

2023–0111 by any of the following methods:

**Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and NOAA–NMFS–2023–0111 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (*e.g.*, name, address, *etc.*) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. We will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Steven Hughes, (301) 427–8576, [steven.hughes@noaa.gov](mailto:steven.hughes@noaa.gov); Celeste Stout, (301) 427–9436, [Celeste.Stout@noaa.gov](mailto:Celeste.Stout@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the ‘taking’ of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The ESA defines “take” to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may issue permits, under limited circumstances to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA provides for authorizing incidental take of listed species. NMFS governing regulations for permits for incidental taking of threatened and endangered species are promulgated at 50 CFR 222.307.

**Background**

On July 10, 2023, Clearwater Inc. sent a permit renewal request before permit number 18600 expires December 31, 2023. On August 28, 2023, NMFS met with Clearwater Inc. to discuss reducing the number of requested takes for the permit from 20 to 10 sturgeon over the course of the 10-year project.

Over the course of the 10-year project two sturgeons were captured during the proposed action. The species affected were two Atlantic sturgeon. The two

sturgeon were released back into the Hudson River immediately after they were brought up to the boat. The Clearwater applicant has submitted end of year reports every year. There were no compliance issues throughout the permit that would prevent the application from being renewed for another 10 years.

**Conservation Plan**

Clearwater’s conservation plan describes measures to minimize, monitor, and mitigate the incidental take of ESA-listed Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon. Clearwater will regularly communicate with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to avoid known sturgeon habitat and spawning grounds. Clearwater will use small otter trawls (95.52 by 45.72 centimeter doors and weigh less than 0.45 kilograms) and short tow times (= < 5 minutes). Beach seines, which allow for targeted catch, will be used where practicable (*e.g.*, away from urban areas and where tides allow). If Clearwater incidentally captures a sturgeon in its sets, it will follow protocols for safe handling and immediately release any sturgeon caught. Clearwater will maintain a detailed log of all gear sets and will submit to NMFS incident and annual reports of incidental capture, if any, of listed sturgeon.

**National Environmental Policy Act**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), as implemented by 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and NOAA Administrative Order 216–6, Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Policy Act (1999), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

**Next Steps**

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments received during the comment period to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA. If NMFS determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed sturgeon. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be made until after the end of the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 26, 2023.

**Catherine G. Marzin,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources.*

[FR Doc. 2023–21446 Filed 9–28–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD415]

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel on November 6–7, 2023, and a meeting of the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel on November 7–8, 2023.

**DATES:** The Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel meeting will be held November 6, 2023, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT and November 7, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel meeting will be held November 7, 2023, from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT and November 8, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meetings will be held at the Town and County Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407.

The meeting will also be available via webinar. Registration is required.

Webinar registration, an online public comment form, and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meeting at: <https://safmc.net/advisory-panel-meetings/>.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christina Wiegand, Fishery Social Scientists, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: [christina.wiegand@safmc.net](mailto:christina.wiegand@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) Meeting**

The Dolphin Wahoo AP will develop and update a fishery performance report for wahoo, receive a presentation from the National Marine Fisheries Service

Southeast Fisheries Science Center on a Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) under development and will be asked to provide feedback on climate-related and other aspects of the MSE. The Dolphin Wahoo AP will also receive updates on recent Council actions including Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 3 (addressing minimum size limits and recreational retention limits for dolphin), the Council's Citizen Science Program, and the "What It Means to Me" outreach initiative. The AP will provide input on other topics as needed.

#### **Mackerel Cobia AP**

The Mackerel Cobia AP will discuss Framework Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagics Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region, which would update catch levels for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel based on the most recent stock assessment (SEDAR 78) and Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations. The Mackerel Cobia AP will also provide input on Mackerel Port Meetings, mackerel tournament landings, and complete a fishery performance report for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel. The Mackerel Cobia AP will receive updates on the Council's Citizen Science program, the "What It Means to Me" outreach initiative, and offshore wind activities. The AP will provide input on other topics as needed.

#### **Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aid 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: September 26, 2023.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 2023-21458 Filed 9-28-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XD423]

#### **Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a joint meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Citizen Science Operations Committee and Citizen Science Projects Advisory Committee via webinar.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint meeting of its Citizen Science Operations Committee and Citizen Science Projects Advisory Committee via webinar October 27, 2023.

**DATES:** The Citizen Science Operations Committee and Citizen Science Projects Advisory Committee joint meeting will be held via webinar on Friday, Oct 27, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

#### **ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Additional information, including a webinar registration link and meeting materials will be available from the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/events/oct-2023-citizen-science-operations-projects-advisory-committee-meeting/> two weeks prior to the meeting. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julia Byrd, Citizen Science Program Manager, SAFMC; phone: (843) 302-8439 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [julia.byrd@safmc.net](mailto:julia.byrd@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Citizen Science Operations Committee serves as advisors to the Council's Citizen Science Program. Committee members include representatives from the Council's Citizen Science Advisory Panel Pool, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and the Council's Science and Statistical Committee. Their responsibilities include developing programmatic recommendations, reviewing policies,

providing program direction/multi-partner support, identifying citizen science research needs, and providing general advice. Projects Advisory Committee members include representatives from the Council's fishery Advisory Panels (AP), Habitat & Ecosystem AP, and Outreach & Communication AP. Their responsibilities include identifying citizen science research and data needs across all the Council's fishery management plans; assisting with development of volunteer engagement strategies for recruiting, training, retaining, and communicating with volunteers; and serving as outreach ambassadors for the Program.

*Agenda items include:* reviewing and recommending updates to the Council's citizen science research priorities; a Citizen Science Program and Project update; discussion of Committee membership; and other business.

#### **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: September 26, 2023.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-21465 Filed 9-28-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XD422]

#### **Endangered Species; File No. 23096**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for a permit modification.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, 180 E Green Street, Athens, GA 30602 (Responsible Party: Dale Greene, Ph.D.) has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 23096.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before October 30, 2023.