

Workshop; and (2) a series of assessment webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Webinar Process is a report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses; and describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Assessment Process webinars are as follows:

1. Using datasets and initial assessment analysis recommended from the Data Workshop, panelists will employ assessment models to evaluate stock status, estimate population benchmarks and management criteria, and project future conditions.

2. Panelists will recommend the most appropriate methods and configurations for determining stock status and estimating population parameters.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: December 22, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD687

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting Address: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Providence, 21 Atwells Ave., Providence, RI 02903.

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 Items

The New England Fishery Management Council's SSC's items for discussion will be: Planning for ABC recommendations needed by the Council in 2015; Discuss a process for dealing with ABC recommendations when recent assessment information is not available; Review & schedule the SSC meetings calendar for 2015 and discuss fishery performance indicators.

Also on the agenda will be discussion about improvements to the SSC process. The committee will address other business as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this 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 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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 (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 22, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD676

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) will hold a meeting of their Joint Council Committee on South Florida Management Issues (Committee).

DATES: The Committee meeting will be held from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 until 12 noon on Thursday, January 15, 2015.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting Address: The meeting will be held at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel, 3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, FL; phone: (305) 296-8100.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Address: South Atlantic Fishery

Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Address: 2203 N. Lois Ave., Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Mahood, Executive Director, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: Robert.mahood@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will meet from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on January 13-14, 2015 and from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on January 15, 2015. The items of discussion are as follows:

The Committee will receive an update on the status of draft Amendment 35 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the South Atlantic that includes measures to remove black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster from the FMP. The Committee will then review the Draft Joint Amendment to the FMP for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and the FMP for the Snapper Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic Region. The draft amendment is being developed by the Committee and includes actions to modify both the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish FMP and the Snapper Grouper FMP for the South Atlantic. The draft amendment includes options to: delegate management of black grouper, mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); specify allocations of mutton snapper and black grouper to the State of Florida with bycatch allowances for other Gulf and South Atlantic states; modifications to the bag limit and commercial trip limits for mutton snapper in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; modify the black grouper bag limit and implement a recreational spawning season closure; specify accountability measures specifically for South Florida species (yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and black grouper); modify the shallow-water grouper species compositions and seasonal closures in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; and options to modify the current circle hook requirements in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

The Committee will continue to review and modify the draft amendment. Additional presentations will be provided relative to the management boundaries and responsibility for hogfish, a progress report on speckled hind and warsaw grouper management, and the status of the goliath grouper stock assessment.

The Committee will discuss these issues and provide recommendations.

Public comment will be accepted at the end of each meeting day. Written comments will be accepted prior the beginning of the Committee meeting and should be mailed to Robert Mahood, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29406 or emailed to mike.collins@safmc.net. Briefing materials will be posted on both the SAFMC Web site at www.safmc.net and the GMFMC Web site at www.gulfcouncil.org by January 7, 2015.

Documents regarding these issues are available from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

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Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: December 22, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD613

Marine Mammals; Issuance of Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that individuals and institutions have been issued Letters of Confirmation for activities conducted under the General

Authorization for Scientific Research on marine mammals. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for a list of names and addresses of recipients.

ADDRESSES: The Letters of Confirmation and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone: (301) 427-8401; fax: (301) 713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division; phone: (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested Letters of Confirmation have been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216). The General Authorization allows for bona fide scientific research that may result only in taking by level B harassment of marine mammals. The following Letters of Confirmation (LOC) were issued in Fiscal Year 2014.

File No. 13549: Issued to Moby A. Solangi, Ph.D., Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, P.O. Box 207, Gulfport, Mississippi 39502 on August 20, 2008, for transect surveys, aerial surveys, photo-identification, and behavioral observations of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico. The LOC was modified on October 31, 2013 to extend the duration of the LOC until December 20, 2013. This LOC was terminated on November 20, 2013, when a new LOC (File No. 18185) was issued to Dr. Solangi.

File No. 18185: Issued to Moby A. Solangi, Ph.D., Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, P.O. Box 207, Gulfport, Mississippi 39502 on November 20, 2013, for close approach via vessels during abundance surveys, photo-identification, behavioral observations, passive acoustics, and videography of bottlenose dolphins. The objectives of the research are to: (1) Ascertain population dynamics of bottlenose dolphins in the northern Gulf of Mexico, and (2) examine the dolphins' usage of different habitats, including lakes, bays, and sounds. Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*), pantropical spotted dolphins (*S. attenuata*), spinner dolphins (*S. longirostris*), and pygmy sperm whales (*Kogia breviceps*) may also be studied if sighted opportunistically. Occasional aerial surveys flown at 750 ft are also authorized. Research may occur in