

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

[RTID 0648–XF090]

Gulf Council Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

SUMMARY: The Gulf Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of America fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will convene Monday, August 25 through Thursday, August 28, 2025. Daily schedule as follows: Monday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Tuesday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Thursday from 8:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m., CDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Hilton Palacio del Rio (Riverwalk), located at 200 South Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78205, (210) 222–1400. If you prefer to “listen in,” you may access the log-on information by visiting our website at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Council address: Gulf Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, August 25, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., CDT

The meeting will begin in FULL COUNCIL for the induction of New Council Members followed by Committee Sessions. The Administrative/Budget Committee will present the 2023–2024 Audit Report, review Final 2025 Funded Budget and Activities and discuss Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs) and Administrative Handbook updates.

The Gulf SEDAR Committee will provide a meeting summary from the August 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, provide an update on the Southeast Fisheries Science Center Resources and review the Gulf SEDAR Schedule.

The Sustainable Fisheries Committee will review and discuss the Advisory

Panel Summary Reports for Executive Order 14276 Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness and Executive Order 14192 Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation. They will also review the Public Comment Summary Report on Executive Order Recommendations, organize and prioritize of Recommendations for the Executive Orders 14276 and 14192, receive an update from Louisiana and Texas on State Regulations for Wahoo, and discuss U.S. Coast Guard Safety Requirements to Carry Observers.

The Council will return to FULL COUNCIL for a CLOSED SESSION to discuss Scientific and Statistical Committee Membership.

Tuesday, August 26, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT

The Council will begin with the *Reef Fish* Committee review of Final Action Items: Modifications to the Federal For-Hire *Red Snapper* Fishing Season, *Reef Fish* Amendment 58B: Modifications to *Deep-water Grouper* Management Measures and Draft Options: *Reef Fish* Amendment 58A: *Shallow-water Grouper* Complex Catch Level Management Considerations and for *Reef Fish* Amendment 62: Modifications to *Gulf Red Grouper* Management Measures. The Committee will review Recreational Initiative recommendations and prioritization and discuss Draft Options: *Reef Fish* Amendment 55/ *Snapper Grouper* Amendment 44: Modifications to *Mutton Snapper* and *Yellowtail Snapper* Management Measures.

Wednesday, August 27, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., CDT

The *Shrimp* Committee will review Draft *Shrimp* Amendment 19: *Shrimp* Permit Moratorium, receive a presentation on Protected Resources Bycatch in *Shrimp* Trawls: A summary review of data for Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation.

The Council will reconvene at approximately 10:15 a.m., CDT with a Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes.

The Council will receive updates from the following supporting agencies: South Atlantic Council Liaison, Texas Law Enforcement Efforts, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Report and Presentation, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Department of State.

Following lunch, the Council will hold public testimony from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., CDT for FINAL ACTION Items (a). Modifications to the Federal

For-Hire *Red Snapper* Fishing Season and (b). *Reef Fish* Amendment 58B: Modifications to *Deep-water Grouper* Management Measures; Recommendations: E.O. 14276 Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness and E.O. 14192 Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation and open testimony on other fishery issues or concerns. Public comment may begin earlier than 1 p.m. CDT but will not conclude before that time. Persons wishing to give public testimony in-person must register at the registration kiosk in the meeting room. Persons wishing to give public testimony virtually must sign up on the Council website on the day of public testimony. Registration for virtual testimony closes one hour (12 p.m. CDT) before public testimony begins.

Thursday, August 28, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m., CDT

The Council will receive Committee reports from Administrative/Budget, Gulf SEDAR, *Shrimp*, Sustainable Fisheries and *Reef Fish*.

The Council will discuss Council Planning and Primary Activities, and Other Business items, if any.

The Council will hold an Election for Council Chair and Vice-Chair. —Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting; both in-person and virtual participation available. You may register for the webinar to listen-in only by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and click on the Council meeting on the calendar.

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on the website as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions will be 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 Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final-action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid or

accommodations should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348–1630, at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: August 11, 2025.

Key Israel Marquez,

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–XF095]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Ferndale Refinery Dock Maintenance and Pile Replacement Project Activities in Ferndale, Washington

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of renewal of 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 a renewal incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to Phillips 66 to incidentally harass marine mammals incidental to Ferndale Refinery Dock Maintenance and Pile Replacement Project Activities in Ferndale, Washington.

DATES: This renewal IHA is valid from August 9, 2025 until August 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the original application, renewal request, and supporting documents (including NMFS **Federal Register** notices of the original proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, 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 below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Gatzke, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Section 101(a)(5)(A) and (D)

of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs 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 promulgated or, if the taking is limited to harassment, an incidental harassment authorization is issued.

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 such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as “mitigation measures”). NMFS must also prescribe requirements pertaining to monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definition of key terms such as “take,” “harassment,” and “negligible impact” can be found in the MMPA and NMFS’s implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

NMFS’ regulations implementing the MMPA at 50 CFR 216.107(e) indicate that IHAs may be renewed for additional periods of time not to exceed 1 year for each reauthorization. In the notice of proposed IHA for the initial IHA, NMFS described the circumstances under which we would consider issuing a renewal for this activity, and requested public comment on a potential renewal under those circumstances. Specifically, on a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-time 1-year renewal IHA following notice to the public providing an additional 15 days for public comments when (1) up to another year of identical, or nearly identical, activities as described in the Detailed Description of Specified Activities section of the initial IHA issuance notice is planned, or (2) the activities as described in the Description of the Specified Activities and Anticipated Impacts section of the initial IHA issuance notice would not be completed by the time the initial IHA expires and a renewal would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the **DATES** section of the notice of issuance of the initial IHA,

provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to the needed renewal IHA effective date (recognizing that the renewal IHA expiration date cannot extend beyond 1 year from expiration of the initial IHA).

2. The request for renewal must include the following:

- An explanation that the activities to be conducted under the requested renewal IHA are identical to the activities analyzed under the initial IHA, are a subset of the activities, or include changes so minor (*e.g.*, reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, mitigation and monitoring requirements, or take estimates (with the exception of reducing the type or amount of take).

- A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

3. Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

An additional public comment period of 15 days (for a total of 45 days), with direct notice by email, phone, or postal service to commenters on the initial IHA, is provided to allow for any additional comments on the proposed renewal. A description of the renewal process may be found on our website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-harassment-authorization-renewals>.

History of Request

On August 9, 2024, NMFS issued an IHA to Phillips 66 to take marine mammals incidental to construction activities at the Ferndale Refinery Dock in Ferndale, Washington (89 FR 66057; August 14, 2024), effective from August 9, 2024 through August 8, 2025.

On May 29, 2025, NMFS received an application for the renewal of that initial IHA. Phillips 66 submitted a revised version on June 5, 2025, which was deemed adequate and complete. As described in the application for renewal, the activities for which incidental take was requested are nearly identical to those covered in the initial authorization. As required, the