

the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) require that federal agencies complete an environmental analysis for all major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. Those actions may include a federal agency's decision to fund non-federal projects under grants and cooperative agreements, including infrastructure projects. In order to determine NEPA compliance requirements for a project receiving Department of Commerce (DOC) bureau-level funding, DOC must assess information which can only be provided by the applicant for federal financial assistance (grant).

The Environmental Questionnaire and Checklist (EQC) provides federal financial assistance applicants and DOC staff with a tool to ensure that the necessary project and environmental information is obtained. The EQC was developed to collect data concerning potential environmental impacts that the applicant for federal financial assistance possesses and to transmit that information to the Federal reviewer. The EQC will allow for a more rapid review of projects and facilitate DOC's evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of a project and level of NEPA documentation required. DOC staff will use the information provided in answers to the questionnaire to determine compliance requirements for NEPA and conduct subsequent NEPA analysis as needed. Information provided in the questionnaire may also be used for other regulatory review requirements associated with the proposed project, such as the National Historic Preservation Act.

Revision: The checklist is being revised to improve understanding and clarity of the questions.

## II. Method of Collection

The main method of submission is electronic. Some supporting documents may be mailed.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0690–0028.  
*Form Number:* CD–593.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (revision and extension of a currently approved collection).

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; not-for-profit institutions; state, local, or tribal government; and Federal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 3 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$1,000 in miscellaneous costs (\$5 × approximately 200 respondents who would mail attachments rather than emailing them).

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 11, 2014.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2014–03343 Filed 2–14–14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–NW–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XD135**

### Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of the Shrimp and Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate Advisory Panels.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5 until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Hotel, 333—1st Street, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; telephone: (727) 894–5000.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203

North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL, 33607.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. John Froeschke, Fishery Biologist and Statistician or Dr. Morgan Kilgour, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348–1630; fax: (813) 348–1711; emails: [john.froeschke@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:john.froeschke@gulfcouncil.org) or [morgan.kilgour@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:morgan.kilgour@gulfcouncil.org).

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

### Shrimp Advisory Panel, Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Approval of minutes from May 23, 2013 meeting
3. Plan of work
4. Review of new stock assessments for brown, white, and pink shrimp
5. Biological review of the Texas closure
6. Review draft options for shrimp Amendment 15 status determination criteria for penaeid shrimp and adjustments to the shrimp FMP framework procedure
7. Discussion of ACL adjustment and accountability measures for royal red shrimp
8. Kemp's Ridley stock assessment with discussion
9. Update on the status of the new shrimp ELB monitoring program
10. Other Business

### Joint Shrimp and Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate Advisory Panels, Thursday, March 6, 2014, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

1. Consideration of new chair election for Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate AP
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Approval of minutes from February 28, 2013 Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate AP Meeting
4. Plan of work: Council charge-discussion of issues, impacts, and concerns associated with artificial reef siting criteria
  - a. Shrimp effort
  - b. Artificial reefs sites (past and present)
  - c. Bottom type
  - d. Depth
  - e. Other criteria
5. Rigs to reefs
6. Habitat limitations of age 2 red snapper and their association with petroleum platforms
7. Other Business

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 sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working 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: February 12, 2014.

**William D. Chappell,**

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

[FR Doc. 2014-03443 Filed 2-14-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XD087**

#### **Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; St. George Reef Light Station Restoration and Maintenance at Northwest Seal Rock, Del Norte County, California**

**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 an application from the St. George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society (Society), for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (Authorization) to take marine mammals, by harassment incidental to conducting aircraft operations, lighthouse renovation, and light maintenance activities on the St. George Reef Light Station on Northwest Seal Rock (NWSR) in the northeast Pacific Ocean. The proposed dates for this action would be April 2014 through March 2015. Per the Marine Mammal Protection Act, we are requesting comments on our proposal to issue an Authorization to the Society to incidentally take, by Level B harassment

only, marine mammals during the specified activity.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received on or before March 20, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the application should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Supervisor, Incidental Take Program, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *ITP.Cody@noaa.gov*. Please include 0648-XD087 in the subject line. Comments sent via email to *ITP.Cody@noaa.gov*, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. NMFS is not responsible for email comments sent to other addresses other than the one provided here.

**Instructions:** All submitted comments are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

To obtain an electronic copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document, write to the previously mentioned address, telephone the contact listed here (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visit the internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) specific to conducting aircraft operations, restoration, and maintenance work on the light station is also available at the same internet address. Information in the EA and this notice collectively provide the environmental information related to the proposed issuance of the Authorization for public review and comment. The public may also view documents cited in this notice, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeannine Cody, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS (301) 713-8401.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental,

but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals of a species or population stock, by United States citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if, after notice of a proposed authorization to the public for review and public comment: (1) We make certain findings; and (2) the taking is limited to harassment.

An authorization shall be granted for the incidental taking of small numbers of marine mammals 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 subsistence uses (where relevant). The authorization must also set forth the permissible methods of taking; other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat; and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such taking. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as "an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as: Any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A harassment]; or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering [Level B harassment].

#### **Summary of Request**

On December 14, 2013, NMFS received an application from the Society requesting that we issue an Authorization for the take of marine mammals, incidental to conducting restoration activities on the St. George Reef Light Station (Station) located on Northwest Seal Rock offshore of Crescent City, California in the northeast Pacific Ocean. NMS determined the application complete and adequate on January 13, 2014.

The Society proposes to conduct aircraft operations, lighthouse renovation, and periodic maintenance on the Station's optical light system on a monthly basis. The proposed activity would occur on a monthly basis over one weekend, April 1 through April 30, 2014 and November 1, 2014, through