

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 Post-Data Workshop webinar are as follows:

Participants will review additional information and data analysis on outstanding data issues and make final recommendations.

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: December 20, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-31038 Filed 12-27-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE556]

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment on the Effects of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources Coordination and Continued Operation of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network

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

ACTION: Notice; availability of a draft environmental assessment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on NMFS Office of Protected Resources' (OPR) role coordinating the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN). The STSSN responds to and documents sick, injured, and dead sea turtles that are found in coastal areas under U.S. jurisdiction along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean Territories. Although the STSSN has been in operation for several decades, the National Coordination role formally shifted to the OPR in 2022, which prompted an evaluation of STSSN operations and development of a formal Operating Procedures Handbook, which are subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. NMFS is requesting comments on the draft EA.

DATES: Written comments must be received (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before January 29, 2025.

ADDRESSES: The EA is available for download and review at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-distress/sea-turtle-stranding-and-salvage-network> under the section heading Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network Operations. The draft EA is also available upon written request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2024-0148, by the following method:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA-NMFS-2024-0148 in the Search box. Click on the "Comment" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or

individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address, *etc.*), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Wissmann, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources at sara.wissmann@noaa.gov, 301-427-8402; Wendy Piniak, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources at wendy.piniak@noaa.gov, 301-427-8402.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Publication of this notice begins the official public comment period for this draft EA. Per the NEPA, the purpose of the draft EA is to evaluate the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts caused by continued operation of the STSSN under the coordination of the NMFS, OPR using the 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook.

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Federal regulations prohibit the 'taking' of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The ESA defines "take" to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Section 4(f) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) provides for the creation of Recovery Plans for endangered and threatened species and provides NMFS and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with authority "to procure the services of appropriate public and private agencies and institutions and other qualified persons" in order to implement those plans. To advance the conservation and recovery of listed sea turtles, each recovery plan developed jointly by the NMFS and USFWS identifies and highlights the need to maintain an active stranding network.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are included in the EA: North Atlantic and South Atlantic Distinct Population Segments of green (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback (*Dermodochelys coriacea*), and Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS of loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles.

Background

The draft EA analyzes the continued operation of the STSSN under the

coordination of NMFS OPR. NMFS has conducted an environmental review of OPR's coordination role related to the STSSN and the formalization of their program protocols and roles described in the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook.

The STSSN is a cooperative effort to reduce causes of morbidity and mortality in sea turtles by responding to and documenting sea turtles, found either dead or alive (but compromised), in a manner sufficient to inform conservation management and recovery. The proposed activities considered in the draft EA are limited to the coordination role that OPR holds, activities NMFS staff will conduct in the field related to stranding coordination, response, and mortality investigation, and direct takes of sea turtles while responding to stranding incidents that have occurred because of human activity or natural causes of illness, injury, or mortality.

National Environmental Policy Act

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*). This draft EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) and NOAA policy and procedures (NOAA Administrative Order [NAO] 216-6A and the Companion Manual [CM] for the NAO 216-6A).

Alternatives Considered

NMFS' proposed action is the continued coordination of the STSSN by NMFS OPR and the review of program protocols and best practices, which have been consolidated and updated in the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook. In preparing the draft EA, NMFS considered the following two alternatives for the proposed action.

Alternative 1: No Action. In accordance with the NOAA CM for NAO 216-6A, section 6.B.i, Under the No Action Alternative, NMFS OPR would absolve its role coordinating the STSSN. Under this alternative, the STSSN would continue to operate as prescribed in the species Recovery Plans, but only under existing state programs that are permitted through the USFWS permit authority, or through direct permits to stranding response organizations and rehabilitation facilities. Stranding response activities would be maintained, but without NMFS OPR involvement. The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations and the CM for NAO 216-6A require consideration and analysis of a no action alternative for the purposes of presenting a comparative analysis to the action alternatives. The no action

alternative, serves as a baseline against which the impacts of the action alternatives will be compared and contrasted.

Alternative 2: Continued Operation of the STSSN under NMFS Coordination, Guided by the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook. Under Alternative 2, NMFS OPR would continue to coordinate the STSSN and would finalize the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook as a guide for the continued operation of the STSSN. The STSSN has been in operation for decades, and the Operating Procedures seeks to consolidate various guidance documents and clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of STSSN participants.

Final determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and NMFS will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. If finalized and adopted, NMFS will publish the Final STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook to its website.

Dated: December 20, 2024.

Caroline Good,

Acting Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-31126 Filed 12-27-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE568]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Crab Plan Team will meet January 14, 2025 to January 15, 2025.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, through Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., AK time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Attend in-person at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council office, 1007 West Third Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501, or join the meeting online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 West Third Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via video conference are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anita Kroska, Council staff; phone: (907) 271-2809; email: anita.kroska@noaa.gov. For technical support, please contact our admin Council staff, email: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Through Wednesday, January 15, 2025

The agenda will include (a) tools for constructing model-based indices of survey data, (b) GMACS coding updates, stock assessment model developments, simulations, and (c) other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>, prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>.

Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>.

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

Dated: December 20, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE569]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.