

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for locations of the hearings.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; Web site: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will hold nine public hearings:

1. *April 24, 2017, 5-7 p.m.:* The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, 12320 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21842, phone: (410) 213-0144.

2. *April 25, 2017, 5-7 p.m.:* Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME 04101, phone: (207) 775-2311.

3. *April 26, 2017, 5-7 p.m.:* Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station, 30 Emerson Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930, phone: (978) 282-0308.

4. *May 2, 2017, 5-7 p.m.:* Congress Hall, 200 Congress Place, Cape May, NJ 08204, phone: (609) 884-8421.

5. *May 3, 2017, 5-7 p.m.:* DoubleTree by Hilton Tinton Falls, 700 Hope Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724, phone: (732) 544-9300.

6. *May 4, 2017, 6-8 p.m.:* Webinar, <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/squid2017/> phone: (800) 832-0736, Rm: \*7833942#. A listening station will be available at Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor, Newport News, VA 23607, phone: (757) 247-2200.

7. *May 8, 2017, 5-8 p.m.:* University of Rhode Island, Corless Auditorium, Watkins Building, 218 Ferry Rd., Narragansett, RI 0411-874-6222.

8. *May 9, 2017, 4:30-7 p.m.:* Doubletree by Hilton Cape Cod—Hyannis, 287 Iyannough Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601, 508-771-1700.

9. *May 11, 2017, 5-7 p.m.:* Hyatt Place Long Island/East End, 431 East Main St., Riverhead, NY 11901, 631-208-0002.

*Addresses for written comments:* Written comments may be sent through mail, email, fax, or online through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2017.

—Mail to Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901 (please write “Squid Amendment Comments” on the outside of the envelope);

—Fax to Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery

Management Council at 302-674-5399 (please include “Squid Amendment Comments” in the subject line);

—Email to [squid@mafmc.org](mailto:squid@mafmc.org);

—Online at <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/squid-amendment-public-comments>.

The purpose of the meetings and comment period is gather input from the public on the alternatives in the amendment. The objectives of this action are to:

A. Consider the appropriate number of vessels in the directed longfin squid and *Illex* squid fisheries and design appropriate management measures for permitted vessels. The Council is considering this action because there is considerable latent effort in both fisheries—a relatively small portion of vessels with limited access (“moratorium”) squid permits account for the majority of landings in most years. The Council is concerned that activation of latent permits in the squid fisheries could lead to excessive fishing effort (shortening seasons) on these semeparous, sub-annual species, and increased catch of non-target species.

B. Re-evaluate the management of longfin squid in Trimester 2. The Council is considering this action because the productivity of the longfin squid stock may be negatively impacted if excessive fishing effort in T2, which occurs on the inshore spawning grounds, does not allow sufficient spawning and/or hatching from egg mops. Additional information and relevant background documents are available on the Council’s Web site at <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/squid-capacity-amendment>. The public hearing document, which describes and analyzes the alternatives, will be posted there by April 18, 2017.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to any meeting date.

Dated: April 3, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017-06807 Filed 4-5-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Science Advisory Board (SAB); Notice of Open Meeting

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

*Time and Date:* The meeting will be held Monday, April 24, 2017 from 9:45 a.m. EDT to 5:45 p.m. EDT and on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. EDT to 12:00 p.m. EDT. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Please refer to the Web page [www.sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx](http://www.sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx) for the most up-to-date meeting times and agenda.

*Place:* The meeting will be held at The DoubleTree by Hilton, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20910.

*Status:* The meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period on April 25th from 10:45-11:00 a.m. EDT (check Web site to confirm time). The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of two (2) minutes. Individuals or groups planning to make a verbal presentation should contact the SAB Executive Director by April 17, 2017 to schedule their presentation. Written comments should be received in the SAB Executive Director’s Office by April 17, 2017, to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after April 17, 2017, will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seating at the meeting will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Special Accommodations:** These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed no later than 12:00 p.m. on April 17, 2017, to Dr. Cynthia Decker, SAB Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MC 20910; Email: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov).

**Matters to be Considered:** The meeting will include the following topics: (1) Draft Report on Indigenous and Local Ecological Knowledge and NOAA; (2) Proposal for Creation of a High Performance Computing Standing Working Group; (3) Discussion of the Process to Review SAB Standing Working Groups; (4) Discussion of Short-Term Topics for the SAB; (5) Discussion on SAB Transition Materials; and (6) Updates from the Acting NOAA Administrator and Acting Chief Scientist.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Room 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Email: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov); or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

Dated: March 31, 2017.

**Paul Johnson,**

*Acting Deputy Chief Financial Officer/CAO, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2017-06858 Filed 4-5-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE687**

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental To Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to a Tidal Marsh Restoration Project**

**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 Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife—Central Region (CADFW) to

incidentally harass, by Level B harassment only, marine mammals during construction activities associated with the tidal marsh restoration project within the Minhoto-Hester Marsh in Elkhorn Slough (Monterey, CA).

**DATES:** This Authorization is in effect for one year beginning August 1, 2017.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephanie Egger, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Availability**

An electronic copy of the CADFW's application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm). In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

**National Environmental Policy Act**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NMFS prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) titled "*Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Minhoto-Hester Marsh Restoration Project, Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County, California.*" A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on November 15, 2016. NMFS considered comments submitted in response to our **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHA (81 FR 67297; September 30, 2016) and CADFW's application as part of the process. All documents are available at the aforementioned Web site.

**Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request 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 either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization was provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has

defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as ". . . an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA established an expedited process by which citizens of the U.S. can apply for an authorization to incidentally take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment. Section 101(a)(5)(D) establishes a 45-day time limit for NMFS review of an application followed by a 30-day public notice and comment period on any proposed authorizations for the incidental harassment of marine mammals. Within 45 days of the close of the comment period, NMFS must either issue or deny the authorization. Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as "any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)."

**Summary of Requests**

On June 2, 2016, we received an application from the CADFW for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to construction activities associated with a 47-acre tidal marsh restoration project within the Minhoto-Hester Marsh in Elkhorn Slough (Monterey, CA) (Phase 1). The overall Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project will restore a total of 147 acres, however, future phases are not part of this application as they are currently unfunded and present some additional technical challenges. Another IHA request will be made prior to implementation of any proposed future phases. The CADFW submitted revised versions of the application on July 13, 2016, August 2, 2016, August 29, 2016, and a final application on September 6, 2016 which we deemed adequate and complete.

The activity will begin August 1, 2017 and last approximately 11 months with built in buffers for adverse weather and other conditions when work is not possible. Pacific harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina richardii*) and southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) are expected to be present during the work. Southern sea otters are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will