

or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival:

- No mortality is anticipated or authorized;
- The Corps would implement mitigation measures including soft-starts for impact pile driving and shutdown zones that exceed Level A harassment zones for authorized species, except for harbor seals which will help to ensure that take by Level A harassment is at most a small degree of PTS;
- Anticipated incidents of Level B harassment consist of, at worst, temporary modifications in behavior;
- There are no BIAs within the MCR and Columbia River estuary or other known areas of particular biological importance to any of the affected stocks are impacted by the activity;
- The project area represents a very small portion of the available foraging area for all marine mammal species and anticipated habitat impacts are minimal; and
- The required mitigation measures (e.g. shutdown zones, soft-start) are expected to be effective in reducing the effects of the specified activity.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the likely effects of the specified activity on marine mammals and their habitat, and taking into consideration the implementation of the monitoring and mitigation measures, NMFS finds that the total marine mammal take from the planned activity will have a negligible impact on all affected marine mammal species or stocks.

#### Small Numbers

As noted above, only small numbers of incidental take may be authorized under Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA for specified activities other than military readiness activities. The MMPA does not define small numbers and so, in practice, where estimated numbers are available, NMFS compares the number of individuals taken to the most appropriate estimation of abundance of the relevant species or stock in our determination of whether an authorization is limited to small numbers of marine mammals. Additionally, other qualitative factors may be considered in the analysis, such as the temporal or spatial scale of the activities.

Table 11 in the *Marine Mammal Occurrence and Take Calculation and Estimation* section, present the number of animals that could be exposed to received noise levels that may result in take by Level A harassment or Level B harassment from the Corps' planned activities. Our analysis shows that 9.7

percent or less of the best population estimates of each affected stock could be taken. Additionally, the planned test piles project is located near the pinniped haulout at the South Jetty. Therefore, it is likely that many of these takes will be repeated takes of the same animals over multiple days. As such, the take estimate serves as a good estimate of instances of take, but is likely an overestimate of individuals taken, so actual percentage of stocks taken would be even lower.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the planned activity (including the mitigation and monitoring measures) and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the population size of the affected species or stocks.

#### Unmitigable Adverse Impact Analysis and Determination

There are no relevant subsistence uses of the affected marine mammal stocks or species implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (incidental harassment authorizations with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

#### Endangered Species Act (ESA)

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

#### Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to the Corps for conducting test pile installation and removal at the Sand Island Pile Dike system near the MCR, for one year from the date of issuance, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: November 5, 2019.

**Donna S. Wieting,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-24462 Filed 11-8-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XV126]

#### South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of the following: Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Committee (Partially Closed Session); Executive Finance Committee; Shrimp Committee; Advisory Panel Selection Committee (Closed Session); Citizen Science Committee; Dolphin Wahoo Committee; Mackerel Cobia Committee; Snapper Grouper Committee; and Personnel Committee (Closed Session). The Council meeting week will include a formal public comment period and a meeting of the full Council.

**DATES:** The Council meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2019 until 1 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2019.

#### ADDRESSES:

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Hotel Ballast, 301 North Water Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; phone: (910) 763-5900.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 302-8440 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net). Meeting information is available from the Council's website at: <http://>

[safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/](http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Public comment:* Written comments may be directed to Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (see *Council address*) or electronically via the Council's website at <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>. Comments received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (11/25/19) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record; please use the Council's online form available from the website. For written comments received after the Monday before the meeting (after 11/25/19), individuals submitting a comment must use the Council's online form available from the website. Comments will automatically be posted to the website and available for Council consideration. Comments received prior to noon on Thursday, December 5, 2019 will be a part of the meeting administrative record.

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

#### **SEDAR Committee (Partially Closed Session)—Monday, December 2, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Until 2:30 p.m.**

1. *Closed Session:* The Committee will review appointments for upcoming assessments and provide recommendations for Council consideration. The Committee will also receive updates on the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and advisory panel participation in the SEDAR process.

2. The meeting will continue in Open Session. The Committee will receive an update on SEDAR activities, a report from the Council's SSC, and approve the Terms of Reference and schedule for the SEDAR 71 stock assessment for South Atlantic gag grouper.

3. The Committee will also review and approve the SEDAR Scope of Work for 2022 Stock Assessments and provide recommendations for Council approval.

#### **Executive Finance Committee—Monday, December 2, 2019, 2:30 p.m. Until 4 p.m.**

1. The Committee will receive a report from the November 2019 meeting of the Council Coordination Committee (CCC), discuss and provide guidance to staff.

2. The Committee will receive a report from the October 2019 Executive Finance Committee meeting, review and take action as needed.

3. The Committee will review the Council's Follow-up document and

Prioritization Schedule for work on amendments, discuss and provide guidance to staff.

4. The Committee will review documents from NOAA Fisheries currently open for review by the Council and take action as needed.

#### **Shrimp Committee, Monday, December 2, 2019, 4 p.m. Until 5 p.m.**

1. The Committee will review draft Amendment 11 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP) addressing transit provisions, discuss and consider approval for public hearings.

2. The Committee will also receive input from the Shrimp Advisory Panel on changes proposed for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

#### **Advisory Panel Selection Committee (Closed Session), Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 8 a.m. Until 10 a.m.**

1. The Committee will review applications for open seats on the Councils advisory panels and provide recommendations for Council consideration.

#### **Citizen Science Committee, Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 10 a.m. Until 12 p.m.**

1. The Committee will receive program and project updates including 2019 activities and updates on the program's pilot projects, *SAFMC Scamp Release* and *FISH* story.

2. The Committee will also review updated Research Priorities for the Citizen Science Program, discuss and consider for adoption.

3. The Committee will receive an overview and presentation on program evaluation, discuss, and provide guidance and recommendations as needed. The Committee will also receive a presentation on the role of program infrastructure, discuss and take action as needed.

#### **Dolphin Wahoo Committee, Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Until 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 8:00 a.m. Until 12:00 p.m.**

1. The Committee will receive updates from NOAA Fisheries on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus annual catch limits (ACLs).

2. The Committee will review the goals and objectives of the Dolphin Wahoo FMP and provide guidance to staff. The Committee will also review Amendment 10 to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP. Draft Amendment 10 currently includes 17 actions to address current needs in the fishery. These actions fall under four main areas of focus: (1) Actions to accommodate revised recreational data; (2) Actions that define

Optimum Yield in the dolphin fishery; (3) Actions that accommodate adaptive management of sector ACLs and change accountability measures; and (4) Actions that implement miscellaneous management revisions in the dolphin and wahoo fisheries. The Committee will continue its review of actions in the draft amendment and consider approving for public scoping.

3. The Committee will review draft Amendment 12 to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP with measures to add bullet mackerel and frigate mackerel as Ecosystem Component species to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP, consider appropriate regulatory actions, and provide guidance to staff. The Committee will also receive input from the Advisory Panel on changes proposed for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

#### **Mackerel Cobia Committee, Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Until 3:50 p.m.**

1. The Committee will receive an update on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus ACLs and the status of amendments under formal Secretarial review.

2. The Committee will receive a report from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

3. The Committee will receive an overview of Framework Amendment 8 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP addressing king mackerel commercial trip limits in Season 2 in the Atlantic Southern Zone, review public hearing comments, and provide recommendations for final approval.

4. The Committee will review draft Framework Amendment 9 with actions to revise accountability measures to address Spanish mackerel closures in the Atlantic Northern Zone. The Committee will review analyses, select preferred alternatives and consider approving for public hearings.

5. The Committee will also receive input from the Advisory Panel on changes proposed for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

#### **Formal Public Comment, Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 4 p.m.**

Public comment will be accepted on items on the Council meeting agenda scheduled to be approved for Secretarial Review: Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 33 (red snapper fishing seasons); Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 8 (king mackerel trip limits); and Snapper Grouper Abbreviated Framework 3 (blueline tilefish). Public comment will also be accepted on items for scoping/

public hearings and all other agenda items. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter.

**Snapper Grouper Committee,  
Thursday, December 5, 2019, 8 a.m.  
Until 12 p.m.**

1. The Committee will receive updates from NOAA Fisheries on commercial and recreational catches for species under ACLs and the status of amendments under formal Secretarial review.

2. The Committee will receive a report from the SSC on issues relative to the management of snapper grouper species and a report from the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel.

3. The Committee will receive an overview of Snapper Grouper Abbreviated Framework Amendment 3 addressing management of blueline tilefish and consider final approval for Secretarial review.

5. The Committee will receive an update on the Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) for red snapper that includes 2019 data.

6. The Committee will review Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 33 addressing season modifications for red snapper and consider final approval.

7. The Committee will review draft Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 31 addressing recreational accountability measures and provide guidance.

8. The Committee will receive a summary of outreach efforts for best fishing practices and take action as needed.

9. The Committee will receive a report from the System Management Plan Workgroup and an overview of input received from the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel regarding proposed changes to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

**Personnel Committee, Thursday,  
December 5, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Until 3:30  
p.m. (Closed Session)**

1. The Committee will address the Executive Director's review and Council comments on documents, procedures, etc. and guidance for 2020.

*Council Session: Thursday, December 5, 2019, 3:30 p.m. Until 5:30 p.m. and Friday, December 6, 2019, 8 a.m. Until 1 p.m.*

The Full Council will begin with the Call to Order, adoption of the agenda, and approval of minutes.

The Council will receive a presentation on proposed changes to the

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Staff will provide a summary of input received from the Council's advisory panels regarding the proposed changes and provide the Council with an overview of required actions.

The Council will receive staff reports including the Executive Director's Report and updates on the MyFishCount recreational reporting pilot program.

Updates will be provided by NOAA Fisheries including a report on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus ACLs for species not covered during an earlier committee meeting, data-related reports (for-hire amendment and bycatch), protected resources, and a presentation on the status of the of the Commercial Electronic Logbook Program. The Council will discuss and take action as necessary.

The Council will review any Exempted Fishing Permits received as necessary and review proposed changes to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and take action as appropriate.

The Council will receive reports from the following committees: Snapper Grouper; Mackerel Cobia; Dolphin Wahoo; Shrimp; SEDAR, Advisory Panel Selection; Citizen Science; Executive Finance; and Personnel. The Council will take action as appropriate.

The Council will receive agency and liaison reports; and discuss other business and upcoming meetings and take action as necessary.

Documents regarding these issues are available from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 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: November 6, 2019.

**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**

**Proposed Information Collection;  
Comment Request; Southeast Region  
Gulf of Mexico Mandatory Shrimp  
Vessel and Gear Characterization  
Survey**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted by January 13, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Adrienne Thomas, PRA Officer, NOAA, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 159, Asheville, NC 28801 (or via the internet at [PRAComments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAComments@doc.gov)). All comments received are part of the public record. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Adam Bailey, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Ave. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, telephone: 727-824-8305, email: [adam.bailey@noaa.gov](mailto:adam.bailey@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for the renewal of a current information collection.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act