

individuals, organizations, Native American tribes, and Federal, State, and local agencies on the proposed action. The scoping process will inform the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in the PEIS. Interested parties may submit public comments according to the instructions described in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections above. Additional information may be found online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/aquaculture/west-coast-region-southern-california-aquaculture-opportunity-area>. Accessible options for the visually or hearing impaired include full recordings and written transcripts of the webinar-based listening sessions. All presentation materials, recordings, and transcripts will be posted to the website within five business days of the webinar. Persons needing reasonable accommodations to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact Diane Windham at [socalaoa.wcr@noaa.gov](mailto:socalaoa.wcr@noaa.gov). To allow sufficient time to process requests, please notify at least five business days prior to the relevant meeting.

#### **Request for Identification of Potential Alternatives, Information, and Analyses Relevant to the Proposed Action**

NMFS requests data, comments, views, information, analysis, alternatives, or suggestions from the public; affected federal, state, tribal, and local governments, agencies, and offices; the scientific community; industry; or any other interested party on the Proposed Action that would help the agency consider both beneficial and adverse impacts. Specifically, for offshore regions in the Southern California Bight, NMFS requests public input on the following:

- (1) The scope of the NEPA analysis, including the range of reasonable alternatives described above.
- (2) Suitable species and gear for aquaculture.
- (3) Suitable reporting requirements for owners and operators of aquaculture facilities.
- (4) Types of aquaculture (*e.g.*, finfish, shellfish, seaweed, integrated multi-trophic aquaculture) that could be supported and/or analyzed.
- (5) Potential impacts to biological, physical, social, cultural, and economic resources.
- (6) Information related to social barriers and/or economic constraints for aquaculture development.
- (7) Information related to technologies and strategies that could increase opportunity or mitigate risks of aquaculture development.

(8) Information related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in aquaculture and the seafood sector.

(9) Information related to climate change and climate equity.

(10) Potential interactions with protected species, essential fish habitat, and other sensitive habitats.

(11) Potential interactions with commercial and recreational fishing industries, tourism and recreation, and other offshore ocean users.

(12) Information on other current or planned activities in, or in the vicinity of, the areas described in this NOI and their possible impacts on aquaculture development, or the impact of aquaculture developments on those activities.

(13) Input on the size parameters of a single AOA that would be suitable to support aquaculture development in the Southern California Bight.

(14) Input related to the risks and/or benefits of whether an AOA should be a single, continuous geographic space, or a collection of discrete areas separated from one another.

(15) Input related to how an AOA could simultaneously support aquaculture development along with environmental, economic, and social sustainability—including ways to incorporate mitigation and cost-benefit analyses.

(16) Other information relevant to the Proposed Action and its impacts on the human environment.

#### **Lead and Cooperating Agencies**

Consistent with E.O. 13921, NOAA is designated as the lead agency for the proposed action. The NMFS West Coast Region invited the EPA Region 9, the USCG District Eleven, and the USACE Los Angeles District to act as cooperating agencies for the purposes of the PEIS. EPA, USCG, and USACE have agreed to act as cooperating agencies.

#### **Decision Maker**

Scott M. Rumsey, Acting Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region.

#### **Nature of Decision To Be Made**

If an action alternative is selected, the decision maker would select an alternative that identifies one or more AOAs as part of a planning exercise for offshore marine aquaculture in Southern California. No specific aquaculture projects are being proposed or will be permitted through the PEIS. The analysis presented in the Draft and Final PEIS and the identification of any AOAs in the ROD will serve to guide and inform future decision-making (*e.g.*, environmental review and permitting

processes) if and when specific proposals to conduct aquaculture operations are proposed within these areas.

**Authority:** Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth (E.O. 13921).

Dated: May 13, 2022.

**Danielle Blacklock,**

*Director, Office of Aquaculture, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2022–11010 Filed 5–20–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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

[RTID 0648–XC040]

#### **Marine Mammals; File No. 26394**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Pangolin Pictures, 1650 Broadway, Suite 1208, New York, NY 10019 (Responsible Party: Kevin Bachar), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct commercial and educational photography on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and other cetaceans.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before June 22, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** These documents are available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 26394 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carrie Hubard or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to film up to 75 humpback whales in the Au'au

channel in Hawai'i. Filming would take place from onboard a boat, using underwater divers, and from an unmanned aircraft system. Other species that would be filmed if encountered are up to 150 bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), 50 pantropical spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*), 250 spinner dolphins (*S. longirostris*), 50 melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*), 50 pygmy killer whales (*Feresa attenuata*), and 10 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*). Footage would be used for a documentary to air on National Geographic Television. The permit would be valid from December 2022 through May 2023.

It has come to the agency's attention that the 2016 interim final humpback approach rule (50 CFR 216.19; 81 FR 62010, September 8, 2016) does not explicitly exempt permits issued under section 104(c)(6) of the MMPA from its prohibitions. It is not the agency's intent to preclude the issuance of permits or authorizations consistent with the requirements of the MMPA. We interpret the rule to allow issuance of these permits. Consistent with this interpretation, it has been our practice to continue to issue section 104(c)(6) permits that are in compliance with the MMPA's requirements and our review procedures, as evidenced by issuance of four such permits since the rule's effective date. However, to eliminate any potential ambiguity, we intend to revise the rule to explicitly clarify that photography permits issued under section 104(c)(6) of the MMPA are exempt from the prohibitions on approach.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), 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.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: May 18, 2022.

**Amy Sloan,**

*Acting Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2022-11015 Filed 5-20-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC006]

#### Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 75 Life History Topical Working Group Recommendations Webinar for Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 75 assessment of Gulf of Mexico gray snapper will consist of a series of assessment webinars. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 75 Recommendations Webinar for the Life History Topical Working Group will be held June 16, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

**SEDAR address:** 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571-4366; email: [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and

recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion:

Participants will make recommendations on life history data available for use in the assessment of Gulf of Mexico gray snapper.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 10 business days prior to each workshop.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: May 18, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022-11021 Filed 5-20-22; 8:45 am]

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