

**Connection Information**

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone; or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3061>.

**Public Comment**

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3061>.

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

Dated: October 3, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-23281 Filed 10-8-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE343]

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of the Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel (AP).

**DATES:** The Habitat and Ecosystem AP meeting will be held October 28, 2024, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.; October 29, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.; and October 30, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Charleston Airport & Convention Center, 5625 International Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418; telephone: (843) 308-9330. Group Name: SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem AP.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

The meeting will also be available via webinar. Registration is required. Webinar registration, an online public comment form, and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meeting at: <https://safmc.net/advisory-panel-meetings/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen Howington, Habitat and

Ecosystem Scientist, [Kathleen.howington@safmc.net](mailto:Kathleen.howington@safmc.net); phone: (843) 725-7580.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Habitat and Ecosystem AP will finalize the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 5-Year Review, finalize revisions to the Council's Energy Exploration, Development, Transportation and Hydropower Re-Licensing Policy, and begin the revisions to the Alterations to Riverine, Estuarine and Nearshore Flows Policy. The AP will also review the extent of tide gate, living shoreline, and beneficial use projects and their impacts on habitat, review the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Fishing Effects Database and App, receive an update on the Army Corps of Engineers project for reefs, and receive a presentation on offshore wind infrastructure coverage and artificial reef footprints. Finally, the AP will review the progress on the Habitat section of the Council's website, the tools and partner evaluation detailed in the *Habitat Blueprint*, communication and outreach efforts, the Habitat and Ecosystem AP workplan, and the next EFH 5-year review. The AP will provide recommendations to the Council on other topics as needed.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aid 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: October 3, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-23279 Filed 10-8-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Updated Implementation Timeline for the Modernized National Spatial Reference System (NSRS)**

**AGENCY:** National Geodetic Survey (NGS), National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of upcoming changes.

**SUMMARY:** The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) is in the process of modernizing

the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). NGS plans to replace all three North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) frames and all vertical datums of the NSRS, including the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), with four new terrestrial reference frames and one new geopotential datum to which all geodetic coordinates and derived coordinates within the NSRS will be referenced. NGS is releasing key details of the transition to the new datums in the modernized NSRS to help users and interested parties prepare for the coming change.

**DATES:** The modernization of the NSRS is scheduled to occur in 2025 or 2026. NGS intends to release associated tools and services within five years of the modernization.

**ADDRESSES:** National Geodetic Survey, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. [geodesy.noaa.gov](https://geodesy.noaa.gov); [beta.ngs.noaa.gov](https://beta.ngs.noaa.gov); <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/index.shtml>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Dru Smith, NSRS Modernization Manager, NOAA Office of National Geodetic Survey, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or [dru.smith@noaa.gov](mailto:dru.smith@noaa.gov), (240) 533-9654.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The modernization of the NSRS is designed to improve the accuracy of Federal geodetic control. For over 200 years, NGS and its predecessor agencies (including the Survey of the Coast, which was founded in 1807), have been the stewards of the NSRS—the geodetic infrastructure of the United States. NGS strives to modernize the NSRS as technology and scientific knowledge advance. In 2020, NGS issued a **Federal Register** Notice (FRN) announcing that the completion and rollout of the NSRS modernization was expected to occur between 2022 and 2025 (85 FR 44864). This notice announces the updated projected timeline for the latest modernization effort.

The last significant modernization of the NSRS resulted in the creation of the original North American Datum of 1983 (54 FR 25318) and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (58 FR 34245). These datums were defined before the widespread use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), and were determined using classical (*i.e.*, terrestrial, line-of-sight) geodetic measurement techniques. Over the years, minor corrections to and expansion of the NSRS occurred; however, no significant update was possible until now. Through modern

geodetic surveying technology, extensive data collection initiatives, and advances in scientific knowledge, a more accurate, modern NSRS is possible. The new frames and datum shall be known as the “North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022,” the “Pacific Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022,” the “Caribbean Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022,” the “Mariana Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022,” and the “North American-Pacific Geopotential Datum of 2022,” and may be referred to as “NATRF2022,” “PATRF2022,” “CATRF2022,” “MATRF2022,” and “NAPGD2022,” respectively. The new reference frames will rely primarily on GNSSs, such as the GPS, as well as on a gravimetric geoid model resulting from the Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D) Project. The modernized NSRS will be easier to access and maintain than the existing NSRS, which relies on physical survey marks that deteriorate over time. The modernized NSRS will define new, more accurate, and more regularly updated geodetic coordinates (*i.e.*, latitude, longitude, ellipsoid height, orthometric height, acceleration of gravity, deflections of the vertical, and others). Coordinates will be estimated within these frames and datum at regular reference epochs from all historic survey data available to NGS, beginning with 2020.00.

The following details outline the process for the rollout of the modernized NSRS:

- NGS plans to roll out components of the modernized NSRS in 2025 or 2026. As each component is released at [beta.ngs.noaa.gov](https://beta.ngs.noaa.gov), it can be publicly tested with feedback provided to NGS. The testing will continue for at least six months after the final component is released on [beta.ngs.noaa.gov](https://beta.ngs.noaa.gov).
- While the modernized NSRS is being rolled out and tested, the current NSRS will remain the official NSRS of the United States. The official NSRS (*i.e.*, currently NAD 83, NAVD 88, etc.) may be found at [geodesy.noaa.gov](https://geodesy.noaa.gov). Only one major improvement to the current NSRS is expected during this time: ITRF2020 will be integrated in all products and services.
- Once testing is complete, and all modernized NSRS components appear to be stable and correct, the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee (FGCS) will be asked to vote to approve the modernized NSRS (likely in 2026). If FGCS approves the modernized NSRS, NGS will publish an FRN announcing the approval of the modernized NSRS and begin a several-month process of transitioning all modernized NSRS

components to the official website at [geodesy.noaa.gov](https://geodesy.noaa.gov). During this transition, the beta website may be wiped of submitted data and no further submissions to the NGS IDB (the repository for the current NSRS) will be allowed.

Additional information regarding the modernization of the NSRS may be found at <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/index.shtml>.

*Authority:* 33 U.S.C. 883a *et seq.*

**Shachak Pe'eri,**

*Acting Director, Office of National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2024-23347 Filed 10-8-24; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE304]

**Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Secretarial Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS, Southeast Region, intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conduct scoping to analyze management alternatives to be included in a Secretarial Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Secretarial Amendment). The EIS will evaluate a range of alternatives for setting and managing catch for South Atlantic red snapper to end overfishing and support rebuilding objectives of the stock. The purpose of this notice of intent is to solicit public comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS must be received on or before November 8, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document identified by NOAA-NMFS-2024-0107 by either of the following methods:

- *Electronic submissions:* Submit all electronic public comments via the

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit <https://www.regulations.gov> and type NOAA-NMFS-2024-0107, in the Search box. Click the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Karla Gore, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

*Instructions:* Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

The unique identification number for the EIS for the Secretarial Amendment is: EISX-006-48-1SE-1726732992.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karla Gore, Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305; or email: [karla.gore@noaa.gov](mailto:karla.gore@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS, with the advice of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council), manages the snapper-grouper fishery, which includes red snapper, under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Snapper-Grouper FMP). The South Atlantic Council prepared the Snapper-Grouper FMP, and NMFS implements the Snapper-Grouper FMP through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that NMFS and regional fishery management councils prevent overfishing and achieve, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from federally managed fish stocks. These mandates are intended to ensure that fishery resources are managed for the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to providing food production and recreational opportunities and protecting marine ecosystems.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act also provides that the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) may prepare a fishery management plan (FMP) or an amendment to any such FMP