

monuments, international requirements, and other laws regulating shipping, pollution, etc.

NMFS has evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the deep-set longline fisheries in previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses. In a 2001 EIS, NMFS evaluated the potential impacts on target and non-target stocks, protected marine species (sea turtles, marine mammals, etc.), fishermen, and other parameters. In a 2005 EIS, NMFS evaluated the potential impacts on seabirds. In a 2009 PEIS, NMFS evaluated the potential impacts when the Council and NMFS developed and implemented five geographically based FEPs, including the Pelagic FEP. Additionally, NMFS has evaluated, through separate NEPA analyses, the potential impacts of several FEP amendments and additional regulatory changes since 2009.

In the current PEIS, NMFS and the Council will evaluate the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of U.S. Pacific Island deep-set longline fisheries. The proposed federal action is the continued authorization of the U.S. Pacific Island deep-set tuna longline fisheries of American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and Hawaii, including vessels based on the U.S. west coast, as managed under the FEP and other applicable laws.

The purpose of the proposed action is to maintain viable domestic deep-set tuna longline fisheries, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, and the conservation of protected species and their habitats. The need for the proposed action is to manage deep-set tuna longline fisheries under an adaptive management framework that allows for timely management responses to changing environmental conditions, consistent with domestic and international conservation and management measures.

Although each deep-set longline fishery managed under the FEP generally operates in a similar manner, each fishery is subject to a unique set of conservation and management issues and regulatory framework. Accordingly, the scope of the analyses would be programmatic in nature.

Public Involvement

We are notifying the public that NMFS intends to prepare a PEIS, and will hold a series of public scoping meetings to describe the management of deep-set longline fisheries under the FEP. We invite comments from the public at the early stage of environmental effects analysis planning.

Specifically, NMFS is seeking input from the public on issues that NMFS should address in the draft PEIS related to management of the deep-set longline fisheries, including catch of target species (e.g., tunas) and non-target species (e.g., sharks), interactions with protected species, and impacts on the pelagic ecosystem. This will assist NMFS and the Council in determining the scope of the environmental issues, and in developing of a reasonable range of fishery management alternatives to analyze in the draft PEIS.

There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft PEIS when it is published. You may find more information about deep-set tuna longline fisheries managed under the FEP and the progress of the PEIS at http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_index.html.

Meetings

NMFS will hold public meetings at the dates and locations below. All meetings will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

1. Hilo, HI

Tuesday, February 21, 2017, Edith Kanakaole Hall, Room 122, University of Hawaii at Hilo, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720.

2. Honolulu, HI

Thursday, February 23, 2017, Nuuanu Elementary School, Cafeteria, 3055 Puiwa Ln., Honolulu, HI 96817.

3. Pago Pago, AS

Tuesday, February 28, 2017, Sadie's By the Sea, Upstairs Conference Room, Utulei Beach, Rte. 1, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

4. Tafuna, AS

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, NOAA GMD/PIFSC Compound Tafuna (West Location), 8043 Tasi St., Tafuna, AS 96799.

5. Pago Pago, AS

Thursday, March 2, 2017, PC Mauga Tasi Asuega Fale Tele (East Location), Village of Pago Pago, AS 96799.

6. Saipan, MP

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Beach Rd., Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

7. Mangilao, GU

Thursday, March 9, 2017, University of Guam, CNAS 127, University Dr., Mangilao, GU 96923.

Special Accommodations

NMFS will make every attempt to make these meetings accessible to people with disabilities. Direct any

requests for sign language interpretation, physical assistance, or other auxiliary aids to Ariel Jacobs at (808) 725-5182 at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 7, 2017.

Karen H. Abrams,

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-XF220

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of SEDAR 54 Data webinar for HMS Sandbar Shark.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 54 assessment process of HMS Sandbar Shark will consist of a series of assessment webinars. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SEDAR 54 Data webinar will be held March 9, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

SEDAR address: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571-4366; email: Julie.neer@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-step process including: (1) Data Workshop, (2) a series of assessment webinars, and (3) A Review Workshop.

The product of the Data Workshop is a report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The assessment webinars produce a report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The product of the Review Workshop is an Assessment Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion during the Data webinar are as follows:

Panelists will present summary data and discuss data needs and treatments.

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 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 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 the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: February 8, 2017.

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

Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment will hold its next meeting at the time and location listed below.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7 and Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Registration, written statements, requests to make oral comments, and requests for special accommodations should be received at one of the addresses below on or before February 28, 2017.

The meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. EST to 5:30 p.m. EST both days. There will be a 30-minute public comment period on March 7 from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Please refer to the Web page <http://sncaadvisorycommittee.noaa.gov/Meetings.aspx> for the most up-to-date meeting times and agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree, 8120 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3624.

Individuals and groups may register, submit written statements, request to make oral comments, and/or request special accommodations (see additional information below) by either of the following methods:

- Send an email message to snca.advisorycommittee@noaa.gov. Please include 'March 2017 Meeting' on the subject line; or
- Send paper statements to Laura Letson, Advisory Committee Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11359, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Letson, Advisory Committee Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11359, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Email: snca.advisorycommittee@noaa.gov; or visit the Advisory Committee Web site <http://sncaadvisorycommittee.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Matters to be Considered: The meeting will include updates on: (1) The Fourth National Climate Assessment process; (2) data and tools developed to

support sustained assessment; (3) approaches to sustained partnerships developed in regional science organizations and other groups; (4) state-level assessment activities; and (5) the Advisory Committee's work plan. Meeting material, including work products will be made available on the Advisory Committee's Web site: <http://sncaadvisorycommittee.noaa.gov/Meetings.aspx>.

Written Comments: Pursuant to section 10(a) (3) of the FACA and 41 CFR 102-3.105(j) and 102-3.140, the public or interested organizations may submit written comments to the Advisory Committee in response to the stated agenda and meeting material. The Advisory Committee expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. Comments may be submitted to Executive Director at the contact information indicated above. Written comments should be received in the Executive Director's Office by February 28 to provide sufficient time for Advisory Committee review. Written comments received by the Executive Director after February 28, will be distributed to the Advisory Committee, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

Oral Comments: In addition to written statements, members of the public may present oral comments during the public comment period on March 7, 2017. Time will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Time allotted for an individual's comment period will be limited to no more than 3 minutes. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled public comment periods, written comments can be submitted in lieu of oral comments. To request to make oral comments, please use the contact information indicated above.

Registration: Individuals and groups who wish to attend the public meeting are requested to pre-register by February 28, 2017. To register, please use the contact information indicated above.

Special Accommodations: These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please submit requests for special accommodations by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 28, 2017 to the contact information indicated above.