captured fish would be handled, measured, and have their stomach contents analyzed gastric lavage. Gill netting will likely result in the mortality of all fish captured, and the researchers are proposing to kill a small number of ESA-listed fish. Any listed fish found alive upon the retrieval of the nets will be removed quickly and released back into Lake Washington. The goal of this study is to understand the effects of ALAN on juvenile salmon behavior and its impacts on depredation success by non-native species in the Lake Washington system. This work is expected to benefit ESA-listed salmon and steelhead recovery by providing information on the impacts predation has on salmon, and that information, in turn, would be used to help future management actions account for and reduce those impacts.

*Permit 28588*

The University of Idaho is seeking a five-year permit that would allow them to take SnkR spr/sum Chinook and steelhead while conducting a study on Chinook downstream migration timing and its effects on species productivity. The information would be used to bolster life-cycle modeling for the species and monitor population status in a relatively pristine (and remote) watershed—Big Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork Salmon River in Idaho.

The researchers would use backpack electrofishing units to capture the fish. Once captured, the fish would be anesthetized, tagged with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags, measured, allowed to recover, and released. The research would generate information on the species' migration strategies and thus help managers better design recovery strategies and land management plans. It would also generate baseline population information to help managers maintain an understanding of the species' status. The researchers are not proposing to kill any of the fish they capture, but a small number of individuals may be killed as an inadvertent result of the activities.

*Permit 28615*

The Washington State Department of Ecology is seeking a 5-year permit that would authorize them to take juvenile LCR, SnkR Basin, MCR, UCR, and PS steelhead; LCR, SnkR fall-run, SnkR spr/sum, and UCR spring-run Chinook salmon; CR and HCS summer-run chum salmon, LCR coho salmon, and OL sockeye salmon in order to conduct watershed health monitoring that will provide data on the physical, biological, and chemical aspects of Washington's rivers and streams. This work is conducted throughout the state of Washington.

Juvenile Chinook, chum, coho, sockeye, and steelhead would be collected via backpack electrofishing, handled (measured), and released. The goal of this work is to establish a sampling framework that provides a basis for the quantitative evaluation of the health of Washington's rivers and streams and can provide information on the status, trends, and limiting factors for Washington's fisheries. This work is expected to benefit ESA-listed salmon and steelhead by providing insights into species distribution and habitat quality across the state. The researchers are not proposing to kill any of the listed fish being taken, but a small number may be killed as an inadvertent result of these activities.

*Permit 28772*

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission is seeking a 5-year permit that would authorize them to take juvenile and adult SDPS green sturgeon, juvenile CVS Chinook salmon, and CCV steelhead in order to assess spawning frequency and spatial and temporal distribution among green sturgeon, and to evaluate the extent to which Oroville Facilities operations influence sturgeon spawning and rearing through effects on flow, temperature, and habitat. This work will be conducted in the Feather River Basin, California.

Juvenile and adult green sturgeon would be collected and observed via ARIS and DIDSON sonar cameras, video, side-scanning sonar, telemetry, hook and line sampling, artificial substrates, D-ring plankton nets, and otter trawls. A small number of green sturgeon eggs and larvae would be intentionally sacrificed for genotyping. This study would not target salmon or steelhead, so any CVS Chinook salmon, or CCV steelhead captured would be immediately released. Juvenile and adult green sturgeon would be captured, handled (anesthetized, weighed, measured, and checked for marks or tags), and released. A subsample of captured green sturgeon would also be tissue sampled and tagged (PIT, acoustic) prior to release. With the exception of the small number of eggs and larvae that would be intentionally killed, the researchers are not proposing to kill any of the juvenile or adult fish being captured, but a small number of fish may be killed as an inadvertent result of these activities.

The goals of this study are to: (1) evaluate migration patterns including residence times and factors affecting them, (2) identify spatial and temporal distribution of all life stages, (3) estimate annual adult green sturgeon abundance, (4) investigate whether sturgeon spawn annually in the Feather River, and (5) identify habitat preferences for all life stages. This work is expected to benefit green sturgeon by providing information to inform management decisions concerning future monitoring programs, operational changes at the Oroville facilities, and habitat enhancement in the lower Feather River.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the applications, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 17, 2025.

**Lisa Manning,**

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2025–04799 Filed 3–19–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**[RTID 0648–XE786]**

### 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 Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) on April 14 and 15, 2025. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet on April 15–17, 2025.

**DATES:** The SEP meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. EDT on April 14, 2025 and from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. on April 15, 2025. The SSC meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT on April 15, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on April 16, 2025, and from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. on April 17, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; phone: (843) 571–1000. The

meetings 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 meetings at: *https://safmc.net/scientific-and-statistical-committee-meeting/.*

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: *kim.iverson@safmc.net.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**SSC Socio-Economic Panel**

The SEP meeting agenda includes updates on active Council amendments, the Citizen Science Program, Council climate-readiness projects, and discussions relative to social and economic research at the September 2024 National SSC meeting. The SEP will review recent research efforts to collect baseline levels of knowledge about, confidence in, and trust in the citizen science process of collecting data to inform fisheries management, research related to the ongoing Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation, and the Council's Research and Monitoring Plan. The SEP will also have a discussion on how to better utilize qualitative information that is gathered during Council outreach activities to inform management in a resource-limited space. The SEP will provide recommendations for SSC and Council consideration, and conduct other business as needed.

**Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC meeting agenda includes the review of SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review) 92: Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Southern Region, and SEDAR 76 Update: Black Sea Bass Operational Assessment. The SSC will review the Council's Research and Monitoring Plan, terms of reference for the 2026 gag grouper stock assessment, scopes of work for the 2027 red grouper and snowy grouper stock assessments, and results of the Joint SSC review of the mutton and yellowtail snapper stock assessments. The SSC will receive updates on the Southeast Reef Fish Sur vey 2024 trends report, Size Matters: Innovative Length Estimates (SMILE) Project, Dolphinfish Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), and Ecopath with Ecosim with Ecospace Model. The SSC will receive updates to the SEDAR process, fishery management plan amendments, ongoing SSC workgroup progress, and conduct other business as needed.

**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: March 17, 2025.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**[RTID 0648–XE736]**

### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF). Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 4, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by the following method:

- *Email: nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov.* Include in the subject line ''MA DMF herring genomics EFP''.

All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing 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 ''anonymous'' as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ashley Trudeau, Fishery Resource Management Specialist, *ashley.trudeau@noaa.gov,* 978–281–9252.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The applicant submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

| CFR citation | Regulation | Need for exemption |
|---|---|---|
| 50 CFR 648.201(d)(1) | No harvest in Area 1A during January–May. | To allow harvest in Area 1A during April and May. |
| § 648.202(a)(1) | Restriction on midwater trawling from June 1 to September 30 in Area 1A. | To allow use of midwater trawl in Area 1A during June–September. |
| § 648.80(a)(3)(vi) | Restrictions on fishing in Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GB) Exemption Areas. | To allow use of small mesh bottom trawl in GOM and GB Regulated Mesh Areas. |
| § 648.81(d)(1) | Seasonal gear restrictions in GOM Cod Protection Closures. | To allow use of small mesh bottom trawl during April–November in GOM Cod Protection Closure Areas, excluding year-round groundfish closed areas. |