

no due date for nominations, however the program intends to begin reviewing applications to fill upcoming vacancies by January 31, 2022. Applications will be kept on file for consideration of any Board vacancy for a period of three years from January 31, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually only. For more information and for virtual access see below in the "Contact Information" section.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a public comment period on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time. (Check agenda using the link in the "Matters to be Considered" section to confirm time.) 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 Monday, November 1, 2021 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.

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. Phone Number: 301-257-5068. To attend via webinar, please R.S.V.P to Donna Brown (contact information above) by Monday, November 1, 2021.

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 Monday, November 1, 2021.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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. Upon selection and agreement to serve on the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, you become a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. According to 18 U.S.C. 202(a), an SGE is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained,

designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a full time or intermittent basis. Please be aware that after the selection process is complete, applicants selected to serve on the Board must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Board member:

(a) Security Clearance (on-line Background Security Check process and fingerprinting), and other applicable forms, both conducted through NOAA Workforce Management; and

(b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report as an SGE, you are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report annually to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest. You may find the Confidential Financial Disclosure Form at the following website: https://oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Forms/60739EAC38F5697785258363_005C02C9.

Matters to be Considered: Board members will discuss and vote on one decisional matter—replacing the Chair of Resilience and Social Justice Subcommittee. <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/WhoWeAre/Leadership/NationalSeaGrantAdvisoryBoard/UpcomingAdvisoryBoardMeetings.aspx>.

Dated: September 8, 2021.

Eric Locklear,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-21791 Filed 10-5-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB474]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public focus group meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a one-day meeting via webinar of its Focus Group on Shrimp Data Collection Framework Action.

DATES: The webinar will convene on Thursday, October 21, 2021, 9 a.m. until

5 p.m., EDT, (8 a.m.–4 p.m. CDT). For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. Please visit the Gulf Council website www.gulfcouncil.org for meeting materials and webinar registration information.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Matt Freeman, Economist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; matt.freeman@gulfcouncil.org, telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the agenda, though agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's website when possible.)

Thursday, October 21, 2021; 9 a.m.–5 p.m. EDT (8 a.m.–4 p.m. CDT)

Meeting will begin with a review of the charge and objectives. The focus group will receive an overview of current cELB units' programming and implementation, followed by a presentation on elements of data from current cELB units and background information from Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's (GSMFC) process for data receipt, security, and storage. The focus group will then hold a discussion for Objectives 2 through 4.

Following the lunch break, the focus group will review a comparison table, background information from Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) tech specs, and proposed tech specs. The focus group will then hold a discussion for Objective 5, followed by a presentation on a case study of Gulf Reef Fish VMS data inputted into the Gulf Shrimp effort algorithm for illustration of compatibility.

The focus group will discuss Objective 6 with background information on Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery.

The focus group will receive public comment and then summarize its advice and proposed next steps for the Council. –Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be broadcast via webinar. You may register by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the Focus Group meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on www.gulfcouncil.org as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

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

Dated: September 30, 2021.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–21737 Filed 10–5–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID: 0648–XB430]

Nominations to the Marine Mammal Scientific Review Groups

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

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: As required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Secretary of Commerce established three independent regional scientific review groups (SRG) to provide advice on a range of marine mammal science and management issues. NMFS conducted a membership review of the Alaska, Atlantic, and Pacific SRGs, and is soliciting nominations for new members to fill vacancies and gaps in expertise (see below).

DATES: Nominations must be received by November 5, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Nominations can be emailed to Zachary.Schakner@noaa.gov, Assessment Branch, Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service, Attn: SRGs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Zachary Schakner, Office of Science and Technology, 301–427–8106, Zachary.Schakner@noaa.gov. Information about the SRGs, including the SRG Terms of Reference, is available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

national/marine-mammal-protection/scientific-review-groups.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 117(d) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1386(d)) directs the Secretary of Commerce to establish three independent regional SRGs to advise the Secretary (authority delegated to NMFS). The Alaska SRG advises on marine mammals that occur in waters off Alaska that are under the jurisdiction of the United States. The Pacific SRG advises on marine mammals that occur in waters off the U.S. West Coast, Hawaiian Islands, and the U.S. Territories in the Central and Western Pacific that are under the jurisdiction of the United States. The Atlantic SRG advises on marine mammals that occur in waters off the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Territories in the Caribbean.

SRG members are highly qualified individuals with expertise in marine mammal biology and ecology, population dynamics and modeling, commercial fishing technology and practices, and stocks taken under section 101(b) of the MMPA. The SRGs provide expert reviews of draft marine mammal stock assessment reports and other information related to the matters identified in section 117(d)(1) of the MMPA, including:

A. Population estimates and the population status and trends of marine mammal stocks;

B. Uncertainties and research needed regarding stock separation, abundance, or trends, and factors affecting the distribution, size, or productivity of the stock;

C. Uncertainties and research needed regarding the species, number, ages, gender, and reproductive status of marine mammals;

D. Research needed to identify modifications in fishing gear and practices likely to reduce the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in commercial fishing operations;

E. The actual, expected, or potential impacts of habitat destruction, including marine pollution and natural environmental change, on specific marine mammal species or stocks, and for strategic stocks, appropriate conservation or management measures to alleviate any such impacts; and

F. Any other issue which the Secretary or the groups consider appropriate.

SRG members collectively serve as independent advisors to NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and provide their expert review and recommendations through participation in the SRG. Members attend annual

meetings and undertake activities as independent persons providing expertise in their subject areas. Members are not appointed as representatives of professional organizations or particular stakeholder groups, including government entities, and are not permitted to represent or advocate for those organizations, groups, or entities during SRG meetings, discussions, and deliberations.

SRG membership is voluntary, and, except for reimbursable travel and related expenses, service is without pay. The term of service for SRG members is 3 years, and members may serve up to three consecutive terms if reappointed.

NMFS annually reviews the expertise available on the SRG and identifies gaps in the expertise that is needed to provide advice pursuant to section 117(d) of the MMPA. In conducting the reviews, NMFS attempts to achieve, to the maximum extent practicable, a balanced representation of viewpoints among the individuals on each SRG.

Expertise Solicited

For the Alaska SRG, NMFS seeks individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas (not in order of priority): Alaska Native harvest and use of marine mammals for subsistence and handicraft purposes, especially in the Gulf of Alaska, Kodiak, and the Arctic; abundance estimation, especially distance sampling and mark-recapture methods and survey design; climate and oceanographic changes impacting marine mammals; quantitative ecology, population dynamics, modeling, and statistics, especially as related to abundance, bycatch, and distribution; Alaska commercial fishing industry and commercial fishing methods/gear, particularly fisheries with marine mammal bycatch; genetics as a method of identifying population structure; anthropogenic impacts, particularly fisheries interactions, vessel strikes, and the effects of anthropogenic sound; and marine mammal health.

For the Pacific SRG (including waters off the Pacific coast, Hawaiian Islands and the U.S. Territories in the Central and Western Pacific), NMFS seeks individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas (not in order of priority): Stock assessment, including quantitative ecology, population dynamics, modeling or statistics; West Coast and Pacific Islands marine mammal expertise, including assessment, life history, ecology, or human-marine mammal interactions; applied conservation and management, including evaluating bycatch or fisheries impacts on marine mammals; marine mammal stock definition under