

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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee 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 Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt, (503) 820-2412 at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 2, 2020.

**Diane M. DeJames-Daly,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-22162 Filed 10-6-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA536]

#### 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 (Council) will hold a meeting of Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Shareholders and Wholesale Dealers.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held via webinar on October 26, 2020, from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.

#### ADDRESSES:

**Council address:** South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

**Meeting address:** The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Registration is required. Webinar registration and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meeting at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/current-advisory-panel-meetings/>. Public comment will also be allowed as part of the meeting agenda.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Brian Cheuvront, Deputy Executive Director for Management, SAFMC,

phone: (843) 302-8442; email: [brian.cheuvront@safmc.net](mailto:brian.cheuvront@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Wreckfish Shareholders and Wholesale Dealers will meet jointly via webinar. Agenda items include:

1. A review of potential actions being considered by the Council resulting from the 2019 Wreckfish ITQ Program review;
2. An update on timing of Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 development; and
3. Discussion of actions to include in Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 and recommendations for Council consideration.

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 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: October 2, 2020.

**Diane M. DeJames-Daly,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-22155 Filed 10-6-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA540]

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Groundfish Subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council's) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold an online meeting to review proposed length-based assessment methods. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee's online meeting will be held Friday, October 23, 2020, beginning at 2 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time and continuing until 4 p.m. or until business for the day has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting will be an online

meeting. 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John DeVore, Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820-2413.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting is to review proposed length-based assessment methods. This is a follow-up review of stock synthesis with catch and length (SS-CL) and SS-CL with indices (SS-CL-Index) methods proposed by the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center that occurred on May 12-14, 2020. The SSC recommended this review (see <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2020/09/agenda-item-d-4-a-supplemental-ssc-report-1-2.pdf/>) at the November 2020 Pacific Council meeting to review several short-term tasks, detailed in section 6 of the May 12-14 Methods Review Panel report (see <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2020/08/d-4-attachment-2-assessment-methodology-review-of-length-based-assessment-methods.pdf/>).

No management actions will be decided by the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee members' role will be development of recommendations and reports for consideration by the SSC and Pacific Council at the virtual November meeting of the Pacific Council.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agendas may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee 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 Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt, (503) 820-2412, at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 2, 2020.

**Diane M. DeJames-Daly,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-22164 Filed 10-6-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA521]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project in Norfolk, Virginia

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the Hampton Roads Connector Partners (HRCP) for authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals incidental to pile driving and removal activities at the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project (HRBT) in Norfolk, Virginia over the course of five years from the date of issuance. Pursuant to regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is announcing receipt of the HRCP's request for the development and implementation of regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals. NMFS invites the public to provide information, suggestions, and comments on the HRCP's application and request.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than November 6, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the applications should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. Physical comments should be sent to 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and electronic comments should be sent to [ITP.Pauline@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.Pauline@noaa.gov).

**Instructions:** NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments received

electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/node/23111> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Pauline, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. An electronic copy of HRCP's application may be obtained online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

The MMPA states that the term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, kill or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA

defines "harassment" as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

#### Summary of Request

On November 19, 2019, NMFS received application from HRCP requesting authorization for take of marine mammals incidental to construction activities related to a major road transport infrastructure project along the existing I-64 highway in Virginia, consisting of roadway improvements, trestle bridges, and bored tunnels crossing Hampton Roads between Norfolk and Hampton, Virginia. After the HRCP responded to our questions, we determined the application was adequate and complete on September 29, 2020. The requested regulations would be valid for 5 years, from February 2021 through January 2026. HRCP plans to conduct necessary work, including pile installation and removal. Pile installation methods will include impact and vibratory driving, jetting, and drilling with a down-the-hole hammer. Pile removal techniques for temporary piles will include vibratory pile removal or cutting three feet below the mudline. The proposed action may incidentally expose marine mammals occurring in the vicinity to example elevated levels of underwater sound, thereby resulting in incidental take, by Level A and Level B harassment. Therefore, the HRCP requests authorization to incidentally take marine mammals.

#### Specified Activities

The Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel project is a major road transport infrastructure project along the existing I-64 highway in Virginia, consisting of roadway improvements, trestle bridges, and bored tunnels crossing Hampton Roads between Norfolk and Hampton. The proposed project will address severe traffic congestion at the existing HRBT crossing by increasing capacity. The proposed project will include widening I-64 to create an eight-lane facility with a consistent six-lanes between the I-64/I-664 and I-64/I-564 Interchange, which could expand to eight-lanes during peak travel periods with the use of drivable shoulder lanes within the project limits. The proposed project will include the construction of