

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

[RTID 0648–XB801]

**Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel will hold a joint public meeting.

**DATES:** The online meeting will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Standard Time or until business for the day as been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt ([kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov)) or contact him at (503) 820–2412 for technical assistance.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2409.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss and potentially develop work products for the Pacific Council's March 2022 meeting. Topics will include marine planning, ecosystem matters, and future meeting planning. Other

matters on the Pacific Council's March agenda may be discussed as well. The meeting agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website in advance of the meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting 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 listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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**

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt ([kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov); (503) 820–2412) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 7, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022–02844 Filed 2–9–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

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

[RTID 0648–XB789]

**Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow commercial fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of research conducted by the applicant. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 25, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov).

Include in the subject line “CFRF Ventless Trap EFP.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Laura Deighan, Fishery Management Specialist, [Laura.Deighan@noaa.gov](mailto:Laura.Deighan@noaa.gov), (978) 281–9184.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict to continue to provide distribution, abundance, and biological data on juvenile lobsters and Jonah crabs from times and areas with low coverage from traditional surveys. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

| Citation                                   | Regulation                       | Need for exemption                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50 CFR 697.21(c) .....                     | Gear specification requirements. | To allow for closed escape vents and smaller trap mesh and entrance heads.                                                                                                                                                      |
| § 697.19 .....                             | Trap limit requirements.         | To allow for three additional traps per fishing vessel for a total of up to 66 additional traps.                                                                                                                                |
| § 697.19(j) .....                          | Trap tag requirements.           | To allow for the use of untagged traps (though each modified trap will have the participating fisherman's identification attached).                                                                                             |
| § 697.20(a), (d), (g), and (h)(1) and (2). | Possession restrictions.         | To allow for onboard biological sampling of undersized, v-notched, and egg-bearing lobsters and undersized and egg-bearing Jonah crabs and retention of up to 300 legal and sublegal Jonah crabs per month for a molting study. |

This project is a continuation of ongoing effort to collect data on juvenile lobster and Jonah crab abundance and

distribution in areas and times of year with low or no coverage by traditional surveys. To date, this project has

collected data from over 175,000 lobsters and 105,000 Jonah crabs. The current EFP will expire April 5, 2022;

this EFP would cover a study period of April 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

The project includes 4 inshore vessels (Lobster Management Area 2) and 16 offshore vessels (Lobster Management Areas 1, 3, and 4). Each vessel would fish with 3 modified, ventless traps designed to capture juvenile lobsters, totaling 60 modified traps. The project team hopes to add 2 additional offshore vessels (Lobster Management Areas 1, 3, 4, and/or 5) in 2022, which would increase the total to 66 traps. The modified traps would adhere to the standard coast-wide survey gear for lobster and Jonah crab set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and would be fished within standard Atlantic Large Whale-compliant trawls. The traps would remain in the water up to 12 months and be hauled every 7 days by the inshore vessels and every 10 days by the offshore vessels.

This study would take place during the regular fishing activity of the participating vessels, but catch from modified traps would remain separate from that of standard gear. Operators would collect data on size, sex, presence of eggs, and shell hardness for lobsters and Jonah crabs and v-notch and shell disease for lobsters. In addition to onboard sampling, three inshore and three offshore vessels would retain up to 50 Jonah crabs per month each, for a total of up to 300 crabs per month, for a molting study. Operators would return all other specimens from modified gear to the ocean once sampling is complete.

The study is designed to inform management by addressing questions of changing reproduction and recruitment dynamics of lobster and develop a foundation of knowledge for the data-deficient Jonah crab fishery. The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation would share data with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management every 6 months.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: February 7, 2022.

**Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022-02839 Filed 2-9-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB733]

#### 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 Gulf of Mexico gag is now subject to overfishing and overfished; Bering Sea snow crab is now overfished; Atlantic mackerel is still subject to overfishing and overfished; and Georges Bank winter flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder, and Atlantic Coast bluefish are still overfished. NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, notifies the appropriate regional fishery management council (Council) whenever it determines that a stock or stock complex is subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathryn Frens, (301)-427-8523.

**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 a notice 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 Gulf of Mexico gag is now subject to overfishing and overfished. The Gulf of Mexico gag determination is based on the most recent assessment, completed in 2021 and using data through 2019, which indicates that this stock is subject to overfishing because the fishing mortality rate is above the threshold, and overfished because the stock biomass is below the threshold. NMFS has notified the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council of the requirement

to end overfishing on and to rebuild this stock.

NMFS has determined that Bering Sea snow crab is now overfished. This determination is based on the most recent assessment, completed in 2021 and using data through 2021, which indicates that this stock is overfished because the mature male biomass is below the threshold. NMFS has notified the North Pacific Fishery Management Council of the requirement to rebuild this stock.

NMFS has determined that Atlantic mackerel is still subject to overfishing and overfished. This determination is based on the most recent assessment, completed in 2020 and using data through 2019, which indicates that this stock is subject to overfishing because the fishing mortality rate is above the threshold, and overfished because the stock biomass is below the threshold. NMFS continues to work with the New England Fishery Management Council to end overfishing and to rebuild this stock.

NMFS has determined that Georges Bank winter flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder, and Atlantic Coast bluefish are still overfished. The two winter flounder determinations are based on the most recent assessments, completed in 2020 and using data through 2019, which indicate that these stocks are overfished because the biomasses are below their respective thresholds. NMFS continues to work with the New England Fishery Management Council to rebuild these stocks. The Atlantic Coast bluefish determination is based on the most recent assessment, completed in 2021 and using data through 2019, which indicates that this stock is overfished because the biomass is below the threshold. NMFS continues to work with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to rebuild this stock.

Dated: February 7, 2022.

**Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Recruitment of First Responder Network Authority Board Member

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