

Center 1400 M Street Northwest,  
Washington, DC 20005.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this workshop is to convene East Coast fishery managers to explore the existing and potential impacts of climate change on East Coast fisheries governance and identify key management questions, concerns, and information needed to guide future research and coordination between management bodies. Participants will work collaboratively to develop specific next steps for addressing climate change and fisheries governance issues. Invited participants include managers and staff of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and NOAA Fisheries (NMFS).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office (302) 526-5251 at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 21, 2014.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2014-04183 Filed 2-25-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XD144**

#### Revisions to NOAA's Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions

**AGENCY:** Office of General Counsel (OGC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the availability of draft revisions to NOAA's Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions (Penalty Policy) for public review and comment. The revisions to the policy will improve enforcement consistency nationally, increase predictability in enforcement, improve transparency in enforcement, and more effectively protect natural resources.

**DATES:** The draft revisions to the Penalty Policy will remain available for public review until April 28, 2014. To ensure that comments will be considered, NOAA must receive written comments by April 28, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submissions:* Submit electronic public comments to [penaltypolicy@noaa.gov](mailto:penaltypolicy@noaa.gov);
- *Fax:* 301-427-2211; Attn: Robert Hogan;
- *Mail:* Enforcement Section, Office of the General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC-3-15424, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: Robert Hogan.

The draft revisions to the Penalty Policy are available electronically at the following Web site: <http://www.gc.noaa.gov/documents/enforcement/draft-penalty-policy.pdf>. Commenters may also request a hard copy of the draft revisions to the Penalty Policy by sending a self-addressed envelope (size 8.5 x 11 inches) to the street address provided above. Comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in a comment, please be aware that comments—including any personal identifying information—can and will

be made publicly available. While a request can be made to withhold personal identifying information from public review, NOAA cannot ensure that it will be able to do so.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Hogan at the above address or by telephone at 301-427-8283.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The draft revisions to the Penalty Policy are intended to provide updated guidance for the assessment of civil administrative penalties and permit sanctions under the statutes and regulations enforced by NOAA. As explained more fully in the text of the Penalty Policy, the purpose of the Policy is to ensure that: (1) Civil administrative penalties and permit sanctions are assessed in accordance with the laws that NOAA enforces in a fair and consistent manner; (2) penalties and permit sanctions are appropriate for the gravity of the violation; (3) penalties and permit sanctions are sufficient to deter both particular violators and the regulated community from committing violations; (4) economic incentives for noncompliance are eliminated; and (5) compliance is expeditiously achieved and maintained to protect natural resources.

Under the draft revisions to the Penalty Policy, NOAA expects to continue to improve consistency at a national level, provide greater predictability for the regulated community and the public, improve transparency in enforcement, and more effectively protect natural resources. The major changes to the existing Penalty Policy made by this draft revision include:

- (1) Addition of more detail in some penalty schedules to better describe the most commonly-occurring violations;
- (2) Clearer distinctions among multiple-level violations to ensure consistent application of the Penalty Policy;
- (3) Revision of the treatment of prior violations so that prior adjudicated violations older than 5 years are no longer considered an aggravating factor;
- (4) Ensuring consistent application of the Penalty Policy to recreational offenses by replacing the commercial/recreational distinction as a penalty adjustment factor with additional Level I and II penalties that capture recreational violations;
- (5) Creating a new penalty adjustment for "such other matters as justice may require" by combining the "Activity After Violation" factor with new considerations.

When finalized, the revised Penalty Policy will supersede the previous

Penalty Policy regarding the assessment of penalties or permit sanctions, and previous penalty and permit sanction schedules issued by the NOAA Office of the General Counsel. This Penalty Policy provides guidance for the NOAA General Counsel's Office in assessing penalties but is not intended to create a right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, in any person or company. NOAA retains discretion to assess the full range of penalties authorized by statute in any particular case.

The full draft revisions to the Penalty Policy, along with examples, matrixes, and schedules, can be found at <http://www.gc.noaa.gov/documents/enforcement/draft-penalty-policy.pdf>. NOAA is seeking public comment on all portions of the Penalty Policy, but specifically asks for comment on the above identified major changes to the existing Penalty Policy.

Dated: February 21, 2014.

**Benjamin Friedman,**

*Deputy General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2014-04195 Filed 2-25-14; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD149

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public hearings for Red Snapper Allocation—Amendment 28.

**DATES:** The public hearings will be held from Monday, March 10 through Monday, March 24, 2014 at nine locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and will conclude no later than 9 p.m. There will be a “call-in session” on Thursday March 20th; instructions will be available on our Web site. For specific dates and locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

**ADDRESSES:** *Meeting address:* The public hearings will be held in the following locations: Orange Beach and Mobile, AL; Gulfport, MS; Panama City and St. Petersburg, FL; Kenner, LA; and Corpus

Christi, San Antonio and League City/ Webster, TX.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Assane Diagne, Economist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630; fax: (813) 348-1711; email: [assane.diagne@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:assane.diagne@gulfcouncil.org).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The items of discussion in the public hearings are as follows:

#### Red Snapper Allocation—Amendment 28

Consider the reallocation of red snapper resources between the commercial and recreational sectors.

The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at the end of public testimony or no later than 9 p.m. at the following locations:

Monday, March 10, 2014, Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, 3111 Loop Road, Orange Beach, AL 36561, (251) 543-4444;

Tuesday, March 11, 2014, Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602, (251) 438-4000;

Wednesday, March 12, 2014, Holiday Inn Select, 2001 N. Cove Boulevard, Panama City, FL 32405, (850) 769-0000; Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, MS 39501, (228) 864-4310;

Thursday, March 13, 2014, La Quinta Inn & Suites New Orleans Airport, 2610 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA 70062, (504) 466-1401;

Monday, March 17, 2014, Hilton Garden Inn, 6717 South Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, (361) 991-8200;

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Embassy Suites San Antonio International Airport, 10110 US Hwy 281 N., San Antonio, TX 78216 (201) 525-9999;

Wednesday, March 19, 2014, Hilton Garden Inn Houston/Clear Lake NASA, 750 W. Texas Avenue, Webster, TX 77598, (281) 332-6284;

Thursday, March 20, 2014, call-in session; visit [www.GulfCouncil.org](http://www.GulfCouncil.org) for instructions.

Monday, March 24, 2014, Hilton Carillon St. Petersburg, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, (727) 540-0050.

Copies of the public hearing documents can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630 or visiting [www.GulfCouncil.org](http://www.GulfCouncil.org).

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 hearings. 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 hearings 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 20, 2014.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD123

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to San Nicolas Island Roads and Airfield Repairs 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 an application from the Department of the Navy (Navy), Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), California, for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to the San Nicolas Island (SNI) roads and airfield repairs project. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to NBVC to incidentally take, by Level B harassment only,