

*mammal-stock-assessment-reports-species-stock*) and model-predicted abundance information (<https://seamap.env.duke.edu/models/Duke/GOM/>). For the latter, for taxa where a density surface model could be

produced, we use the maximum mean seasonal (*i.e.*, 3-month) abundance prediction for purposes of comparison as a precautionary smoothing of month-to-month fluctuations and in consideration of a corresponding lack of

data in the literature regarding seasonal distribution of marine mammals in the GOM. Information supporting the small numbers determinations is provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS

Species	Authorized take	Scaled take <sup>1</sup>	Abundance <sup>2</sup>	Percent abundance
Rice's whale .....	2	n/a	51	3.9
Sperm whale .....	1,683	705.6	2,207	32.0
<i>Kogia spp</i> .....	<sup>3</sup> 636	193.4	4,373	5.2
Beaked whales .....	7,430	750.4	3,768	19.9
Rough-toothed dolphin .....	1,293	2,197.3	4,853	1.2
Bottlenose dolphin .....	7,656	562.7	176,108	0.3
Clymene dolphin .....	3,595	1,031.7	11,895	8.7
Atlantic spotted dolphin .....	2,664	764.6	74,785	1.0
Pantropical spotted dolphin .....	16,313	4,681.8	102,361	4.6
Spinner dolphin .....	4,371	1,254.5	25,114	5.0
Striped dolphin .....	1,404	403.0	5,229	7.7
Fraser's dolphin .....	404	116.0	1,665	7.0
Risso's dolphin .....	1,056	311.6	3,764	8.3
Melon-headed whale .....	2,362	696.7	7,003	9.9
Pygmy killer whale .....	556	164.0	2,126	7.7
False killer whale .....	885	261.2	3,204	8.2
Killer whale .....	7	n/a	267	2.6
Short-finned pilot whale .....	683	201.5	1,981	10.2

<sup>1</sup> Scalar ratios were applied to "Authorized Take" values as described at 86 FR 5322 and 86 FR 5404 (January 19, 2021) to derive scaled take numbers shown here.

<sup>2</sup> Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Roberts *et al.*, 2016). For those taxa where a density surface model predicting abundance by month was produced, the maximum mean seasonal abundance was used. For those taxa where abundance is not predicted by month, only mean annual abundance is available. For Rice's whale and the killer whale, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

<sup>3</sup> Includes 34 takes by Level A harassment and 602 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take plus authorized Level A harassment take.

Based on the analysis contained herein of TGS's proposed survey activity described in its LOA application and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes (*i.e.*, less than one-third of the best available abundance estimate) and therefore the taking is of no more than small numbers.

#### Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued an LOA to TGS authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: September 27, 2023.

**Catherine Marzin,**

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

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD433]

##### Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), Groundfish Management Team (GMT), Ecosystem Working Group (EWG), Salmon Technical Team (STT), Habitat Committee (HC), and Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will hold online meetings to discuss items on the Pacific Council's November Council meeting agenda as detailed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below. These meetings are open to the public.

**DATES:** The GAP meeting, including a joint session with the GMT and EWG, will be held Monday, October 23, 2023, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific daylight

time (PDT), or until business is completed.

The STT meeting will be held Tuesday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., PDT, or until business is completed.

The HC meeting will be held Tuesday, October 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday, October 25, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., until business is completed each day.

The SAS meeting will be held Tuesday, October 31, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., PDT, or until business is completed.

**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](http://www.pcouncil.org)). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt ([kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov)) or contact him at (503) 820-2412 for technical assistance.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jessi Doerpinghaus, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2415.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of these meetings is for the GAP, STT, HC, and SAS to prepare for the November 2023 Pacific Council meeting. The GAP, STT, HC, and SAS will discuss items related to the advisory body's particular management items and other matters on the Pacific Council's November agenda. The GAP, GMT, and EWG will meet during the GAP webinar to discuss matters related to the Council's fishery ecosystem plan initiative. No management actions will be decided by the GAP, GMT, EWG, STT, HC, or SAS. The GAP, GMT, EWG, STT, HC, and SAS recommendations will be considered by the Council at their November or March Council (ecosystem matters) meetings. A detailed agenda for each of the GAP, STT, HC, and SAS webinars will be available on the Pacific Council's website prior to the meeting.

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](mailto: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: September 28, 2023.

**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

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Alaska Region Permit Family of Forms

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before December 4, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0206 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Gabrielle Aberle, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK, 99802–1668. Telephone 907–586–7356.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), Alaska Region, is requesting extension of a currently approved information collection for the applications for the Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP), the Federal Processor Permit (FPP), and the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP).

NMFS requires an FFP for U.S. vessels that are used to fish for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska or Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. An FFP is also required for vessels used to fish for any non-groundfish species and that are required to retain any bycatch

of groundfish under 50 CFR 679.4(b). An FPP is required for stationary floating processors (processing vessels that operate solely within Alaska State waters) and is required for shoreside processors that receive and/or process groundfish harvested from Federal waters or from any federally permitted vessels. NMFS issues an EFP to allow groundfish fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited under regulations for groundfish fishing. EFPs are issued to support projects that could benefit the groundfish fisheries and the environment and result in gathering information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations. Regulations governing these permits are at 50 CFR 600.745, 679.4, and 679.6.

Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. Requiring a permit for marine resource users—mandated by 50 CFR 679.4(b), 679.4(f); 679.6; and 600.745(b)—is one of the regulatory steps taken to carry out conservation and management objectives. Permit issuance is essential in fishery resources management for identification of the participants and expected activity levels and for regulatory compliance. The information requested on the FFP, FPP, and EFP applications is used for fisheries management and regulatory compliance by NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS Restricted Access Management Program, NMFS Observer Program, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

The type of information collected on the FFP application includes permit holder identification information, vessel information, permit information, and species endorsements. Information collected on the FPP application includes processor identification information, stationary floating processor or community quota entity vessel information, and vessel ownership information. An EFP application includes information on the applicant and a description of the project design including how it will vary from current fishing regulations, the species affected and targeted, when and where the fishing will take place, the vessel that will be used, and a provision for public release of all obtained information.

##### II. Method of Collection

The FFP and FPP application forms are available as fillable pdfs on the NMFS Alaska Region website and are