognizing that the renewal IHA expiration date cannot extend beyond 1 year from expiration of the initial IHA);

2. The request for renewal must include the following: (a) An explanation that the activities to be conducted under the requested renewal IHA are identical to the activities analyzed under the initial IHA, are a subset of the activities, or include changes so minor (*e.g.*, reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, mitigation and monitoring requirements, or take estimates (with the exception of reducing the type or amount of take); and

(b) A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized; and

4. Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

An additional public comment period of 15 days (for a total of 45 days), with direct notice by email, phone, or postal service to commenters on the initial IHA, is provided to allow for any additional comments on the proposed renewal. A description of the renewal process may be found on our website at: <http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-harassment-authorization-renewals>.

#### History of Request

On July 19, 2023, NMFS issued the 2023 IHA (hereinafter, the 2023 IHA is referred to as the "initial IHA" and the 2024 IHA is referred to as the "Renewal IHA") to IWO to take small numbers of marine mammals incidental to site characterization surveys off the coast of New York and New Jersey in the New