

of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The applicant proposes to evaluate modifications to commercial fishing gear to mitigate sea turtle interactions and capture under two projects in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea and their estuarine and coastal environments: (1) Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Evaluations in Trawl Fisheries and (2) Evaluation of Longline Alternative Methods. These evaluations and subsequent gear modifications could help reduce incidental turtle bycatch in the gear types studied. The applicant proposes to conduct research on sea turtles bycaught in fisheries managed by Federal authority or during directed research to test different gear configurations. For the TED Evaluations project, the applicant requests the following annual take numbers to study turtles bycaught in commercial fisheries or directly captured by researchers using trawls: 160 loggerhead, 42 Kemp's ridley, 10 leatherback, 21 green, and 10 hawksbill sea turtles. For the Evaluation of Longline Alternative Methods project, the applicant requests the following annual take numbers for those individuals bycaught in commercial fisheries: 3 loggerhead, 2 Kemp's ridley, 18 leatherback, 2 green, and 2 hawksbill sea turtles. All individuals captured will be handled, measured, weighed, photographed, flipper tagged, passive integrated transponder tagged, skin biopsied, and released. Biological samples may be imported for analysis and curation. For each project, up to 10 unidentified sea turtle carcasses that unintentionally die in a fishery may be salvaged. The applicant requests 3 loggerhead, 2 Kemp's ridley, 2 green, and 2 leatherback sea turtle mortalities for the life of the permit for individuals that may unintentionally die during research. The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

Dated: October 25, 2021.

Julia M. Harrison,

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB553]

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.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Skate Committee and Advisory Panel via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This webinar will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6528466157133795344>.

ADDRESSES: Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Skate Committee and Advisory Panel will develop Framework Adjustment 9 which the Council initiated in September to consider revising the Northeast Skate Complex FMP objectives and the Federal skate permit characteristics. They will also finalize recommendations for 2022 Council work priorities regarding skates. The Council will consider these recommendations at the December Council meeting. Other business may be discussed, as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be

aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 26, 2021.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–23634 Filed 10–28–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB538]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Notice That Vendor Will Provide 2022 Cage Tags

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS informs surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota allocation holders that they will be required to purchase their fishing year 2022 (January 1, 2022–December 31, 2022) cage tags from the National Band and Tag Company. The intent of this notice is to comply with regulations for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries and to promote efficient distribution of cage tags.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aimee Ahles, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9373.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fishery regulations at 50 CFR 648.77(b) authorize the Regional Administrator of the Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, to specify in the **Federal Register**, a vendor from whom cage tags, required under the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan, shall be purchased. Notice is hereby given that National Band and Tag Company of Newport, Kentucky, is the authorized vendor of cage tags required for the fishing year 2022 Federal surfclam and ocean quahog