

Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, Release 1.0 (Release 1.0), and in February 2012, NIST published the NIST Framework and Roadmap for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, Release 2.0 (Release 2.0), which updated the material discussed in Release 1.0. The most recent update of the framework, Release 3.0, was released in 2014 and introduced new interoperability requirements among the generation, distribution, and customer domains.

NIST now announces publication of the Draft NIST Framework and Roadmap for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, Release 4.0 (Draft Release 4.0) for public review and comment. Draft Release 4.0 is available online at: <https://www.nist.gov/el/smart-grid/smart-grid-framework>.

Draft Release 4.0 is a substantial revision of previous releases to address structural changes and increasing system complexity in the grid. This release includes a description of communications scenarios inspired by different grid architectures, which are used to more closely examine unique interoperability requirements. The interoperability implications of expanding grid communications in four key areas—grid cybersecurity, operations, economics, and associated requirements for testing and certification—are also explored.

Draft Release 4.0 reflects changes taking place in the grid, including the accelerating pace of technological change, rapidly falling prices for modern energy technologies such as solar photovoltaic (PV) and other distributed energy resources (DER), increased proliferation of low-cost sensors and network enabled devices, and the resulting surge in granularity and amount of data being generated. The issues surrounding empowered consumers, the coordination of tens of thousands of devices operating across the system, and multi-directional power flows are also considered.

Request For Comments:

NIST seeks comments on the Draft NIST Framework and Roadmap for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, Release 4.0. In particular, the agency requests that comments be categorized as (1) technical; (2) editorial; or (3) general. If a comment is not a general comment, please identify the relevant page, line number, and section of Draft Release 4.0 that is addressed by the comment. NIST will also accept proposed solutions along with the comments. Comments should be submitted in accordance with instructions in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of this notice. All relevant

responses that comply with the requirements listed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of this RFC will be considered.

Authority: Section 1305 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 (Pub. L. 110–140)

Kevin A. Kimball,
Chief of Staff.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA496]

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 public meeting 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 Monday, October 5, 2020 at 4 p.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5690522839117472784>.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar.

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 New England Fishery Management Council will host a public meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020, from 4 p.m.–6 p.m., focusing on the recreational Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery. The purpose of the meeting is for Tidal Bay Consulting, LLC to announce the development of a “strawman” for a potential limited entry program for party/charter vessels participating in the recreational groundfish fishery and solicit feedback from the public. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and solicit feedback on a draft

limited entry template. The draft template is based on stakeholder feedback received at listening sessions held by the Council in April and May of 2019, and input from the Recreational Advisory Panel.

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 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.

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

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

Dated: September 14, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2020–20549 Filed 9–17–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID: 0648–XA462]

Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center

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

ACTION: Notice of availability, request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of the “Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center.” Publication of this notice begins the official public comment period for this SPEA. The purpose of this Draft SPEA

is to evaluate potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of changes in research that were not analyzed in the 2016 NEFSC Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), or new research activities along the U.S. East Coast, from North Carolina to Nova Scotia, Canada. Where necessary, updates to certain information on species, stock status or other components of the affected environment that may result in different conclusions from the 2016 PEA are presented in this analysis.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than October 19, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft SPEA should be addressed to Victor A. Nordahl Jr, Environmental Compliance Specialist, 166 Water St. Woods Hole, MA 02543.

The mailbox address for providing email comments is: nmfs.nefsc.spea@noaa.gov. NMFS is not responsible for email comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

A copy of the Draft SPEA may be obtained by writing to the address specified above, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the internet at: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/draft-supplemental-programmatic-environmental-assessment-nefsc-research-now-available. Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Victor A. Nordahl Jr., email: vic.nordahl@noaa.gov, phone: (508–495–2350).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NEFSC is the research arm of NMFS in the Northeast Region. The purpose of NEFSC fisheries research is to produce scientific information necessary for the management and conservation of living marine resources along the U.S. East Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Federal waters from North Carolina to Nova Scotia, Canada. NEFSC's research is needed to promote both the long-term sustainability of the resource and the recovery of certain species, while generating social and economic opportunities and benefits from their use. Primary research activities include: seasonal bottom trawl surveys to support assessments of ground fish; a summer bottom trawl survey to support the assessment of Northern Shrimp; seasonal mid-water pelagic surveys to

support the assessment of semi-pelagic fish species; summer dredge and optical surveys to support the assessment of Deep-sea scallops; summer hydraulic dredge surveys to support assessment of surf clams and ocean quahogs; bottom longline surveys for ground fish in the Gulf of Maine; bottom and pelagic Apex Predator long line surveys; opportunistic trawl comparison studies; ecosystem based plankton surveys; inshore Penobscot Bay trawl and acoustic surveys; and Fisheries Observer Training trips (all gears) in the EEZ.

NMFS has prepared the Draft SPEA under NEPA to evaluate two alternatives for conducting and funding fisheries and ecosystem research activities as the primary Federal action. Additionally in the Draft SPEA, NMFS evaluates a related action—also called a “connected action” under 40 CFR 1508.25 of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*)—which is the proposed promulgation of regulations and authorization of the take of marine mammals incidental to the fisheries research under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Additionally, because the proposed research activities occur in areas inhabited by species of marine mammals, birds, sea turtles and fish listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as threatened or endangered, this Draft SPEA evaluates activities that could result in unintentional takes of ESA-listed marine species.

The following (2) alternatives are currently evaluated in the Draft SPEA.

- Alternative 1—Continue current fisheries and ecosystem research (Status Quo/no action) as described in the 2016 NEFSC PEA.
- Alternative 2—Conduct current research with some modifications as well as new research activities that are planned for the future (*i.e.*, 2021–2026). New future research proposed under Alternative 2 was not previously analyzed in the 2016 PEA.

The alternatives include a program of fisheries and ecosystem research projects conducted or funded by the NEFSC as the primary Federal action. Because this primary action is connected to a secondary Federal action, to consider authorizing incidental take of marine mammals under the MMPA, NMFS must identify as part of this evaluation the means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat. (Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) NMFS must therefore identify and evaluate a reasonable range of mitigation measures

to minimize impacts to protected species that occur in NEFSC research areas. These mitigation measures are considered as part of the identified alternatives in order to evaluate their effectiveness to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. The two action alternatives also include mitigation measures intended to minimize potentially adverse interaction with other protected species that occur within the action area. Protected species include all marine mammals, which are covered under the MMPA, all species listed under the ESA, and bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Potential direct and indirect effects on the environment are evaluated under each alternative in the Draft SPEA. The environmental effects on the following resources are considered: Physical environment, special resource areas, fish, marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, invertebrates, and the social and economic environment. Cumulative effects of external actions and the contribution of fisheries research activities to the overall cumulative impact on the aforementioned resources is also evaluated in the Draft SPEA for the geographic regions in which NEFSC surveys are conducted.

NMFS requests comments on the Draft SPEA for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Please include, with your comments, any supporting data or literature citations that may be informative in substantiating your comment.

Dated: September 9, 2020.

Garth Edwin Smelser,

Chief Operations, Management and Information Division, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA489]

Marine Mammals; File No. 23447

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, 218 N. Lee Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia 22314