

Please direct media inquiries to NIST's Office of Public Affairs at 301-975-2762.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NWIRP was established by Public Law 108-360 Title II and reauthorized in Public Law 114-52 (the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015) on September 30, 2015. Congress established NWIRP "to achieve major measurable reductions in the losses of life and property from windstorms through a coordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at improving the understanding of windstorms and their impacts and developing and encouraging the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those impacts." 42 U.S.C. 15703(a).

NIST has been designated as the Lead Agency for NWIRP. Other designated Program agencies are the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF). 42 U.S.C. 15703(b).

As the lead agency, NIST has the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the Program. This responsibility includes:

- Ensuring that the Program includes the necessary components to promote the implementation of windstorm risk reduction measures;
- Supporting the development of performance-based engineering tools, and working with appropriate groups to promote the commercial application of such tools;
- Requesting the assistance of Federal agencies other than the Program agencies, as necessary;
- Coordinating all Federal post-windstorm investigations to the extent practicable; and
- When warranted by research or investigative findings, issuing recommendations to assist in informing the development of model codes, and providing information to Congress on the use of such recommendations.

Statutory responsibilities for each of the Program agencies include:

NSF—support research in (1) engineering and the atmospheric sciences to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines; and (2) economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

NOAA—support atmospheric sciences research to improve the understanding of the behavior of

windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

NIST—carry out research and development to improve model building codes, voluntary standards, and best practices for the design, construction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

FEMA—(1) support the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques; windstorm-related data collection and analysis; public outreach and information dissemination; and promotion of the adoption of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures, including for households, businesses, and communities; and (2) work closely with national standards and model building code organizations, in conjunction with NIST, to promote the implementation of research results and better building practices within the building design and construction industry, including architects, engineers, contractors, builders, and inspectors.

The Draft NWIRP Strategic Plan describes the goals, objectives, and strategic priorities needed to accomplish the Program purpose. They were developed following review and assessment of prior national research needs and planning documents, NWIRP Program agency input, and in consideration of stakeholder input. Stakeholder input was obtained through the NWIRP Strategic Planning Stakeholder's Workshop, held at the National Science Foundation on June 17, 2016. This Workshop was attended by over 80 participants from the public and private sectors who engaged in a series of 11 breakout sessions and provided ideas to help shape the Draft NWIRP Strategic Plan.

Request for Public Comments: Persons interested in commenting on the Draft NWIRP Strategic Plan can submit their written comments to NIST in three ways. Comments may be submitted by email to nwirp@nist.gov, by fax to (301) 869-6275, or by mail to: National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, Attention: Dr. Marc Levitan, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8611, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8615.

When submitting comments, inclusion of name, affiliation, and contact information (phone number and/or email address in case of questions about the comment) are optional. All comments received in response to this notice will become part of the public record and will be posted on the NIST Web site at <https://www.nist.gov/el/mssd/nwirp>. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not

widely published should include copies of the referenced materials. All comments will be made publicly available; therefore, personal, proprietary or confidential information should not be included. All comments must be received by NIST by May 15, 2017 in accordance with the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of the notice above. Comments received after this time will not be considered.

Kevin Kimball,
Chief of Staff.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF277

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a 5-day meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

DATES: The meetings will be held on April 3-7, 2017. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2017. On Tuesday, April 4 through Friday, April 7, 2017, the meetings will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Council's Office, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's SSC will hold a 5-day meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Report from the DAPs Meetings (March 7-8, 2017)
- Action 3: Management Reference Points for Stocks/Stock for each Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix Fishery Management Plan (FMP); Process for setting Reference Points, MSY proxies, OFL, ABC for species/species complexes/groupings

How indicator species will be employed?
 Time Series: Select a time series of landings data to establish management reference points for a stock/stock complex, as applicable.
 Determination of likely stock/complex status
 Define process for determination of scalars used in ABC Control Rule
 Define process for determination of buffers used in ABC Control Rule
 Determine Reference Points (e.g., OFL, ABC) for species/species groupings for each Island
 —Use of multi-year sequences for comparison to OFL (NS1)
 —Other Business
 —Next Meeting

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1903; telephone (787) 766–5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 9, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2017–04965 Filed 3–13–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF177

Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; Deep-Set Tuna Longline Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; rescheduled public meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS, in coordination with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), intends to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to analyze the environmental impacts of the continued authorization and management of U.S. Pacific Island deep-set tuna longline fisheries under the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific (FEP)

and other applicable laws. The analysis would include certain longline fisheries based in Hawaii, the U.S. west coast, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The PEIS is intended to support management of U.S. pelagic longline fisheries.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates. NMFS must receive comments by April 14, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this action, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2017–0010, by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NMFS-2017-0010>, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- *Mail:* Send written comments to Michael D. Tosatto, Regional Administrator, NMFS Pacific Islands Region (PIR), 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818.
- *Scoping Meeting:* Submit written comments at a scoping meeting.

Instructions: You must submit comments by the above methods to ensure that NMFS receives, documents, and considers your comments. NMFS may not consider comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. NMFS will consider all comments received as part of the public record and will generally post comments for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Copies of the FEP, amendments, and previous EISs are available at <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NMFS-2017-0010>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ariel Jacobs, NMFS, Pacific Islands Regional Office, (808) 725–5182.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS previously published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a PEIS to analyze the environmental impacts of the continued authorization and management of U.S. Pacific Island deep-set tuna longline fisheries under the FEP and other applicable laws (81 FR 10467, February 13, 2017). You may find details

regarding development of the PEIS in that NOI; we do not repeat them here.

The NOI announced public scoping meetings in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are rescheduling the meetings in American Samoa. NMFS will hold public meetings at the dates and locations below. All meetings will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

1. Fagatogo

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Fale Tele of the American Samoa Senate (Fono), Senate building, Fagatogo, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

2. Lailii

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Fale Tele of HTC Vaimaona, Lailii, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

3. Tafuna

Thursday, March 30, 2017

NOAA GMD/PIFSC Compound Tafuna, 8043 Tasi St., Tafuna, AS 96799.

Special Accommodations

NMFS will make every attempt to make these meetings accessible to people with disabilities. Direct any requests for sign language interpretation, physical assistance, or other auxiliary aids to Ariel Jacobs at (808) 725–5182 at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 9, 2017.

Karen H. Abrams,

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

[FR Doc. 2017–04996 Filed 3–13–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN0648–XE954

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to a Breakwater Replacement Project in Eastport, Maine

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine