

that a fishery is unlikely to “take” an ESA-listed marine mammal, because any entanglement of an ESA-listed marine mammal constitutes a prohibited take under the ESA, regardless of whether it leads to mortality, and NMFS does not consider sub-lethal entanglements in categorizing fisheries.

Response: For the purposes of MMPA 101(a)(5)(E)(i)(I), only incidental mortality and serious injury are considered when making a negligible impact determination.

Comment 9: HLA agrees with NMFS’ preliminary determinations that the HI deep-set longline/Western Pacific pelagic longline (HI deep-set component) has a “negligible impact” on the Central North Pacific humpback whale stock and the MHI Insular false killer whale stock. They also note there have been no interactions between the fishery and Central North Pacific humpback whales.

Response: NMFS has finalized the NID for the HI deep-set longline/Western Pacific pelagic longline (HI deep-set component). To clarify, there was at least one observed serious injury of a Central North Pacific humpback whale incidental to the Hawaii deep-set longline fishery in 2014. However, known humpback whale mortality and serious injury in Hawaii-based fisheries involved whales from the Central North Pacific stock as designated under the MMPA, which has been identified as the Hawaii DPS of humpback whales. The Hawaii DPS is not listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Because MMPA Section 101(a)(5)(E) applies only to stocks designated as depleted because of their listing under the ESA, a Tier 2 analysis was not conducted for the Hawaii DPS.

Comment 10: HLA agrees that for the MHI Insular false killer whale stock, the deep-set longline fishery satisfies the NID requirements of Tier 1 and further notes that Tier 2 is also satisfied, because the deep-set longline fishery’s M/SI with the Insular false killer whale stock is 0.0 in the most recent SAR, which plainly falls below the Insular false killer whale stock’s NIT_s value.

Response: Based on the best available scientific information, the total human caused M/SI (including M/SI from the HI deep-set longline/Western Pacific pelagic longline, HI deep-set component fishery) of MHI Insular false killer whales does not exceed NIT_T as part of a Tier 1 analysis. Therefore, as defined in NMFS Procedural Directive 02–204–02, all commercial fisheries are considered to have a negligible impact on the stock, and no further analysis for individual fisheries, including a Tier 2

analysis, is required at this time (NMFS 2020).

References

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2020. National Marine Fisheries Service Procedure 02–204–02: Criteria for Determining Negligible Impact under MMPA Section 101(a)(5)(E). 20 p. Available online: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/protected-resources-policy-directives>
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2019. National Marine Fisheries Service Procedure 02–204–03: Reviewing and designating stocks and issuing Stock Assessment Reports under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. 9 p. Available online: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/protected-resources-policy-directives>
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2016. National Marine Fisheries Service Procedure 02–204–01: Guidelines for preparing stock assessment reports pursuant to the 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. 23 p. Available online: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/guidelines-assessing-marine-mammal-stocks>
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2014. National Marine Fisheries Service Procedure 02–238–01: Process for Distinguishing Serious from Non-Serious Injury of Marine Mammals. 42 p. Available online: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-protection-act-policies-guidance-and-regulations>

Dated: May 3, 2021.

Catherine Marzin,

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB060]

Establishment of the Space Weather Advisory Group and Solicitation of Nominations for Membership

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of establishment of the Space Weather Advisory Group and solicitation of nominations for membership

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act of 2020 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act

(FACA), the Administrator of NOAA, with the Space Weather Interagency Working Group (interagency working group), announces the establishment of the Space Weather Advisory Group (SWAG). The SWAG shall advise the interagency working group established by the National Science and Technology Council. This advice will inform the interests and work of the interagency working group. The SWAG charter shall terminate 4 years from the date of its filing with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Committees unless earlier terminated or renewed by proper authority. This notice also requests nominations for membership on the SWAG.

DATES: Nominations should be sent to the web address specified below and must be received on or before May 30, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Nominations and applications should be submitted electronically to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), SWAG, NOAA, at jennifer.meehan@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jennifer Meehan, DFO, SWAG, and National Space Weather Program Manager, National Weather Service, NOAA, at jennifer.meehan@noaa.gov or 301–427–9798, and William Murtagh, Program Coordinator, Space Weather Prediction Center, NOAA, at william.murtagh@noaa.gov or 303–497–7492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background and Authority

Establishment of the SWAG implements a statutory requirement of the PROSWIFT Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116–181), 51 U.S.C. 60601 *et seq.* The SWAG is governed by the FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App., which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees. The mission of the SWAG is to receive advice from the academic community, the commercial space weather sector, and nongovernmental space weather end users to advise the Space Weather Interagency Working Group (interagency working group) established by the National Science and Technology Council pursuant to 51 U.S.C. 60601(c). Duties include advising the interagency working group on the following: facilitating advances in the space weather enterprise of the United States; improving the ability of the United States to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from space weather phenomena; enabling the coordination and facilitation of research to operations and operations to research, as described in section 60604(d) of title 51, United

States Code; and developing and implementing the integrated strategy under 51 U.S.C. 60601(c), including subsequent updates and reevaluations. The SWAG shall also conduct a comprehensive survey of the needs of space weather products users to identify the space weather research, observations, forecasting, prediction, and modeling advances required to improve space weather products, as required by 51 U.S.C. 60601(d)(3).

II. Structure

The SWAG shall consist of not more than 15 members, including a chair, of whom: Five members shall be representatives of the academic community; five members shall be representatives of the commercial space weather sector; and five members shall be nongovernmental representatives of the space weather end-user community. Members will be chosen to provide an appropriate range of views that represent the span of the space weather community and end-user sectors. Members shall serve in a representative capacity; they are, therefore, not Special Government Employees. As such, members are not subject to the ethics rules applicable to Government employees, except that they must not misuse Government resources or their affiliation with the Committee for personal purposes. All members of the SWAG will be appointed by the interagency working group for a 3-year term, with one member appointed by NOAA as the Chair. Members may not serve on the SWAG for more than two consecutive terms. A member of the SWAG may not serve as the Chair of the SWAG for more than two terms, regardless of whether the terms are consecutive. The SWAG will meet approximately three times each year, which may be conducted in person or by teleconference, webinar, or other means. Additional meetings may be called as appropriate, with approval by the Administrator of NOAA. Members are reimbursed for actual and reasonable travel and other per diem expenses incurred in performing such duties but will not be reimbursed for their time. As a Federal Advisory Committee, the SWAG's membership is required to be balanced in terms of viewpoints represented and the functions to be performed, as well as appointments shall be made without discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status.

III. Nominations

Interested persons may nominate themselves or third parties. An application is required to be considered for SWAG membership, regardless of whether a person is nominated by a third party or self-nominated. The application package must include: (1) The nominee's full name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact information; (2) identification of the nominee's area(s) of industry perspective—academia, commercial service provider, or end-user; (3) a short description of his/her qualifications relative to the kinds of advice being solicited by NOAA in this Notice; and (4) a current resume (maximum length four [4] pages). All nomination information should be provided in a single, complete package, and should be sent to the DFO of the SWAG at the electronic address provided above.

Dated: April 30, 2021.

Benjamin Friedman,

*Deputy Under Secretary for Operations
Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of
Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and
Administrator, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 210503-0097]

RIN 0660-XC050

Telecommunications/ICT Development Activities, Priorities and Policies To Connect the Unconnected Worldwide in Light of the 2021 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21)

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice, request for public comment.

SUMMARY: As the United States prepares for the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-2021) scheduled for November 8–19, 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration is working closely with the U.S. Department of State, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), other federal agencies, and members of the U.S. private sector. The

WTDC-2021 will set the priorities and activities for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in areas such as connectivity and digital inclusion. Through this Notice, NTIA is seeking public comments regarding activities, priorities, and policies that advance telecommunications and information and communications technology (ICT) development worldwide to assist the U.S. government in the development of its position for the conference.

DATES: Comments are due on or before June 7, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Office of International Affairs (OIA), National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4701, Washington, DC 20230. Written comments may also be submitted electronically to WTDC21@ntia.gov. Please submit electronic comments, either in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF, using a text searchable format. NTIA will post comments to the NTIA website at <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2021/request-comments-connecting-unconnected-worldwide-wtdc-21>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diane Steinour, Office of International Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4701, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3180; email: dsteinour@ntia.gov. Please direct media inquiries to NTIA's Office of Public Affairs at (202) 482-7002 or press@ntia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21 or Conference), whose theme is "Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development," is scheduled for November 8–19, 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The WTDC-2021 is a quadrennial conference that will bring together the ITU's 193 Member States and private sector organizations (sector members) that participate in the Development Sector of the ITU (ITU-D). As the United States prepares for the WTDC-21, NTIA is working closely with the U.S. Department of State, which is leading and coordinating the WTDC-21 preparatory process for the United States, along with several Executive Branch agencies, the FCC and members of the U.S. private sector. The Conference will set the priorities and