

manufacturing-centric AI data commons, developing standards for AI risk assessment tools, creating validated and interoperable AI manufacturing and/or supply chain network models, and building shared testbeds to support the integration between software and hardware needed for deployment by U.S. manufacturers. The institute will also be expected to support market transition of institute-developed technologies, ultimately supporting technology maturation into scale-up and industry use and to facilitate AI-related education and workforce development partnerships and programs.

NIST expects the institute to achieve time-bound outcomes for technical applications that support manufacturing resilience, such as, but not limited to:

- Accelerating qualification of new production technologies, facilities, or processes;
- Performing predictive maintenance of structures and equipment to eliminate down-time due to equipment failure;
- Optimizing manufacturing processes to reduce resource inputs and quality failures;
- Optimizing working capital to predict inventory needs; and/or;
- Predicting and mitigating risks from manufacturing supply chain network disruptions stemming from factors such as extreme climate events, while increasing visibility of potential domestic suppliers.

NIST intends that applications will be evaluated for merit and for alignment with program purposes and statutory requirements according to the authorizing legislation for Manufacturing USA, 15 U.S.C. 278s, and in 42 U.S.C. 18971, *Expanding opportunities through the Manufacturing USA Program* and 42 U.S.C. 18972, *Promoting domestic production of technologies developed under Manufacturing USA Program*.

**Award Information:** The U.S. Government intends to enter into a five-year agreement with the possibility of a non-competitive extension for up to an additional two (2) years and provide federal funding of up to \$70 million. This funding is to be matched or exceeded by funding from private industry and other non-federal sources, with a required minimum 1:1 cost share. To provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the solicitation before submitting a proposal, NIST will host a webinar and at least one in-person Proposer's Day. The exact date and location for the webinar and Proposer's Day(s) will be confirmed upon the release of the solicitation, anticipated to occur in early

Spring 2024. In addition, a preliminary high-level webinar following the release of this Notice of Intent is planned. NIST also expects to post and update answers to Frequently Asked Questions in support of this NOI and the future competition. Interested applicants should monitor <https://NIST.gov/oam> for updates.

**Application Process:** NIST plans to use a two-stage process for soliciting applications for this directed-topic Manufacturing USA institute. Concept Papers will be considered in the first stage of competition, and applicants submitting the most meritorious concepts will be invited to submit full proposals in the second stage of the competition. To limit burden on applicants and the Federal Government, only a single concept paper may be submitted from a lead applicant entity. However, entities may be partners on multiple proposals submitted. NIST anticipates that the due date for submission of concept papers will be a minimum of 45 days from the publication of the funding opportunity announcement.

In anticipation of the release of the funding opportunity, potential applicants are encouraged to complete the following preparations required for application submission:

- Ensure that your organization has a Unique Entity Identifier (UIE) with SAM.gov. The UIE has replaced the previous Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. More information may be found at: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-information>.
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register for a Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>) account. It is advisable also to go to "manage subscriptions" on Grants.gov and sign up to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a NOFO are posted.

**Disclaimer.** This NOI does not constitute a solicitation. No applications may be submitted in response to this NOI. NIST will post a future announcement to Grants.gov that will provide the full requirements for applying for an assistance award. When published, information within the Notice of Funding Opportunity will supersede in its entirety any information provided by this Notice. Any inconsistency between information within this Notice and the expected

*Notice of Funding Opportunity announcing NIST's AI for Manufacturing Resilience award competition shall be resolved in favor of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.*

**Authority.** Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, Public Law 113-235, Title VII—Revitalize America Manufacturing Innovation Act of 2014, codified at 15 U.S.C. 278s, as amended.

**Alicia Chambers,**

*NIST Executive Secretariat.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD768]

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery Public Listening Session Regarding the Harpoon Category

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold a public meeting to listen to concerns and gather input regarding the Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category fishery. During the meeting, stakeholders and the public may express their thoughts about harpooning practices, including concerns related to fishing activities in proximity to mobile-gear vessels and harpooning during nighttime hours.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on March 28, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be accessible via WebEx webinar/conference call. Webinar access information will be available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/public-listening-session-atlantic-tunas-harpoon-category-fishery>.

Participants accessing the webinar are strongly encouraged to log/dial in 15 minutes prior to the meeting. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anna Quintrell (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section) at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anna Quintrell, [anna.quintrell@noaa.gov](mailto:anna.quintrell@noaa.gov), or Larry Redd, [larry.redd@noaa.gov](mailto:larry.redd@noaa.gov), at 301-427-8503.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS)

fisheries, including the bluefin tuna (BFT) fisheries, are managed under the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan and its amendments pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and consistent with the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). HMS implementing regulations are at 50 CFR part 635.

In response to petitions for rulemaking submitted in 2021 and 2023, NMFS has engaged in deliberations regarding the management of the Harpoon category fishery for BFT. The petitioners advocated for regulatory measures to limit harpoon fishing near vessels using mobile gear that is used to fish for groundfish, scallops, or clams and to restrict the deployment of floating bait for the purpose of attracting BFT to the surface for harpooning. The petitioners felt the practices were contrary to the traditional method of fishing with harpoon gear, would cause the Harpoon category quota to be filled too quickly, and would cause safety issues. The petitioners also advocated for fishing with harpoon gear only during the day and prohibiting nighttime fishing due to safety concerns.

During the September 2023 HMS Advisory Panel meeting, stakeholders were invited to provide public comment on the aforementioned petitions. NMFS recognized the significance of ongoing dialogue and indicated the possibility of further discussions on the matter in the future.

The upcoming listening session allows NMFS to hear from stakeholders and the public regarding any insights, concerns, and recommendations pertaining to the Harpoon category in general and the aforementioned petitions.

For this meeting, we anticipate hearing from the public about the following topics:

- Recent harpooning practices and techniques in the BFT fishery;
- Recent harpooning activities in the BFT fishery in proximity to mobile-gear vessels;

- The impact of nighttime harpooning; and,
  - Thoughts about the potential regulatory changes regarding the Harpoon category fishery.
- The public is reminded that NMFS expects participants of the meeting to conduct themselves appropriately. At the beginning of the meeting, the moderator will explain how the meeting will be conducted and how and when participants can provide comments. NMFS will structure the meeting so that all members of the public will be able to comment. Participants are expected to respect the ground rules, and those that do not may be asked to leave.

Dated: March 7, 2024.  
**Everett Wayne Baxter,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD656]

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 Coonamessett Farm

Foundation. 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 12, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by email at [nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line “CFF Great South Channel HMA Clam EFP.”

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing in <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/information-technology/foia-reading-room> 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:** Douglas Potts, Fishery Policy Analyst, [douglas.potts@noaa.gov](mailto:douglas.potts@noaa.gov), 978–281–9341.

**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 648.370(h).	Habitat Management Areas—prohibition on using bottom-tending mobile gear.	To conduct compensation fishing with hydraulic clam dredges.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Compensation fishing in support of a Great South Channel Habitat Management Area study phase II: an acoustic mapping survey of Davis Bank East
Division action number .....	DA23–073.
Principal Investigator .....	Natalie Jennings.
Institution .....	Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF).
Continuing project (yes/no) .....	Yes.
Initial application date .....	September 26, 2023.
Complete application date .....	December 5, 2023.
Funding source .....	Compensation fishing.
Project Start .....	Upon issue.
Project End .....	1 year from issue.