

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

[RTID 0648–XA283]

Determination of Overfishing or an Overfished Condition

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action serves as a notice that NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), has found that Southern Atlantic red porgy is now subject to overfishing and remains overfished, the Western and Central North Pacific Ocean (WCNPO) stock of striped marlin remains both subject to overfishing and overfished, and the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) stock of oceanic whitetip shark is now both subject to overfishing and overfished. NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, notifies the appropriate regional fishery management council (Council) whenever it determines that overfishing is occurring, a stock is in an overfished condition, or a stock is approaching an overfished condition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina Spallone, (301) 427–8568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 304(e)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1854(e)(2), NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, must notify Councils, and publish in the **Federal Register**, whenever it determines that a stock or stock complex is subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition.

NMFS has determined that Southern Atlantic red porgy is subject to overfishing and remains overfished. This determination is based on the most recent assessment, completed in 2020, using data through 2017, which indicates that this stock is subject to overfishing because the fishing mortality is greater than the threshold and is overfished because the spawning stock biomass remains below the threshold. NMFS has notified the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council of the requirement to end overfishing immediately and rebuild this stock.

NMFS has determined that the WCNPO stock of striped marlin remains both subject to overfishing and overfished. This determination is based on a 2019 assessment by the Billfish Working Group of the International

Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, using data through 2017. Based on domestic status determination criteria, this stock is subject to overfishing because the fishing mortality rate is greater than the threshold and is overfished because the spawning biomass ratio remains below the threshold. NMFS has determined that section 304(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act applies because the overfishing of the WCNPO stock of striped marlin is due largely to excessive international fishing pressure, and because it has not been determined that management measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) will end overfishing and rebuild the stock. NMFS has informed the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Western Pacific Council) of its obligations for domestic and international management under Magnuson-Stevens Act section 304(i) to address domestic and international impacts.

NMFS has determined that the WCPO stock of oceanic whitetip shark is now both subject to overfishing and overfished. This determination is based on a 2019 assessment by the Shark Working Group of the WCPFC, using data through 2016. Based on domestic status determination criteria, this stock is subject to overfishing because the fishing mortality is greater than the threshold and is overfished because the spawning biomass is below the threshold. NMFS has determined that section 304(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act applies because the overfishing of the WCPO stock of oceanic whitetip shark is due largely to excessive international fishing pressure, and because it has not been determined that management measures adopted by the WCPFC will end overfishing and rebuild the stock. NMFS has informed the Western Pacific Council of its obligations for domestic and international management under Magnuson-Stevens Act section 304(i) to address domestic and international impacts.

Dated: July 29, 2020.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2020–16832 Filed 7–31–20; 8:45 am]

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

[RTID 0648–XA328]

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's is convening a meeting of its Groundfish Recreational 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 Monday, August 17, 2020, beginning at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: All meeting participants and interested parties can register to join the webinar for the August 17 webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8456068360258733070>.

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 panel will meet to discuss the Conservation Law Foundation petition for rulemaking on Atlantic cod. They will receive an update on the development of Framework Adjustment 61 specifications and other measures and make recommendations to the Groundfish Committee, as appropriate. Other business will 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: July 29, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2020-16787 Filed 7-31-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA329]

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 is convening a meeting of its Groundfish 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, August 18, 2020, beginning at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: All meeting participants and interested parties can register to join the webinar for the August 18 webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2711322415268770830>.

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 panel will meet to discuss the Conservation Law Foundation petition for rulemaking on Atlantic cod. They will receive an update on the

development of Framework Adjustment 61 specifications and other measures and make recommendations to the Groundfish Committee, as appropriate. Other business will 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: July 29, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2020-16788 Filed 7-31-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XV011]

2019 Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports

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

ACTION: Notice; response to comments.

SUMMARY: As required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS has considered public comments for revisions of the 2019 marine mammal stock assessment reports (SARs). This notice announces the availability of 65 final 2019 SARs that were updated and finalized.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of SARs are available on the internet as regional compilations at the following address:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessment-reports-region>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Zachary Schakner, Office of Science and Technology, 301-427-8106, Zachary.Schakner@noaa.gov; Marcia Muto, 206-526-4026, Marcia.Muto@noaa.gov, regarding Alaska regional stock assessments; Elizabeth Josephson, 508-495-2362, Elizabeth.Josephson@noaa.gov, regarding Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean regional stock assessments; or Jim Carretta, 858-546-7171, Jim.Carretta@noaa.gov, regarding Pacific regional stock assessments.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 117 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) requires NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to prepare stock assessments for each stock of marine mammals occurring in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States, including the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. These reports must contain information regarding the distribution and abundance of the stock, population growth rates and trends, estimates of annual human-caused mortality and serious injury (M/SI) from all sources, descriptions of the fisheries with which the stock interacts, and the status of the stock. Initial reports were completed in 1995.

The MMPA requires NMFS and FWS to review the SARs at least annually for strategic stocks and stocks for which significant new information is available, and at least once every three years for non-strategic stocks. The term "strategic stock" means a marine mammal stock: (A) For which the level of direct human-caused mortality exceeds the potential biological removal level or PBR (defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population (OSP)); (B) which, based on the best available scientific information, is declining and is likely to be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within the foreseeable future; or (C) which is listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the ESA. NMFS and the FWS are required to revise a SAR if the status of the stock has changed or can be more accurately determined.

Prior to public review, the updated SARs under NMFS' jurisdiction are peer-reviewed within NMFS Fisheries Science Centers and by members of