

Dated: May 15, 2025.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-09018 Filed 5-19-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE870]

Marine Mammals; File No. 22156

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Douglas Nowacek, Ph.D., Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University Marine Laboratory, 135 Duke Marine Lab Rd., Beaufort, NC 28516, has been issued a minor amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 22156-05.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Hapeman or Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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 through 226).

The original permit (No. 22156), issued on May 8, 2020 (85 FR 35638, June 11, 2020) authorized the permit holder to conduct research on 31 cetacean species in U.S. and international waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. Species include endangered blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin (*B. physalus*), sei (*B. borealis*), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) whales. Researchers may conduct surveys by vessel and an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to approach, count, observe, photograph, remotely measure, and track cetaceans. During surveys, researchers may conduct acoustic playback trials, collect

biological samples, and tag animals. Non-target cetaceans in the vicinity of research may be unintentionally harassed. Biological samples collected in international waters may be imported into the United States and cell lines may be developed from tissue samples. Two minor amendments to the permit were issued to update biopsy sampling mitigation measures (Permit No. 22156-01; January 29, 2021) and expand the use of UAS to all authorized species (Permit No. 22156-02; May 23, 2022). A major amendment to the permit was issued to authorize dart tagging of 12 species in the permit and reallocate take numbers for fin whales (Permit No. 22156-03; March 15, 2023). A minor amendment to the permit was issued to authorize an additional method of collecting blow samples (Permit No. 22156-04; June 30, 2023). A major amendment to the permit was issued to authorize temporary paintball marking of two cetacean species authorized in the permit (Permit No. 22156-05; October 16, 2023). This minor amendment extends the duration of the permit through May 31, 2026, but does not change any other terms or conditions of the permit.

Dated: May 14, 2025.

Shannon Bettridge,

Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2025-08942 Filed 5-19-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE926]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public meetings of the Council.

DATES: The meetings will be held Tuesday, June 3 through Thursday, June 5, 2025. For agenda details, see

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option. Council members, other meeting participants, and members of the public will have the option to participate in person at the Hilton Garden Inn Virginia

Beach Oceanfront (3315 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451) or virtually via Webex webinar. Webinar connection instructions and briefing materials will be available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/june-2025>.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255. The Council's website, www.mafmc.org, also has details on the meeting location, proposed agenda, webinar listen-in access, and briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the agenda, although agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's website when possible.)

Tuesday, June 3rd

Spiny Dogfish Accountability Measures Modification Framework: Framework Meeting #1

Review draft alternatives
Adopt range of alternatives for further development and analysis
Consider merging 2026-2027 specifications into Framework

2026-2028 Blueline Tilefish Specification

Review of 2025 Southeast data, Assessment, and Review 92 (SEDAR 92) operational assessment (SEFSC staff)

Review recommendations from the Advisory Panel, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Monitoring Committee, and staff
Adopt specifications for 2026-2028
Review and revise 2026-2028 commercial and recreational measures if necessary

2026 Golden Tilefish Specifications

Review recommendations from the Advisory Panel, SSC, Monitoring Committee, and staff
Review previously adopted 2026 specifications and management measures, and recommend changes if necessary

NEFSC Cost Survey for Commercial Fishing Businesses Presentation (Gregory Ardini, Economist, NOAA Fisheries)

Update on research projects using data from the 2023 Northeast Commercial Fishing Cost Survey

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Rulemaking (GARFO Protected Resources Division Staff)

Update from NOAA Fisheries on anticipated Take Reduction Team activities and timeline

Wednesday, June 4th

Unmanaged Commercial Landings Report

Review and provide feedback

2025 Modular Ocean Model (MOM) 6 Presentation

(Vincent Saba, NEFSC Ecosystem Dynamics & Assessment Branch)

2025 ocean temperature forecast and ten year outlook

White Paper on Separate OFLs an ABCs for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

Review progress and provide guidance to SSC sub-group on next steps

Offshore Wind Monitoring Standards Update (Northeast Fisheries Science Center staff: Elizabeth Methratta, Chris Orphanides, and Angela Silva)

Update on NOAA Fisheries Offshore Wind monitoring standards

———— LUNCH ————

2026–2028 Chub Mackerel Specifications

Review recommendations from the Advisory Panel, SSC, Monitoring Committee, and staff

Adopt specifications for 2026–2028

2026 Butterfish Specifications

Review recommendations from the Advisory Panel, SSC, Monitoring Committee, and staff

Review previously adopted 2026 specifications and management measures, and recommend changes if necessary

2026 Longfin Squid Specifications

Review recommendations from the Advisory Panel, SSC, Monitoring Committee, and staff

Review previously adopted 2026 specifications and management measures, and recommend changes if necessary

2026 Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Specifications

Review recommendations from the Advisory Panel, SSC, and staff

Review previously adopted 2026 specifications and management measures, and recommend changes if necessary

Gear Marking/On-Demand Gear Framework

Update from PDT/FMAT

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Council Members

Thursday, June 5th

Business Session

Committee Reports (SSC); Executive Director's Report (Discuss Council response to Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness); Organization Reports; and Liaison Reports

Other Business and General Public Comment

Although 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 identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c).

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 15, 2025.

Rey 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–XE795]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak Homeporting Facility in Kodiak, Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued two consecutive incidental harassment authorizations (IHA) to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to Base Kodiak Homeporting Facility in Womens Bay, Kodiak, Alaska.

DATES: The year 1 authorization is effective from May 19, 2025, through May 18, 2026. The year 2 authorization is effective from May 19, 2026, through May 18, 2027.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

MMPA Background and Determinations

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Among the exceptions is section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) which directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment 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 the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed IHA.

Specifically, NMFS will issue an IHA if it 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”). NMFS