

the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-step process including: (1) Data Workshop, (2) a series of assessment webinars, and (3) A Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The assessment webinars produce a 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 product of the Review Workshop is an Assessment 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 during the assessment scoping webinar are as follows:

Panelists will review the data sets being considered for the assessment and discuss initial modeling efforts.

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 5 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: August 24, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017-18300 Filed 8-28-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XF617**

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740; phone: (774) 634-2000.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Agenda

The Scallop Committee will review preliminary 2017 scallop survey results and discuss initial recommendations from the Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) for FY 2018 and FY 2019 (default) fishery specifications (Framework 29). They also plan to review and provide input on Framework 29 management measures; which include: (1) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures; (2) Development and modification of flatfish accountability measures; (3) Modifying access area boundaries to be consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closures through OHA2. The committee will review and discuss results from the LAGC IFQ program review. They will also develop

a list of potential 2018 scallop work priorities. Additionally, the committee will discuss whether there are any regulations in the Scallop FMP that could be eliminated, improved, or streamlined. Several recent Executive Orders have been issued about streamlining current regulations, and NOAA is seeking public input on the efficiency and effectiveness of current regulations and whether they can be improved. The committee will review Advisory Panel recommendations. They will also continue in a closed door session to review applications to the Advisory Panel. Other business may be discussed as necessary.

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#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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

Dated: August 24, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017-18299 Filed 8-28-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XF643**

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council)

and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The Pacific Council and its advisory entities will meet September 11–18, 2017. The Pacific Council meeting will begin on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 9 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), reconvening at 8 a.m. each day through Monday, September 18, 2017. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 13 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Pacific Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

**ADDRESSES:** Meetings of the Pacific Council and its advisory entities will be held at the Riverside Hotel, 2900 Chinden Blvd., Boise, ID; telephone: (208) 343–1871.

**Council address:** Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220. Instructions for attending the meeting via live stream broadcast are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Chuck Tracy, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 820–2280 or (866) 806–7204 toll-free; or access the Pacific Council Web site, <http://www.pcouncil.org> for the current meeting location, proposed agenda, and meeting briefing materials.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The September 11–18, 2017 meeting of the Pacific Council will be streamed live on the internet. The broadcasts begin initially at 9 a.m. PDT Wednesday, September, 2017 and continue at 8 a.m. daily through Monday, September 18, 2017. Broadcasts end daily at 6 p.m. PDT or when business for the day is complete. Only the audio portion and presentations displayed on the screen at the Pacific Council meeting will be broadcast. The audio portion is listen-only; you will be unable to speak to the Pacific Council via the broadcast. To access the meeting online please use the following link: <http://www.gotomeeting.com/online/webinar/join-webinar> and enter the September Webinar ID, 897–986–459, and your email address. You can attend the webinar online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, using the GoToMeeting application. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting. The audio portion may be attended using a telephone by dialing the toll number 1–562–247–8422 (not a toll-free number), audio access code

862–846–290, and entering the audio pin shown after joining the webinar.

The following items are on the Pacific Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order. Agenda items noted as “Final Action” refer to actions requiring the Council to transmit a proposed fishery management plan, proposed plan amendment, or proposed regulations to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, under Sections 304 or 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Additional detail on agenda items, Council action, advisory entity meeting times, and meeting rooms are described in Agenda Item A.5, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, and will be in the advance September 2017 briefing materials and posted on the Pacific Council Web site at [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org) no later than August 25, 2017.

**A. Call to Order**

1. Opening Remarks
2. Council Member Appointments
3. Roll Call
4. Executive Director’s Report
5. Approve Agenda

**B. Open Comment Period**

1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items

**C. Coastal Pelagic Species Management**

1. Acoustic Trawl Survey Methodology Review Terms of Reference

**D. Habitat**

1. Current Habitat Issues

**E. Groundfish Management**

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
2. Off-Year Science Improvements
3. Stock Assessment Methodology Review
4. Coastwide Non-whiting Midwater Trawl Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Final Action and Gear Modification EFP Review
5. Flexibility in Annual Catch Limit Management Response, Scoping
6. Electronic Monitoring—Preliminary Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates and Third-Party Review
7. Trawl Catch Share Review, Preliminary Range of Follow-On Actions, and Intersector Allocation
8. Adopt Final Stock Assessments
9. Initial Harvest Specifications and Management Measure Actions for 2019–2020 Management
10. Final Actions on Inseason Adjustments

**F. Salmon Management**

1. Methodology Review Final Topic Selection
2. Sacramento River Winter Chinook Control Rule, Preliminary Recommendations

**G. Pacific Halibut Management**

1. 2018 and Beyond Catch Sharing

Plan and Annual Regulation Changes

**H. Administrative Matters**

1. Legislative Matters
2. Fiscal Matters
3. Approval of Council Meeting Record
4. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
5. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

**I. Ecosystem-Based Management**

1. Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report
2. Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives: Scoping and Selection

**J. Highly Migratory Species Management**

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
2. Swordfish Management Project Planning
3. Recommendations for International Management Activities
4. Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4: Status Determination Criteria Final Action
5. Proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits
6. Authorization of Deep-Set Buoy Gear and Federal Permitting

**Advisory Body Agendas**

Advisory body agendas will include discussions of relevant issues that are on the Pacific Council agenda for this meeting, and may also include issues that may be relevant to future Council meetings. Proposed advisory body agendas for this meeting will be available on the Pacific Council Web site <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-briefing-book/> no later than Friday, August 25, 2017.

**Schedule of Ancillary Meetings**

**Day 1—Monday, September 11, 2017**

Scientific and Statistical Committee  
Ecosystem Subcommittee 10 a.m.

**Day 2—Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
Habitat Committee 8 a.m.  
Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup 8 a.m.  
Salmon Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Scientific and Statistical Committee 8 a.m.  
Legislative Committee 1 p.m.  
Budget Committee 2:30 a.m.

**Day 3—Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

California State Delegation 7 a.m.  
Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.  
Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
Ecosystem Workgroup 8 a.m.

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
 Sacramento River Chinook  
 Workgroup 8 a.m.  
 Salmon Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Scientific and Statistical Committee 8  
 a.m.  
 Enforcement Consultants 3 p.m.

*Day 4—Thursday, September 14, 2017*

California State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Ecosystem Workgroup 8 a.m.  
 Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
 Highly Migratory Species Advisory  
 Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Highly Migratory Species Management  
 Team 8 a.m.  
 Scientific and Statistical Committee  
 Ecosystem Subcommittee 8 a.m.  
 Enforcement Consultants Ad Hoc  
 Groundfish Stock Assessment  
 Presentation/Q & A 7:30 p.m.

*Day 5—Friday, September 15, 2017*

California State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
 Highly Migratory Species Advisory  
 Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Highly Migratory Species Management  
 Team 8 a.m.  
 Enforcement Consultants Ad Hoc

*Day 6—Saturday, September 16, 2017*

California State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
 Highly Migratory Species Advisory  
 Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Highly Migratory Species Management  
 Team 8 a.m.  
 Enforcement Consultants Ad Hoc

*Day 7—Sunday, September 17, 2017*

California State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Groundfish Advisory Subpanel 8 a.m.  
 Groundfish Management Team 8 a.m.  
 Enforcement Consultants Ad Hoc

*Day 8—Monday, September 18, 2017*

California State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Oregon State Delegation 7 a.m.  
 Washington State Delegation 7 a.m.

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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 Pacific Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

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Dated: August 24, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017-18277 Filed 8-24-17; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XF608**

#### Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Air Force 86 Fighter Weapons Squadron Conducting Long Range Strike Weapons System Evaluation Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of Letter of Authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and implementing regulations, notice is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization (LOA) has been issued to the U.S. Air Force (USAF) 86 Fighter Weapon Squadron (86 FWS) to take marine mammals incidental to Long Range Strike (LRS) Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP) exercises on the Barking Sands Underwater Range Expansion (BSURE) area of the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) off Kauai, Hawaii. These activities are considered military readiness activities pursuant to the MMPA, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 (NDAA).

**DATES:** This LOA is valid from August 21, 2017, through August 20, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** The LOA and supporting documents may be obtained online at: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/military.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/military.htm). In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jaclyn Daly, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301-427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA directs the Secretary of Commerce 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 regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term “take” means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill marine mammals. NMFS has been delegated the authority to issue regulations and Letters of Authorization allowing the take of marine mammals incidental to specified activities.

The NDAA (Pub. L. 108-136) removed the “small numbers” and “specified geographical region” limitations indicated above and amended the definition of “harassment” as it applies to a “military readiness activity” to read as follows (Section 3(18)(B) of the MMPA): “(i) Any act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) Any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered (Level B Harassment).”

An authorization for incidental taking 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