

Written comments received after October 7, 2016, will be distributed to the Committee, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Matters to be Considered: The meeting will focus on ongoing committee priorities, as well as learning about ocean observing priorities from tribal, local, and state stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest. The latest version will be posted at <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/advisorycommittee>.

Special Accommodations: These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jessica Snowden, Designated Federal Official at 240-533-9466 by October 1, 2016.

Dated: September 12, 2016.

Zdenka Willis,

Director, U.S. IOOS Program, National Ocean Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-23661 Filed 9-29-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE921

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will take place on Monday, October 17 through Thursday, October 20, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the IP Casino hotel, located at 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: (228) 436-3000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Gregory, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Monday, October 17, 2016; 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

The Full Council will be convened to a review and adopt the proposed 2016–17 Council Committee Roster. The Data Collection Management Committee will receive a presentation on National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) For-Hire Pilot Program; and For-hire reporting Requirements; Cost analysis and Reporting Requirements of Commercial Electronic Reporting Program. After lunch, the Shrimp Management Committee will receive an update on NMFS Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Rule; Risk Assessment for Threshold Permit Numbers Relative to Sea Turtle Incidental Take Constraints; and review of Revised Options paper for Shrimp Amendment 17B. The Administrative/Budget Committee will review the State, Federal and Council Annual Leave Policies. The Mackerel Management Committee will review a Public Hearing Draft for CMP Amendment 29: Allocation Sharing and Accountability for Gulf King Mackerel; review Final Action—CMP Framework Amendment 5: Modifications to Pelagic Commercial Permit Restrictions in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic; and Final Action on CMP Amendment 30: Atlantic Cobia Recreational Fishing Year. The Full Council in a CLOSED SESSION (approximately 4:45 p.m.–5:45 p.m.) will review and select appointments for the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel (AP).

Tuesday, October 18, 2016; 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

The Reef Fish Management Committee will review the proposed regulations on the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary; SEDAR 47 Goliath Grouper Benchmark Assessment; Draft Framework Action on Mutton Snapper ACL and Management Measures and Gag Commercial Size Limit. Review Draft Amendment 42: Reef Fish Recreational Management for Headboat Survey Vessels; and, Final Action—Referendum Requirements for Amendment 42. Review the preliminary 2016 Red Snapper For-hire Landings Relative to Acceptable Catch Target (ACT); review Draft Amendment 46—Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan and Draft Amendment 41—Red Snapper Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016; 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

The Reef Fish Management Committee will review draft Amendment 36A—Modifications to

Commercial Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs; and receive a summary on the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Reef Fish Advisory Panel meetings. The Joint Coral/Habitat Committee will review the Final Draft of 5-year EFH Review and scoping document for Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs). The Law Enforcement Committee will review and approve the Law Enforcement Operations and Strategic Plans; and receive a summary from the Law Enforcement Technical Committee meeting.

The Full Council will convene after lunch (approximately 1 p.m.) with Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions; and review of Exempt Fishing Permit (EFPs) Applications, if any. The Council will receive presentations on Draft Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Amendments 5b and 10; Climate Vulnerability Analysis for Gulf Managed Stocks; Mississippi Law Enforcement Efforts; and NMFS–SERO Landing Summaries. The Council will receive public testimony from 2:45 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Agenda Testimony items: Final Action on Framework Action 5: To Remove the Prohibition on Retaining the Recreational King Mackerel Bag Limit with Commercial King Mackerel Permit; Final Action on Referendum Requirements for Reef Fish Amendment 42—Reef Fish Management for Headboat Survey Vessels; on proposed fishing regulations on the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary; and Final Action on CMP Amendment 30: Atlantic Cobia Recreational Fishing Year; and, hold an open public testimony period regarding any other fishery issues or concern. Anyone wishing to speak during public comment should sign in at the registration station located at the entrance to the meeting room.

Thursday, October 20, 2016; 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

The Full Council will receive committee reports from Data Collection, Mackerel, Shrimp and the Administrative/Budget Management Committees. The Full Council will receive the Closed Session Report on Ad Hoc Private Recreational Angler AP Membership and Discuss the Charge of the AP. The Council will continue to receive committee reports from Law Enforcement, Reef Fish and Joint Coral/Habitat Management Committees; and, vote on Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) applications, if any. The Council will receive updates from supporting agencies: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Gulf States

Marine Fisheries Commission; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and, the Department of State.

Lastly, the Council will discuss any Other Business items.

—Meeting Adjourns—

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue. The latest version will be posted on the Council's file server, which can be accessed by going to the Council's Web site at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org> and clicking on FTP Server under Quick Links. For meeting materials, select the "Briefing Books/Briefing Book 2016–10" folder on Gulf Council file server. The username and password are both "gulfguest". The meetings will be webcast over the internet. A link to the webcast will be available on the Council's Web site, <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects 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 that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 27, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2016–23699 Filed 9–29–16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[0648–XE687]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to a Tidal Marsh Restoration Project

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife—Central Region (CADFW) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to construction activities as part of a tidal marsh restoration project within the Minhoto-Hester Marsh in Elkhorn Slough (Monterey, CA). Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the CADFW to incidentally take marine mammals, by Level B harassment only, during the specified activity.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than October 31, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the applications should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. Physical comments should be sent to 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and electronic comments should be sent to ITP.Egger@noaa.gov.

Instructions: NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments received electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Egger, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability

An electronic copy of the CADFW's application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm. In case of problems accessing these

documents, please call the contact listed above.

National Environmental Policy Act

In August 2010, NMFS' Office of Habitat Conservation prepared a Targeted Supplemental Environmental Assessment (TSEA) for a similar tidal restoration project in Parson's Slough, a tidal marsh adjacent to the project area (both in Elkhorn Slough). The TSEA assessed the potential adverse environmental impacts of this project specific to marine mammals. Additional potential impacts to other elements of the human environment from this type of project were incorporated by reference in the TSEA. NMFS has reviewed the TSEA and believes it appropriate to write a Supplemental EA (based on the TSEA) in order to assess the impacts to the human environment of issuance of an IHA to CADFW and subsequently sign our own Finding of No Significant Impact. In addition, information in the CADFW's application, CADFW's Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (prepared June 2015 pursuant to the CA Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA)), the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) Biological Assessment (prepared September 2015), and this notice collectively provide the environmental information related to the proposed issuance of this IHA for public review and comment. All documents are available at the aforementioned Web site. We will review all comments submitted in response to this notice as we complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process prior to a final decision on the incidental take authorization request.

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request 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.

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