

continued successful reproduction in the wild can no longer be confirmed". Also, *A. baerii* was introduced in captive breeding facilities and hybridized with *A. naccarii* in Italy in the 1990s. Subsequently, *A. baerii* has also been found in the wild occasionally in Italy, with fish sporadically escaping from rearing plants or angling ponds, or being released when they become too large for private aquaria. These events may also have contributed to *A. naccarii*'s decline.

A. sinensis in the Yangtze River Region

The IUCN first assessed *A. sinensis* as "endangered" in 1996 and elevated its ranking to "critically endangered" in 2010, owing to declines in the species from overharvest, habitat destruction, and potentially from water pollution. Construction of the Gezhouba dam in 1981 blocked the migration routes of this species to all but one of its spawning grounds in the Yangtze River. The species has been extirpated in most of the rest of its range.

A. mikadoi and Huso dauricus in the Amur River Basin/Sea of Japan/Sea of Okhotsk Region

The IUCN first assessed *A. mikadoi* as "endangered" in 1996 and elevated its ranking to "critically endangered" in 2010, owing to overharvest, poaching, habitat degradation and pollution. Only one spawning site remains.

The IUCN first assessed *H. dauricus* as "rare" in 1986, elevated its ranking to "endangered" in 1996, and elevated it again to "critically endangered" in 2010, owing to overharvest, poaching, and recent pollution. The species is poached for caviar roe. One study documented parasite effects on fecundity (CITES, 2000). According to the IUCN assessment, at the end of the 19th century annual commercial catch was 500 tonnes. The species was added to CITES Appendix II in 1998.

Petition Finding

After reviewing the information contained in the petition, as well as information readily available in our files, we conclude the petition presents substantial scientific information indicating the petitioned actions of listing five species of sturgeon, or DPSs of these species, under our jurisdiction as threatened or endangered may be warranted. Therefore, in accordance with section 4(b)(3)(B) of the ESA and NMFS' implementing regulations (50 CFR 424.14(b)(2)), we will commence a review of the status of these species and make determinations within 12 months of receiving the petition as to whether the petitioned actions are warranted.

Information Solicited

To ensure that the status review is based on the best available scientific and commercial data, we are soliciting information on whether these five sturgeon species are endangered or threatened. Specifically, we are soliciting information in the following areas throughout the range of these species: (1) Historical and current distribution and abundance; (2) historical and current population trends; (3) biological information (life history, genetics, population connectivity, DPS structure, etc.); (4) landings and trade data; (5) management, regulatory, and enforcement information; (6) any current or planned activities that may adversely impact the species; and (7) ongoing or planned efforts to protect and restore the species and their habitats. We request that all information be accompanied by: (1) Supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications; and (2) the submitter's name, address, and any association, institution, or business that the person represents.

References Cited

A complete list of references is available upon request from NMFS Protected Resources Headquarters Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: August 21, 2012.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, performing the functions and duties of the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-21061 Filed 8-24-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC194

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Assessment Process Webinar for Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel and Cobia

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

ACTION: Notice of SEDAR 28 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Spanish mackerel and cobia assessment webinar.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 28 assessment of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Spanish mackerel and cobia fisheries will consist of a series of workshops and supplemental webinars. This notice is for a webinar associated with the Assessment portion of the SEDAR process.

DATES: The SEDAR 28 Assessment Workshop Webinar #8 will be held on September 12, 2012, 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. EDT. The established time may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from, or completed prior to, the times established by this notice.

ADDRESSES: The webinar will be held via a GoToMeeting Webinar Conference. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Ryan Rindone at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** below) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request meeting information at least 24 hours in advance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Rindone, SEDAR Coordinator, 2203 N Lois Ave, Suite 1100, Tampa FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630; email: ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries, has implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process involving a workshop and webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery

Management Council, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, and the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of councils, commissions, and state and federal agencies.

SEDAR 28 Assessment Workshop Webinar

Panelists will continue deliberations and discussions regarding modeling methodologies for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Spanish mackerel and cobia fisheries.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting.

Dated: August 22, 2012.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-21089 Filed 8-24-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC190

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council)

and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Pacific Council and its advisory entities will meet September 13–18, 2012. The Pacific Council meeting will begin on Friday, September 14, 2012 at 10 a.m., reconvening each day through Tuesday, September 18, 2012. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held at the end of business on Friday, September 14 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Pacific Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

ADDRESSES: Meetings of the Pacific Council and its advisory entities will be held at the Riverside Hotel, 2900 Chinden Boulevard, Boise, ID 83714; telephone: (208) 343-1871.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 820-2280 or (866) 806-7204 toll free; or access the Pacific Council Web site, <http://www.pccouncil.org> for the current meeting location, proposed agenda, and meeting briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the Pacific Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order:

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks
2. Roll Call
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Agenda

B. Enforcement Issues

Current Enforcement Issues

C. Highly Migratory Species Management

National Marine Fisheries Service Report

D. Habitat

Current Habitat Issues

E. Salmon Management

1. California Hatchery Review Report
2. 2012 Salmon Methodology Review
3. Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 17—Annual Regulatory Cycle and Minor Updates
4. FMP Amendment 18—Update of Essential Fish Habitat for Salmon
5. Lower Columbia Endangered Species Act Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan

F. Pacific Halibut Management

1. Pacific Halibut Management South of Humbug Mountain
2. 2013 Pacific Halibut Regulations
3. Pacific Halibut Bycatch Estimate for Use in 2013 Groundfish Fisheries

G. Administrative Matters

1. Legislative Matters
2. Research Planning
3. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes
4. Fiscal Matters
5. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
6. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

H. Groundfish Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
2. Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions for Cost Recovery and Process Issues
3. Stocks Assessment Planning
4. Update on Biological Opinion for the Groundfish Fishery, Including Consideration of Seabird Protection Regulations
5. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
6. Phase I Report for Essential Fish Habitat Review
7. Reconsideration of Initial Catch Share Allocations in the Mothership and Shoreside Pacific Whiting Fisheries

I. Open Comment Period

Comments on Non-Agenda Items

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

Day 1—Thursday, September 13, 2012:	
Habitat Committee	8 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team Scientific and Statistical Committee.	8 a.m.
Legislative Committee	2 p.m.
Budget Committee	3:30 p.m.
Enforcement Consultants	6 p.m.
Day 2—Friday, September 14, 2012:	
California State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation Washington State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team.	8 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team Scientific and Statistical Committee.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.	3 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants Chair's Reception	As Needed.
6 p.m.	
Day 3—Saturday, September 15, 2012:	