

Reports, information on relevant Unusual Mortality Events, and recent scientific literature. While estimated populations of the Atlantic spotted dolphin, bottlenose dolphin (Western coastal and Northern Gulf of Mexico stocks), and rough-toothed dolphin (Northern Gulf of Mexico stock) have been updated since the issuance of the initial IHA, NMFS determined that no new information affects our original analysis of impacts or take estimate under the initial IHA.

We refer to the documents related to the previously issued IHA, which include the **Federal Register** notice of the issuance of the initial 2020 IHA for Rio Grande's construction work (85 FR 40250, July 6, 2020), Rio Grande's application, the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHA (85 FR 27365, May 8, 2020), and all associated references and documents.

Determinations

Rio Grande will conduct activities as analyzed in the initial 2020 IHA. As described above, the number of authorized takes of the same species and stocks of marine mammals are identical to the numbers that were found to meet the negligible impact small numbers standards and authorized under the initial IHA and no new information has emerged that would change those findings. The reissued 2025 IHA includes identical required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures as the initial IHA, and there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) the required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) Rio Grande's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment.

Accordingly, NMFS determined that the issuance of the initial IHA qualified

to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. NMFS has determined that the application of this categorical exclusion remains appropriate for this reissued IHA.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Incidental take of ESA-listed species from the specified activities is not expected or authorized. Therefore, NMFS determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to Rio Grande for in-water construction activities associated with the specified activity from January 15, 2025, through January 14, 2026. All previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements from the initial 2020 IHA are incorporated.

Dated: August 21, 2024.

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-XE216]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of the following: Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Committee, Habitat and Ecosystem Committee, and Snapper Grouper Committee. The meeting week will also include a formal public comment session and meetings of the Full Council.

DATES: The Council meeting will be held from 10 a.m. on Monday, September 16, 2024, until 12 p.m. on Friday, September 20, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Town & Country Inn and Suites, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; phone: (843) 571-1000. The meeting will also be available via webinar. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 302-8440 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting information, including agendas, overviews, and briefing book materials will be posted on the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/council-meetings/>. Webinar registration links for the meeting will also be available from the Council's website.

Public comment: Public comment on agenda items may be submitted through the Council's online comment form available from the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/events/september-2024-council-meeting/>. Written comments will be accepted from August 30, 2024 until September 10, 2024. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration. A formal public comment session will also be held during the Council meeting.

The items of discussion in the individual meeting agendas are as follows:

Council Session I, Monday, September 16, 2024, 10 a.m. Until 12 p.m. (CLOSED SESSION)

The Council will meet in closed session to receive a litigation brief if needed, address appointments to advisory panels, the Council's Citizen Science Operations Committee and discuss restructuring the Shrimp Advisory Panels (APs).

Council Session I, Monday, September 16, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m. and Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 3 p.m.

Newly appointed Council members will be sworn in and the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award will be presented. The Council will receive reports from NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, Council liaisons, and state agencies. The Council will receive staff reports, an update on the Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary, discuss restructuring the Shrimp APs, and hear a report from its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on items not covered during committee meetings.

The Council will also receive agency reports from NOAA Fisheries, an update on the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) Flyingfish and Dolphinfish Workgroup meeting, discuss the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program Improvement Amendment, receive an update on the

