

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: April 26, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*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-XB967]

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic; 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 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks Assessment Webinar I.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 77 assessment of the Atlantic stock of hammerhead sharks will consist of a stock identification (ID) process, data webinars/workshop, a series of assessment webinars, and a review workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks Assessment Webinar I has been scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2022, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. ET. 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. Registration for the webinar is available by contacting

the SEDAR coordinator via email at [Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net](mailto:Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net).

**SEDAR address:** South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405; [www.sedarweb.org](http://www.sedarweb.org).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathleen Howington, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4371; email: [Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net](mailto:Kathleen.Howington@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 three-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 which 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 which 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, Highly Migratory Species 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 non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion at the SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Shark Data Webinar 1 are as follows: Discuss any leftover data issues that were not cleared up during the data process, answer any questions that the analysts

have, and introduce/discuss model development and model setup.

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

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business 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: April 26, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Executive Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), Climate Program Office (CPO), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Program Office will hold an organizational meeting of the NIDIS Executive Council on May 3, 2022.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 3, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. EST to 3:00 p.m. EST. These times and the agenda topics are subject to change.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hall of the States, Room 383/385, 444 North Capitol St. NW, Washington, DC 20001.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Veva Deheza, NIDIS Executive Director, David Skaggs Research Center, Room

GD102, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305. Phone: 303-487-3431. Email: [Veve.Deheza@noaa.gov](mailto:Veve.Deheza@noaa.gov); or visit the NIDIS website at [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was established by Public Law 109-430 on December 20, 2006, and reauthorized by Public Law 113-86 on March 6, 2014 and Public Law 115-423 on January 7, 2019, with a mandate to provide an effective drought early warning system for the United States; coordinate, and integrate as practicable, Federal research in support of a drought early warning system; and build upon existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships. See 15 U.S.C. 313d. The Public Law also calls for consultation with “relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector” in the development of NIDIS. 15 U.S.C. 313d(c). The NIDIS Executive Council provides the NIDIS Program Office with an opportunity to engage in individual consultation with senior resource officials from NIDIS’s Federal partners, as well as leaders from state and local government, academia, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

**Status:** This meeting will be open to public participation. Individuals interested in attending should register at <https://cpaess.ucar.edu/meetings/2022/nidis-executive-council-meeting-may-2022>. Please refer to this web page for the most up-to-date meeting times and agenda. Seating at the meeting will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Special Accommodations:** This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed no later than 12:00 p.m. on April 28, 2022, to Elizabeth Ossowski, Program Coordinator, David Skaggs Research Center, Room GD102, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305; Email: [Elizabeth.Ossowski@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Ossowski@noaa.gov).

**Matters To Be Considered:** The meeting will include the following topics: (1) NIDIS implementation updates and 2022 priorities; (2) Executive Council member updates and 2022 priorities relevant to Drought, Climate Adaptation and Resilience, Water, Fire; (3) Long Term Drought and Aridification: Outcomes from the 2021 Southwest Drought Forum, including Priority Actions where NIDIS and partners have a critical role to play; (4) Climate Engine, OpenET, and Applications for Drought Monitoring

and New Opportunities; (5) Fire, Water, and Resilience and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

**David Holst,**

*Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB895]

#### **Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Kitty Hawk Wind Marine Site Characterization Surveys, North Carolina and Virginia**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an IHA to Kitty Hawk Wind, LLC (Kitty Hawk Wind), to incidentally harass marine mammals during marine site characterization surveys off North Carolina and Virginia in and around the area of Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf Lease Area (OCS)-A 0508.

**DATES:** The IHA is effective from August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jaclyn Daly, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the IHA and supporting documents may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. 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 incidental take authorization may be provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of the species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of the takings are set forth. The definitions of all applicable MMPA statutory terms cited above are included in the relevant sections below.

#### **Summary of Request**

On July 19, 2021, NMFS received a request from Kitty Hawk Wind, a subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables (Avangrid), for an IHA to take marine mammals incidental to conducting marine site characterization surveys off of the Atlantic Coast. Kitty Hawk Wind’s overall lease area (OCS-A 0508) is located approximately 44 kilometers (km) offshore of Corolla, North Carolina, in Federal waters. The proposed survey activities will occur within the wind development area (WDA) and along the electric cable corridor (ECC) to landfall locations in North Carolina and Virginia. We received a final, revised version of Kitty Hawk Wind’s application on January 12, 2022 and deemed it adequate and complete on January 13, 2022. Kitty Hawk Wind’s request is for take of 17 species of marine mammals, by Level B harassment only. Neither Kitty Hawk Wind nor NMFS expects serious injury or mortality to result from this activity and, therefore, an IHA is appropriate.

NMFS previously issued an IHA to Avangrid, prior to it establishing Kitty Hawk Wind, for similar work in the same geographic area on June 3, 2019 (84 FR 31032) with effectiveness dates from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 and to Kitty Hawk Wind specifically on July