

- Increase Access for Outdoor Recreation.
- Incentivize and Reward the Voluntary Conservation Efforts of Fishers, Ranchers, Farmers, and Forest Owners.
- Create Jobs by Investing in Restoration and Resilience.

As directed by Section 216(a) of the Executive Order, the Report proposes guidelines for determining whether lands and waters qualify for conservation, and establishes mechanisms to measure and monitor progress toward the 30-percent goal. This will be accomplished through two complementary steps described in the Report. The first is the development of an American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, which will provide a baseline assessment of the amount and types of lands and waters that are currently being managed for conservation and restoration purposes, as well as track progress of conservation and restoration efforts going forward. The Atlas will be developed by an interagency working group of agency experts, co-chaired by NOAA, with input from the public, states, tribal nations, scientists, and a wide range of stakeholders. The second step is the publication of annual America the Beautiful updates on Federal efforts to support locally led conservation and restoration efforts, with the first update due by the end of 2021.

Section 216(a) of the Executive Order further directs the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce through the NOAA Administrator, and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality to solicit input from state, local, tribal, and territorial officials, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders in identifying strategies that will encourage broad participation in the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. NOAA has significant experience in the conservation and restoration of U.S. lands and waters. Accordingly, NOAA has existing authorities, as well as associated regulations, conservation and management plans, and similar measures. These include the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Coral Reef Conservation Act, and others. NOAA is seeking public input on the use of NOAA's existing authorities and associated measures to advance the goals and recommendations in the Report, including the eight core

principles and six areas of early focus and progress. As such, NOAA invites the public to provide input to help guide NOAA's conservation and restoration of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; NOAA's engagement on the development of the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas; and NOAA's efforts to track its progress toward advancing the goals and recommendations in the Report for inclusion in the annual updates. Specifically, NOAA is seeking public input on the following:

- Which of NOAA's existing authorities and associated measures, as listed above, are most appropriate for addressing the threats identified in the Report, which are the disappearance of nature, climate change, and inequitable access to the outdoors.
- Whether NOAA should better apply its existing authorities and associated measures, as listed above, to advance the goals and recommendations in the Report.
- What criteria NOAA should consider in working with other agencies to identify existing or potential new "conserved" or "restored" areas for the purpose of advancing the goals and recommendations in the Report.
- What additional scientific information, Indigenous Knowledge, or other expertise NOAA should consider in order to advance the goals and recommendations in the Report.
- How NOAA should consider tracking its actions and measuring its progress, including with partners, toward advancing the goals and recommendations in the Report.
- What actions NOAA should consider taking to support non-Federal entities, including tribal, state, territorial, and local governments and non-governmental organizations and other private entities, to advance their efforts to conserve and restore U.S. lands and waters.
- What actions NOAA should consider taking to facilitate broad participation in the America the Beautiful initiative.
- What additional information NOAA should consider as relevant to its role in implementing the America the Beautiful initiative.

Respondents are encouraged to focus their comments on actions that NOAA is authorized to take under its existing authorities and associated measures, as listed above. More information on NOAA's authorities, the eight core principles and six areas of early focus and progress in the Report, and other relevant resources is available at NOAA's website for Conserving and

Restoring America the Beautiful: <https://noaa.gov/america-the-beautiful>.

Richard W. Spinrad,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2021-23590 Filed 10-28-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB542]

Endangered Species; File No. 25686

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach, Miami, FL, 33149 (Responsible Party: Lisa Desfosse, Ph.D.) has applied in due form for a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and unidentified sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before November 29, 2021.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 25686 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 25686 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Markin or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act

of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The applicant proposes to evaluate modifications to commercial fishing gear to mitigate sea turtle interactions and capture under two projects in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea and their estuarine and coastal environments: (1) Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Evaluations in Trawl Fisheries and (2) Evaluation of Longline Alternative Methods. These evaluations and subsequent gear modifications could help reduce incidental turtle bycatch in the gear types studied. The applicant proposes to conduct research on sea turtles bycaught in fisheries managed by Federal authority or during directed research to test different gear configurations. For the TED Evaluations project, the applicant requests the following annual take numbers to study turtles bycaught in commercial fisheries or directly captured by researchers using trawls: 160 loggerhead, 42 Kemp's ridley, 10 leatherback, 21 green, and 10 hawksbill sea turtles. For the Evaluation of Longline Alternative Methods project, the applicant requests the following annual take numbers for those individuals bycaught in commercial fisheries: 3 loggerhead, 2 Kemp's ridley, 18 leatherback, 2 green, and 2 hawksbill sea turtles. All individuals captured will be handled, measured, weighed, photographed, flipper tagged, passive integrated transponder tagged, skin biopsied, and released. Biological samples may be imported for analysis and curation. For each project, up to 10 unidentified sea turtle carcasses that unintentionally die in a fishery may be salvaged. The applicant requests 3 loggerhead, 2 Kemp's ridley, 2 green, and 2 leatherback sea turtle mortalities for the life of the permit for individuals that may unintentionally die during research. The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

Dated: October 25, 2021.

Julia M. Harrison,

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2021–23631 Filed 10–28–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB553]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Skate Committee and Advisory Panel via webinar 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 webinar will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6528466157133795344>.

ADDRESSES: 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 Skate Committee and Advisory Panel will develop Framework Adjustment 9 which the Council initiated in September to consider revising the Northeast Skate Complex FMP objectives and the Federal skate permit characteristics. They will also finalize recommendations for 2022 Council work priorities regarding skates. The Council will consider these recommendations at the December Council meeting. Other business may be discussed, as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action 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 the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be

aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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.

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

Dated: October 26, 2021.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–23634 Filed 10–28–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB538]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Notice That Vendor Will Provide 2022 Cage Tags

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS informs surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota allocation holders that they will be required to purchase their fishing year 2022 (January 1, 2022–December 31, 2022) cage tags from the National Band and Tag Company. The intent of this notice is to comply with regulations for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries and to promote efficient distribution of cage tags.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aimee Ahles, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9373.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fishery regulations at 50 CFR 648.77(b) authorize the Regional Administrator of the Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, to specify in the **Federal Register**, a vendor from whom cage tags, required under the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan, shall be purchased. Notice is hereby given that National Band and Tag Company of Newport, Kentucky, is the authorized vendor of cage tags required for the fishing year 2022 Federal surfclam and ocean quahog