

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

[RTID 0648–XC719]

**East Coast Fisheries of the United States; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Fishery management bodies on the East Coast of the United States are convening a meeting to continue work on an initiative called *East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning*. This is a joint effort of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for agenda details.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Wednesday, February 15, 2023 through Thursday, February 16, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203; telephone: (703) 717–6200. The meeting will be partially streamed by webinar for portions of the agenda that are held in plenary. Connection information will be posted to the calendar prior to the meeting at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526–5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Climate change is a growing threat for marine fisheries worldwide. On the East coast of the United States, some species have already experienced considerable climate-related changes in distribution, abundance, and/or productivity. These changes have the potential to strain fisheries management and governance systems. Through the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative, fishery scientists and managers are working collaboratively and engaging diverse fishery stakeholders to explore possible future scenarios and the associated governance and management issues that may arise related to climate change.

The final stage of this initiative will include a two-day summit meeting in Arlington, VA, from February 15–16, 2023. Participants will consist of a

select group of representatives from each of the three U.S. East Coast Fishery Management Councils, and from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and NOAA Fisheries. Summit participants will consider the scenarios previously developed to describe how climate change might affect East Coast fisheries in the next 20 years, as well as input received in previous stages on actions that should be taken now to ensure that fisheries are governed and managed effectively in an era of climate change. The goal of the summit is to develop a set of potential governance and management actions and priorities resulting from the scenario planning process.

Summit participants have been selected by each participating organization. Others attending the meeting in person are invited to observe the plenary discussions and to provide comments during designated public comment opportunities. Only plenary sessions will be broadcast by webinar. Additional details about the summit will be posted to this page once available: <https://www.mafmc.org/climate-change-scenario-planning>.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 25, 2023.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023–01842 Filed 1–27–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Public Meeting of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board**

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Board), a Federal Advisory Committee. Board members will discuss and provide advice on the

National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) in the areas of program evaluation, strategic planning, education and extension, science and technology programs, and other matters as described in the agenda found on the Sea Grant website. For more information on this Federal Advisory Committee please visit the Federal Advisory Committee database: [https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/FACA\\_PublicPage](https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/FACA_PublicPage).

**DATES:** The announced meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 26, 2023 from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (EST) and Monday, February 27, 2023 from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (EST).

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Watergate Hotel in Washington DC. For more information about the public meeting see below in the “For Further Information Contact” section.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For any questions concerning the meeting, please contact Ms. Donna Brown, National Sea Grant College Program. Email: [oar.sg-feedback@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg-feedback@noaa.gov) Phone Number 301–734–1088.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Status:* The meeting will be open to public participation with a public comment period on Sunday, February 26 at 9:10 a.m. (EST). The Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three (3) minutes. Written comments should be received by Ms. Donna Brown by Thursday, February 23, 2023 to provide sufficient time for Board review. Written comments received after the deadline will be distributed to the Board, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

*Special Accommodations:* The Board meeting is virtually accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Donna Brown by Thursday, February 23, 2023.

The Board, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by Section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (Pub. L. 94–461, 33 U.S.C. 1128). The Board advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the Act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to them for review and advice.

*Matters To Be Considered:* Board members will discuss and vote on New Membership for the Board's Resilience and Social Justice Subcommittee and a Resilience and Social Justice Recommendations Report, as well as discuss and vote on membership for two new charges, Fellowships and Allocation Policy. <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/About/Advisory-Board>

*Privacy Act Statement: Authority.* The collection of information concerning nominations to the MCAM FAC is authorized under the FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. and its implementing regulations, 41 CFR part 102-3, and in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (Privacy Act) 5 U.S.C. 552a. *Purpose.* The collection of names, contact information, resumes, professional information, and qualifications is required in order for the Under Secretary to appoint members to the MCAM FAC. *Routine Uses.* NOAA will use the nomination information for the purpose set forth above. The Privacy Act of 1974 authorizes disclosure of the information collected to NOAA staff for work-related purposes and for other purposes only as set forth in the Privacy Act and for routine uses published in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/DEPT-11, Candidates for Membership, Members, and Former Members of Department of Commerce Advisory Committees, available at <https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/PrivacyAct/SORNs/dept-11.html> and the System of Records Notice COMMERCE/DEPT-18, Employees Personnel Files Not Covered by Notices of Other Agencies, available at <https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/PrivacyAct/SORNs/DEPT-18.html>.

*Disclosure:* Furnishing the nomination information is voluntary; however, if the information is not provided, the individual would not be considered for appointment as a member of the MCAM FAC.

**David Holst,**

*Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2023-01768 Filed 1-27-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC706]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Construction at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of a modified Letter of Authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued a modified Letter of Authorization to the U.S. Navy to incidentally harass, by Level B harassment only, marine mammals during construction activities associated with pile driving and bulkhead repair at Naval Station Newport in Newport, Rhode Island.

**DATES:** This Authorization is effective from January 25, 2023 to May 14, 2027.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cara Hotchkin, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the original application and supporting documents (including NMFS **Federal Register** notices of the original proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-us-navy-construction-naval-station-newport-rhode-island>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed incidental take authorization may be provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other "means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact" on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as "mitigation"); and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

#### History of Request

On December 15, 2021, NMFS issued a final rule to the Navy (86 FR 71162) to incidentally harass, by Level A and Level B harassment only, marine mammals during construction activities associated with bulkhead replacement and repairs at Naval Station Newport (NAVSTA Newport) over the course of 5 years (2022–2027). Subsequently, on January 26, 2022, NMFS issued a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to the Navy (87 FR 6145) associated with the final rule. Species authorized for take included Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*), gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), harp seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*), and hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*). The effective dates of this LOA are May 15, 2022 through May 14, 2027.

On November 15, 2022, NMFS received a request from the Navy for a modification to the NAVSTA Newport bulkhead construction project due to a change in the construction contractor's plan. On December 15, 2022, the Navy revised their request to incorporate NMFS's DTH source level recommendations (available at: [https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-11/PUBLIC%20DTH%20Basic%20Guidance\\_November%202022.pdf](https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-11/PUBLIC%20DTH%20Basic%20Guidance_November%202022.pdf)). In its initial request for incidental take regulations, the Navy did not anticipate the need for vibratory driving of steel pipe piles or DTH installation of any pile type. Vibratory driving of steel sheet and H-piles was included, and analyzed in the rule. However, the construction contractor for the first phase of the project (S45 bulkhead) has since