

would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Our November 18, 2013, **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHA described the history and status of Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for the NE Gateway LNG facility (78 FR 69049). As explained in that notice, the biological opinions for construction and operation of the facility only analyzed impacts on ESA-listed species from activities under the initial construction period and during operations, and did not take into consideration potential impacts to marine mammals that could result from the subsequent LNG Port and Pipeline Lateral maintenance and repair activities. In addition, NEG also revealed that significantly more water usage and vessel operating air emissions are needed from what was originally evaluated for the LNG Port operation. NMFS Office of Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division, (PR1) initiated consultation with NMFS Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office under section 7 of the ESA on the proposed issuance of an IHA to NEG under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for the proposed activities that include increased NEG Port and Algonquin Pipeline Lateral maintenance and repair and water usage for the LNG Port operations this activity. A Biological Opinion was issued on November 21, 2014, and concluded that the proposed action may adversely affect but is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of ESA-listed right, humpback, fin, and sei whales.

NMFS' PR1 has determined that the activities described in here are the same as those analyzed in the November 21, 2014, Biological Opinion. Therefore, a new consultation is not required for issuance of this IHA.

National Environmental Policy Act

MARAD and the USCG released a Final EIS/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Northeast Gateway Port and Pipeline Lateral. NMFS was a cooperating agency (as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1501.6)) in the preparation of the Draft and Final EISs. NMFS reviewed the Final EIS and adopted it on May 4, 2007. NMFS issued a separate Record of Decision for issuance of authorizations pursuant to section 101(a)(5) of the MMPA for the construction and operation of the Northeast Gateway's LNG Port Facility in Massachusetts Bay.

We have reviewed the NEG's application for a renewed IHA for ongoing activities for 2015–16 and the 2014–15 monitoring report. Based on that review, we have determined that the proposed action is very similar to that considered in the previous IHA. In addition, no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns have been identified. Thus, we have determined that the preparation of a new or supplemental NEPA document is not necessary.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to Northeast Gateway and Algonquin for conducting LNG Port facility and Pipeline Lateral operations and maintenance and repair activities in Massachusetts Bay, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: January 4, 2016.

Perry Gayaldo,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2016-00031 Filed 1-6-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Interagency Working Group on the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice, Webinars.

SUMMARY: The National Ocean Service (NOS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) publishes this notice to announce town hall-style webinars to promote discussion between federal representatives and stakeholders on topics related to harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxia occurring in the Great Lakes region. These webinars are being conducted in accordance with the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014 (HABHRCA), which directs federal agencies to advance the understanding of HAB and hypoxia events, and to respond to, detect, predict, control, and mitigate these events to the greatest extent possible.

Through these webinars, the Interagency Working Group on

HABHRCA (IWG–HABHRCA) seeks to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the Great lakes region, including scientists, resource managers, agricultural producers, commercial and recreational fishermen, other industry interests, international and non-profit organizations, and the interested public.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting web addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caitlin Gould (Caitlin.gould@noaa.gov, 240–533–0290) or Stacey DeGrasse (Stacey.Degrasse@fda.hhs.gov, 240–402–1470)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA is publishing this notice to announce webinars designed to promote conversation between federal representatives and stakeholders on a number of topics related to HABs and hypoxia, which impact human and animal health, local and regional economies, and long-term national security. The IWG–HABHRCA will consult with stakeholders on topics that include:

- Regional, Great Lakes-specific priorities for ecological, economic, and social research on the causes and impacts of HABs and hypoxia; need for improved monitoring and early warning; new approaches to improving scientific understanding, prediction and modeling, and socioeconomic analyses of these events; and mitigating causes and impacts of HABs and hypoxia;
- Communication and information dissemination methods that state, tribal, local, and international governments and organizations may undertake to educate and inform the public concerning HABs and hypoxia in the Great Lakes; and
- Perceived needs for handling Great Lakes HAB and hypoxia events, as well as an action strategy for managing future situations.

The IWG–HABHRCA was established to coordinate and convene relevant federal agencies to discuss HAB and hypoxia events in the United States, and to develop reports and assessments regarding these issues. The webinars are designed to provide stakeholders with opportunities to discuss their concerns and needs regarding HABs and hypoxia in the Great Lakes, which will help Federal agencies develop and refine action strategies for addressing these issues. While the webinars are targeted, all are welcome to join.

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments and questions in

advance of and following each webinar, pertaining to the aforementioned topics or on other areas of concern or interest related to Great Lakes HABs and hypoxia. Electronic comments and questions may be submitted via email (IWG-HABHRCA@noaa.gov). Written comments may be submitted to Caitlin Gould at NOAA, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, SSMC-4, #8237, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Meeting dates:

- *HAB and Hypoxia Experts, and Interested Parties*—January 12, 2016, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. EST
- *Interested Parties*—January 13, 2016, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. EST
- *Interested Parties (as needed)*—January 20, 2016, 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. EST

The webinars will be available at the following addresses:

- *HAB and Hypoxia Experts, and Interested Parties (January 12, 2016)*—
 - Go to <https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=maf531d3ea4423d977d250e1a380cefeb>
 - Password: Habsnhypoxia
 - To view in other time zones or languages, please click the link: <https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=m1b2d6b7e615eb38b9c819ea61dd1234e>
 - To join the teleconference only:
 - Provide your number when you join the meeting to receive a call back.
 - Alternatively, you can call one of the following numbers:
 - Local: 1-301-796-7777
 - Toll free: 1-855-828-1770
 - Follow the instructions that you hear on the phone. Your Cisco Unified MeetingPlace meeting ID: 747 264 241
- *Interested Parties (January 13, 2016)*—
 - Go to <https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=m02cebb22a4ea27dc11127bd7c3dd0bd>
 - Password: Habsnhypoxia
 - To view in other time zones or languages, please click the link: <https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=md9740352f0c09cbb307b22be4dca5739>
 - To join the teleconference only:
 - Provide your number when you join the meeting to receive a call back.
 - Alternatively, you can call one of the following numbers:
 - Local: 1-301-796-7777
 - Toll free: 1-855-828-1770
 - Follow the instructions that you hear on the phone. Your Cisco Unified MeetingPlace meeting ID: 740 105 257
- *Interested Parties (as needed; January 20, 2016)*—

- Go to <https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=m5a64b5f3a4c641c8f28973920401af14>
- Password: Habsnhypoxia
- To view in other time zones or languages, please click the link: <https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=m238e1a978d950349a0af565190eb8267>
- To join the teleconference only:
 - Provide your number when you join the meeting to receive a call back.
 - Alternatively, you can call one of the following numbers:
 - Local: 1-301-796-7777
 - Toll free: 1-855-828-1770
 - Follow the instructions that you hear on the phone. Your Cisco Unified MeetingPlace meeting ID: 744 840 269

Other Information: Persons wishing to attend the meeting online via the webinar must register in advance no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on the evening before each webinar, by sending an email to Caitlin.Gould@noaa.gov. The number of webinar connections available for the meetings is limited to 500 participants and will therefore be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The agenda for the webinars will include time for questions and answers or comments about the agencies' efforts in implementing HABHRCA.

Other Information

Paperwork Reduction Act: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Glenn Boledovich,

Chief, Policy and Constituent Affairs Division, Management and Budget Office, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2016-00018 Filed 1-6-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Invention Promoters/Promotion Firms Complaints

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information

under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

Title: Invention Promoters/Promotion Firms Complaints.

OMB Control Number: 0651-0044.

Form Number(s):

- PTO/SB/2048

Type of Request: Regular.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Average Hours per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public 15 minutes (0.25 hours) to gather the necessary information, prepare the form, and submit a complaint to the USPTO and 30 minutes (0.5 hours) for an invention promoter or promotion firm to prepare and submit a response to a complaint.

Burden Hours: 17.5 burden hours annually.

Cost Burden: \$493.70.

Needs and Uses: The Inventors' Rights Act of 1999 requires the USPTO to provide a forum for the publication of complaints concerning invention promoters and responses from invention promoters to those complaints. An individual may submit a complaint to the USPTO, which will then forward the complaint to the identified invention promoter for response. The complaints and responses are published on the USPTO Web site. The USPTO uses the information collected to comply with its statutory duty to publish the complaint along with any response from the invention promoter. The USPTO does not investigate these complaints or participate in any legal proceedings against invention promoters or promotion firms.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Nicholas A. Fraser, email: Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov.

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- **Email:** InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0044 copy request" in the subject line of the message.

- **Mail:** Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.