

the Lease Area. BOEM's EA and NMFS' FONSI are available on the internet at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/energy\\_other.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/energy_other.htm).

#### Authorization

As a result of these determinations, NMFS has issued an IHA to Bay State Wind for HRG survey activities and use of DP vessel thrusters during geotechnical survey activities from August 2016 through August 2017, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

**Donna S. Wieting,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2016-19889 Filed 8-19-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE825**

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Groundfish Plan Teams will meet September 13 through September 16, 2016.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 to Friday, September 16, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fishery Science Center Traynor Room 2076 and NMML Room 2079, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 4, Seattle, WA 98115.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diana Stram, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Agenda

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016 to Friday, September 16, 2016*

The Plan Teams will review the preliminary stock assessments for Groundfish and receive the following reports: Halibut DMR, research

priorities, and Economic Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE).

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org>

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 17, 2016.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016-19951 Filed 8-19-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE821**

#### Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings and hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Social Science Planning Committee (SSPC) to discuss and make recommendations on relevant issues in Hawaii and the Western Pacific region.

**DATES:** The SSPC meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2016, from 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. For agenda, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The SSPC meeting will be held at the Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Honolulu, HI 96813; phone: (808) 522-8220 and by teleconference line at (888) 482-3560; Passcode: 5228220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, phone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A public comment period will be provided. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meeting will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

#### Agenda for the SSPC Meeting

*Thursday, September 15, 2016, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.*

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Welcome New Members
4. Papahānaumokuākea MNM Update
5. Status of April 2016 SSPC Recommendation
6. Status of the Annual/SAFE Reports
7. Update on Human Communities Research Needs
8. SSPC Member Research Updates
9. Identification of Social Researchers
10. Saltonstall Kennedy Grant Solicitation
11. Other Business
12. Public Comment
13. Committee Discussion and Recommendations
14. Next Meeting

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 this meeting. 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 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 Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: August 17, 2016.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016-19949 Filed 8-19-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE826**

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Abundance-

based Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) workshop will meet September 12, 2016.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fishery Science Center 4600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 4, Traynor Room, Seattle, WA 98115.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diana Stram, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Agenda**

*September 12, 2016*

The Council will host a public workshop to provide a presentation on the discussion paper being prepared by the interagency workgroup on halibut abundance-based PSC management approaches. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a public preview of the discussion paper prior to the Council's review at the October Council meeting, to receive feedback on this discussion paper, to better inform the public of the progress on this initiative, and to better facilitate the development of comments from the public to the Council.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>

#### **Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 17, 2016.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016-19950 Filed 8-19-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE823**

#### **Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; Horseshoe Crabs; Application for Exempted Fishing Permit, 2016**

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

**ACTION:** Notification of a proposal to conduct exempted fishing; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, has made a preliminary determination that the subject exempted fishing permit (EFP) application submitted by Limuli Laboratories (Limuli) of Cape May Court House, NJ, contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The application seeks harvest of up to 10,000 horseshoe crabs from the Carl N. Shuster Jr. Horseshoe Crab Reserve (Reserve) for biomedical purposes and requires, as a condition of the EFP, the collection of data related to the status of horseshoe crabs within the reserve. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission) Horseshoe Crab Technical Committee and Delaware Bay Ecosystem Technical Committee were consulted on the scientific merits of the application. The Director has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Commission's Horseshoe Crab Interstate Fisheries Management Plan. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Director proposes to recommend that an EFP be issued that would allow up to two commercial fishing vessels to conduct fishing operations that are otherwise restricted by the regulations promulgated under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act). The EFP would allow for an exemption from the Reserve.

Regulations under the Atlantic Coastal Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Written comments on this action must be received on or before September 12, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2016-0113, by either of the following methods:

*Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0113](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0113), Click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields Enter or attach your comments.

*Mail:* Written comments should be sent to Chris Wright, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13464, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Horseshoe Crab EFP Proposal."

*Fax:* Comments may also be sent via fax to (301) 713-0596.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Wright, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 427-8570.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

Limuli submitted an application for an EFP dated April 26, 2016, to collect up to 10,000 horseshoe crabs for biomedical and data collection purposes from the Reserve. Of the collected horseshoe crabs, a portion will be tagged and analyzed for data collection purposes. All collected horseshoe crabs will be returned to the sea after they are bled. The applicant has applied for a similar EFP every year from 2001-2015. Permits were issued each year from 2001-2013, however no harvest and data collection occurred in years 2008, 2009, and 2012. Permits were not issued in 2014 or 2015 due to the pending listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of the rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) and ultimate determination as threatened species status under the ESA of 1973 (December 11, 2014; 79 FR 73706) and time needed to consult under the Endangered Species Act with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

#### **Limuli Laboratories EFP Application**

The current EFP application specifies that: (1) The same methods in the 2001-2013 EFPs would be used, (2) at least 15 percent of the bled horseshoe crabs would be tagged, and (3) there had not been any sighting or capture of marine mammals or endangered species in the trawling nets of fishing vessels engaged in the collection of horseshoe crabs since 1993. The project submitted by Limuli would provide morphological data on horseshoe crab catch, would tag a portion of the caught horseshoe crabs, and would use the blood from the caught horseshoe crabs to manufacture Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL), an important health and safety product used for the detection of endotoxins.