

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Malcolm Mohead or Erin Markin, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

On November 27, 2015, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (80 FR 74085) that requests for scientific research permits to take shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon had been submitted by the above-named individuals. The requested permits have been issued 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).

*File No. 19331:* The applicant's objectives are to characterize Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon habitat use in the lower Delaware River (between rkm 0 to rkm 245), studying their relative abundance, recruitment, temporal-spatial distributions, and reproduction. The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

*File No. 19642:* The applicant will be authorized to determine and quantify new populations of Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon in the York, Rappahannock, Potomac, and Susquehanna Rivers, and other Chesapeake Bay tributaries of Virginia and Maryland. Additionally, researchers will monitor sturgeon spawning activity, movement, and habitat use through telemetry and side-scan sonar technology. Additionally, researchers will sample Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon captured under other ESA incidental take permits or incidental take statements of other actions to track their coastal wide movements of these species. The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

Issuance of these permits, as required by the ESA, is based on a finding that such permits (1) are applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered or threatened species, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 28, 2016.

**Julia Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016-18348 Filed 8-2-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE776**

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its *Habitat* Committee 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 meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18, 2016, at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; Phone: (508) 339-2200; Fax: (508) 339-1040.

*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 committee will discuss two ongoing habitat-related management actions. Related to the Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment, the committee will review preliminary economic and biological impacts of deep-sea coral zone designations, and discuss whether the amendment should include alternatives to restrict *lobster* trap gear within these zones. Related to the Clam Dredge Framework, the committee will review habitat characterization data for two habitat management areas (HMAs) and develop guidance for the Plan Development Team related to the design of clam dredge exemption area alternatives within these HMAs. The committee may discuss other business as needed.

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 these meetings. 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.

**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: July 29, 2016.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016-18374 Filed 8-2-16; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE763**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 18879**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Heather E. Liwanag, Ph.D. (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0401), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) near McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before September 2, 2016.

**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. 18879 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may