

**SUMMARY:** This action reopens the comment period of a notice published on December 21, 2011. The original comment period on the notice closed at 5 p.m., E.S.T., March 1, 2012; however, the Council's Executive Committee voted to reopen the comment period an additional 60 days. This notice reopens the comment period to 5 p.m., E.S.T., April 30, 2012.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 5 p.m., E.S.T., on April 30, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Travis Ford, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9233.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS published a NOI to prepare an EIS and announced public scoping meetings for the Council's Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan on December 21, 2011 (76 FR 79153). The comment period for the subject document closed on March 1, 2012. The Council's Executive Committee voted to reopen the comment period an additional 60 days. The closing date for comments has been extended to 5 p.m., E.S.T., April 30, 2012.

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

Dated: March 6, 2012.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

[FR Doc. 2012-5919 Filed 3-9-12; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XB066**

#### Marine Recreational Fisheries of the United States; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)/ Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Calibration Workshop.

**SUMMARY:** SEDAR and NOAA Fisheries Service will convene a workshop to consider calibration methods for the MRFSS and MRIP estimates of marine recreational fisheries harvest.

**DATES:** The workshop will be held March 27-29, 2012. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The MRFSS/MRIP Calibration Workshop will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Brownstone—University, 1707 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27605; telephone: (800) 331-7919 or (919) 828-0811.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Carmichael, Science and Statistics Program Manager, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571-4366.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Changes in estimated recreational catch resulting from the revised estimation process developed through MRIP may have consequences to assessment and management of many fish stocks. Managers and scientists need to consider how revised marine recreational catch values will affect stock assessments and management actions, and how to best incorporate revised values into assessment and management systems. SEDAR and NOAA Fisheries are working cooperatively to address these recreational catch issues through the planned workshop. Workshop objectives are to review a range of studies that may provide insight for potential MRIP-MRFSS calibrations, develop possible calibration methods, and develop guidance for incorporating revised estimates into stock assessments.

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 1 p.m.–6 p.m.:* Review of calibration methodologies applied in other monitoring programs and MRFSS/MRIP calibration studies.

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012: 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.:* Overview of catch estimates, impacts of re-estimates on stock assessments, discussion of calibration methods.

*Thursday, March 29, 2012, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.:* Discussion of calibration procedures and recommendations.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the South Atlantic Council office (4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; (843) 571-4366) at least 5 business days prior to the workshop.

Dated: March 6, 2012.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XA999**

#### Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals

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

**ACTION:** Notice; affirmative finding renewal.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, (Assistant Administrator) has granted an affirmative finding 2-year renewal to the Government of Ecuador under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This affirmative finding renewal will allow yellowfin tuna harvested in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) in compliance with the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) by Ecuadorian-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Ecuadorian jurisdiction to be imported into the United States. The affirmative finding renewal was based on review of documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Ecuador and obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

**DATES:** The affirmative finding renewal is effective from April 1, 2011, through March 31, 2013 (retroactive).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone 562-980-4000; fax 562-980-4018.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, allows the entry into the United States of yellowfin tuna harvested by purse seine vessels in the ETP under certain conditions. If requested by the harvesting nation, the Assistant Administrator will determine whether to make an affirmative finding based upon documentary evidence provided by the government of the harvesting nation, the IATTC, or the Department of State.

The affirmative finding process requires that the harvesting nation is meeting its obligations under the IDCP and obligations of membership in the IATTC. Every 5 years, the government of the harvesting nation must request an affirmative finding and submit the required documentary evidence directly to the Assistant Administrator. NMFS