

Renewal

NMFS has issued an IHA Renewal to WSDOT for the take of marine mammals incidental to pile driving associated with the Dolphin Relocation Project at the Bremerton ferry terminal.

Dated: August 13, 2019.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019-17672 Filed 8-15-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XV027

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will hold a week-long work session that is open to the public.

DATES: The GMT meeting will be held Monday, October 7, 2019, from 1 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) until business for the day is completed. The GMT meeting will reconvene Tuesday, October 8 through Friday, October 11, 2019, from 8:30 a.m. until business for each day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Pacific Council Office, Large Conference Room, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Todd Phillips, Pacific Council, phone: (503) 820-2426.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the GMT meeting is to develop recommendations for consideration by the Pacific Council at its November 13-20, 2019 meeting in Costa Mesa, CA. Specific agenda topics include the development of the 2021-22 harvest specifications and management measures, including rebuilding analyses. The GMT may also address other groundfish and administrative agenda items scheduled for the November Pacific Council meeting. A detailed agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website prior to the meeting. No management actions will be decided by the GMT.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 public listening station is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at (503) 820-2411 at least 10 business days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 13, 2019.

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**

RIN 0648-XV026

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting (webinar).

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) will convene a webinar meeting of its Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss harvest specifications and other items related the team's in-person meeting scheduled for October 7-11, 2019.

DATES: A webinar meeting will be held Thursday, September 26, 2019, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time. The scheduled ending time for the GMT webinar is an estimate, the meeting will adjourn when business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held via webinar. A public listening station is available at the Pacific Council office (address below). To attend the webinar: (1) Join the GoToWebinar by visiting

this link <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar> (Click "Join a Webinar" in top right corner of page), (2) Enter the Webinar ID: 811-527-651 and (3) enter your name and email address (required). After logging into the webinar, you must use your telephone for the audio portion of the meeting. Dial this TOLL number 1-415-655-0052, enter the Attendee phone audio access code 820-357-513 and enter your audio phone pin (shown after joining the webinar). System Requirements: For PC-based attendees: Required: Windows® 10, 8, 7, Vista, or XP; for Mac®-based attendees: Required: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer; for Mobile attendees: Required: iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet (see <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/ipad-iphone-android-webinar-apps>). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov or contact him at (503) 820-2411 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Todd Phillips, Pacific Council; phone: (503) 820-2426.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the GMT webinar is to discuss the development of the 2021-22 harvest specifications and management measures including rebuilding analyses. The GMT may also address other groundfish and administrative agenda items scheduled for its in-person October meeting. A detailed agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website prior to the meeting. No management actions will be decided by the GMT.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 public listening station is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at (503) 820-2411 at least 10 business days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 13, 2019.

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

RIN 0648-XS004

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an amended exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to expand the scope of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) issued in November 2018. The amended EFP would increase the sampling area from specified waters of the South Atlantic to all Federal waters of the South Atlantic off Monroe County, Florida and Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) near Pulley Ridge. The amended EFP would also increase the amount of traps in the water at any one time, extend the trap soak period, would no longer require research traps to have a current stamp, endorsement, or certificate, and would no longer allow commercial fishermen to harvest and sell any species but lionfish from the research traps. The project seeks to determine the effectiveness of traps, as applicable, for attracting and collecting invasive lionfish while avoiding impacts to non-target species, protected species, and habitats.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 31, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the application, identified by “NOAA-NMFS-2019-0084” by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-0084, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Kelli O'Donnell, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

- **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 www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Electronic copies of the application and programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/commercial-fishing/lionfish-traps-exempted-fishing-permit-applications>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelli O'Donnell, 727-824-5305; email: Kelli.ODonnell@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The amended EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

Lionfish is an invasive marine species that occurs in both the Gulf and South Atlantic and is not currently managed by NMFS in Federal waters. The amended EFP application submitted by FWC requests the use of prohibited gear in Federal waters. Federal regulations prohibit the use or possession of a fish trap in Federal waters in the Gulf and South Atlantic (50 CFR 622.9(c)). In South Atlantic Federal waters, the term “fish trap” refers to a trap capable of taking fish, except for a seabass pot, a golden crab trap, or a crustacean trap (that is, a type of trap historically used in the directed fishery for blue crab, stone crab, red crab, jonah crab, or spiny lobster and that contains at any time not more than 25 percent, by number, of fish other than blue crab, stone crab, red crab, jonah crab, and spiny lobster). In Gulf Federal waters, the term “fish trap” refers to a trap capable of taking fish, except for a trap historically used in the directed fishery for crustaceans (that is, blue crab, stone crab, and spiny lobster) (50 CFR 622.2). The amended EFP would exempt these activities from the regulation prohibiting the use or possession of a fish trap in Federal waters of the South Atlantic or the Gulf at 50 CFR 622.9(c), and would allow the applicant to use modified spiny lobster

traps to target lionfish. Because FWC requested that the amended EFP remove the requirement that research traps have a current endorsement, stamp, or certification and allow sampling during the spiny lobster closed season, the EFP would exempt research traps from the gear identification requirements at 50 CFR 622.402(a) and exempt the activities from the seasonal closures at 50 CFR 622.403. The amended EFP would also exempt the project activities from the closed seasons, size limits, and bag limits at 50 CFR 622.34, 622.37, and 622.38 to allow FWC to retain other fish for species identification verification and scientific research.

The applicant's original EFP tests the effectiveness of different trap modifications in capturing lionfish while avoiding impacts to non-target species, protected species, and habitats. NMFS analyzed the effects of testing traps that target lionfish on the environment, including effects on Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species and designated critical habitat, and other non-target species and habitat, in the Gulf and South Atlantic regions through a PEA titled “Testing Traps to Target Lionfish in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, including within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.” This PEA was used to support the original EFP for this research in certain South Atlantic Federal waters off Monroe County, Florida. The application notice for the original EFP request published in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 2018 (83 FR 30916) and the EFP was subsequently issued by NMFS on November 13, 2018. Before issuing the amended EFP, NMFS will analyze whether the proposed effort fits within the scope of the PEA and the ESA analysis on the expected effort under the PEA. If the proposed activities fit within the PEA and the ESA consultation, NMFS will document that determination for the record. Otherwise, NMFS will complete the required analyses.

The specific amended EFP request noticed here is further described and summarized below.

FWC is requesting authorization to test standard and modified wire spiny lobster traps in the South Atlantic and the Gulf to harvest lionfish aboard federally permitted commercial spiny lobster fishing vessels. Like the original EFP, the proposed activities would examine the effectiveness and performance of modified trap designs for capturing lionfish, with the goal of identifying the best lobster trap modification to maximize lionfish catch and reduce bycatch of other species. Traps would be fished in a trawl