

coordination of NMFS OPR. NMFS has conducted an environmental review of OPR's coordination role related to the STSSN and the formalization of their program protocols and roles described in the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook.

The STSSN is a cooperative effort to reduce causes of morbidity and mortality in sea turtles by responding to and documenting sea turtles, found either dead or alive (but compromised), in a manner sufficient to inform conservation management and recovery. The proposed activities considered in the draft EA are limited to the coordination role that OPR holds, activities NMFS staff will conduct in the field related to stranding coordination, response, and mortality investigation, and direct takes of sea turtles while responding to stranding incidents that have occurred because of human activity or natural causes of illness, injury, or mortality.

National Environmental Policy Act

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*). This draft EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) and NOAA policy and procedures (NOAA Administrative Order [NAO] 216-6A and the Companion Manual [CM] for the NAO 216-6A).

Alternatives Considered

NMFS' proposed action is the continued coordination of the STSSN by NMFS OPR and the review of program protocols and best practices, which have been consolidated and updated in the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook. In preparing the draft EA, NMFS considered the following two alternatives for the proposed action.

Alternative 1: No Action. In accordance with the NOAA CM for NAO 216-6A, section 6.B.i, Under the No Action Alternative, NMFS OPR would absolve its role coordinating the STSSN. Under this alternative, the STSSN would continue to operate as prescribed in the species Recovery Plans, but only under existing state programs that are permitted through the USFWS permit authority, or through direct permits to stranding response organizations and rehabilitation facilities. Stranding response activities would be maintained, but without NMFS OPR involvement. The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations and the CM for NAO 216-6A require consideration and analysis of a no action alternative for the purposes of presenting a comparative analysis to the action alternatives. The no action

alternative, serves as a baseline against which the impacts of the action alternatives will be compared and contrasted.

Alternative 2: Continued Operation of the STSSN under NMFS Coordination, Guided by the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook. Under Alternative 2, NMFS OPR would continue to coordinate the STSSN and would finalize the Draft 2024 STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook as a guide for the continued operation of the STSSN. The STSSN has been in operation for decades, and the Operating Procedures seeks to consolidate various guidance documents and clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of STSSN participants.

Final determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and NMFS will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. If finalized and adopted, NMFS will publish the Final STSSN Operating Procedures Handbook to its website.

Dated: December 20, 2024.

Caroline Good,

Acting Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE568]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Crab Plan Team will meet January 14, 2025 to January 15, 2025.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, through Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., AK time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Attend in-person at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council office, 1007 West Third Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501, or join the meeting online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 West Third Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via video conference are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anita Kroska, Council staff; phone: (907) 271-2809; email: anita.kroska@noaa.gov. For technical support, please contact our admin Council staff, email: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Through Wednesday, January 15, 2025

The agenda will include (a) tools for constructing model-based indices of survey data, (b) GMACS coding updates, stock assessment model developments, simulations, and (c) other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>, prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>.

Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3072>.

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

Dated: December 20, 2024.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE569]

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 hybrid meeting of its Groundfish Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This meeting will be held in-person with a webinar option. Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.