

acoustic source if a marine mammal is detected within the applicable exclusion zone. The operator must also establish and maintain clear lines of communication directly between PSOs on duty and crew controlling the acoustic source to ensure that shutdown commands are conveyed swiftly while allowing PSOs to maintain watch. When the airgun array is active (*i.e.*, anytime one or more airguns is active, including during ramp-up) and a marine mammal appears within or enters the applicable exclusion zone, the acoustic source will be shut down. When shutdown is called for by a PSO, the acoustic source will be immediately deactivated and any dispute resolved only following deactivation;

- Following a shutdown, airgun activity would not resume until the marine mammal has cleared the EZ. The animal would be considered to have cleared the EZ if it is visually observed to have departed the EZ, or it has not been seen within the EZ for 15 minutes in the case of small odontocetes and pinnipeds, and 30 minutes for mysticetes and all other odontocetes, including sperm and beaked whales, with no further observation of the marine mammal(s);

- The NSF must deploy vessel strike avoidance measures;
- The NSF must submit a draft report detailing all activities and monitoring results within 90 calendar days of the completion of the survey or expiration of the IHA, whichever comes sooner;
- The NSF must submit a final report within 30 days following resolution of comments on the draft report from NMFS; and
- The NSF must report injured or dead marine mammals.

Comments and Responses

A notice of NMFS' proposal to issue a renewal IHA to NSF was published in the **Federal Register** on October 18, 2023 (88 FR 71840). That notice either described, or referenced descriptions of, NSF's activity, the marine mammal species that may be affected by the activity, the anticipated effects on marine mammals and their habitat, estimated amount and manner of take, and proposed mitigation, monitoring and reporting measures. NMFS received no public comments.

Determinations

NSF's activities consist of a subset of activities analyzed in the initial IHA. In analyzing the effects of the activities for the initial IHA, NMFS determined that NSF's activities would have a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks and that authorized take numbers of

each species or stock were small relative to the relevant stocks (*e.g.*, less than one-third the abundance of all stocks). The mitigation measures and monitoring and reporting requirements as described above are identical to the initial IHA.

NMFS has concluded that there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change from those reached for the initial IHA. Based on the information and analysis contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) the required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; (4) NSF's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action, and; (5) appropriate monitoring and reporting requirements are included.

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 action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA renewal) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (incidental take 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 determined that the issuance of the initial IHA qualified to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. NMFS has determined that the application of this categorical exclusion remains appropriate for this renewal IHA.

Endangered Species Act

The NMFS Office of Protected Resources (OPR) Endangered Species Act (ESA) Interagency Cooperation Division issued a Biological Opinion under section 7 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) on the issuance of an IHA

and potential renewal IHA to NSF under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS OPR Permits and Conservation Division. The Biological Opinion concluded that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of ESA-listed blue whales, fin whales, sei whales, and sperm whales.

Renewal

NMFS has issued a renewal IHA to NSF for the take of marine mammals incidental to conducting a geophysical survey in the Ross Sea, Antarctica, from December 15, 2023 through December 14, 2024.

Dated: November 16, 2023.

Catherine Marzin,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-25716 Filed 11-20-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD545]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public online meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) ad-hoc Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup will hold an online meeting.

DATES: The online meeting will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2023 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, or until business for the day concludes. If needed, the meeting will resume on Thursday, December 14, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, or until for the day business concludes.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820-2280, extension 412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2410.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss and develop preliminary recommendations to inform Pacific Council decision making at the March and April 2024 Pacific Council meetings for the 2024 salmon pre-season management process as it relates to Klamath River Fall Chinook management. Additional discussion on Klamath River Dam removal, monitoring, hatchery production, etc. and workload planning may also occur.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov; (503) 820-2412) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: November 16, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-25725 Filed 11-20-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XD549]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Alaska Groundfish and Halibut Seabird Working Group; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS Alaska Groundfish and Halibut Seabird Working Group will meet to discuss seabird-fisheries interactions (vessel collisions),

development of an Alaska coordinated strategic plan for reporting and monitoring fisheries interactions with seabirds listed under the Endangered Species Act, and an update on whether or not the short-tailed albatross is actually two distinct species.

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 6, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on December 7, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Alaska Daylight Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh Moffi, 907-586-7072.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Alaska Groundfish and Halibut Seabird Working Group formed as a result of the 2015 biological opinion on effects of the Fishery Management Plans for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries on short-tailed albatross. The working group is tasked with reviewing information for mitigating effects of the groundfish and halibut fisheries on short-tailed albatross and other seabirds. The workgroup will hold a virtual meeting December 6 and 7, 2023. Meeting topics include seabird/fisheries interactions (vessel collisions), development of an Alaska coordinated strategic plan for reporting and monitoring fisheries interactions with birds listed under the Endangered Species Act, and update on the short-tailed albatross population. For participation information and meeting agenda, please contact Josh Moffi (joshua.moffi@noaa.gov).

NMFS will keep the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council) apprised of the working group's activities and any resulting recommendations for methods to reduce seabird bycatch. Any changes to seabird avoidance regulations are expected to follow the standard Council process.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Josh Moffi, 907-586-7072, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 16, 2023.

Kelly Denit,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-25695 Filed 11-20-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Sanctuary System Business Advisory Council: Public Meeting**

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of open public meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Sanctuary System Business Advisory Council (council). The meeting is open to the public, and an opportunity for oral and written comments will be provided.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), and an opportunity for public comment will be provided around 1:15 p.m. ET. Both times and agenda topics are subject to change.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually using Google Meet. To participate, please use the weblink provided below. If you are unable to participate online, you can also connect to the public meeting using the phone number provided.

- *Weblink:* meet.google.com/eqw-wnkm-dab
- *Phone:* +1 347-486-7095 PIN: 606 316 454#

To provide an oral public comment during the virtual meeting, please sign up prior to or during the meeting by contacting Sage Riddick by phone (240-560-3365) or email (sage.riddick@noaa.gov). To provide written public comment, please send the comment to Sage Riddick prior to or during the meeting via email (sage.riddick@noaa.gov). Please note, the meeting will not be recorded. However, public comments, including any associated names, will be captured in the minutes of the meeting, will be maintained by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) as part of its administrative record, and may be subject to release pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. The entirety of the comment, including the name of the commenter, email address, attachments, and other supporting materials, will be publicly accessible. Sensitive personally identifiable information, such as account numbers and Social Security numbers, should not be included with the comment. By signing up to provide a public comment, you agree that these communications,