

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 also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Hapeman or Sara Young, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Ms. McGuire requests a 5-year permit to conduct research on endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*), in Cook Inlet, AK. The purpose of the research is to (1) continue to build and maintain the species' photo-identification catalog, (2) describe the population's characteristics, and (3) determine life history characteristics of the species. Research may result in up to 6,800 annual takes of whales by Level B harassment during vessel surveys for observation, photography, and photo-identification. Up to 100 harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) annually could be incidentally disturbed during surveys.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: August 14, 2018.

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

[FR Doc. 2018-17772 Filed 8-16-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG403

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Science and Statistical Committee Subgroup (SSC Subgroup) will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, September 10, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 2079, at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephani Zador, AFSC staff; telephone: (206) 526-4693.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Monday, September 10, 2018

The agenda will include: (a) AFSC review of Alaska surveys and budget considerations; (b) discussion of alternatives for survey planning based on different budget scenarios; (c) develop recommendations for the SSC and Council; (d) other business. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-meetings/>.

Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted until the start of the meeting, and should be submitted either electronically to Diana Evans, Council staff: diana.evans@noaa.gov or through the mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252. In-person oral public testimony will be accepted at the discretion of the chair.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271-2809 at

least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 14, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG346

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of SEDAR 61 in-person Data/Assessment Workshop for Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 61 assessment of the Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper will consist of one in-person Data/Assessment Workshop and a series of webinars. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SEDAR 61 Data/Assessment Workshop will be held from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on September 11, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on September 12, 2018, and from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. on September 13, 2018.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The SEDAR 61 Data/Assessment Workshop will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, 333 1st Street S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; telephone: 1-800-445-8667.

SEDAR address: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571-4366. Email: Julie.neer@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have 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 multi-step process including: (1) Data/Assessment Workshop, and (2) a series of webinars. The product of the Data/Assessment Workshop is a report which compiles and evaluates potential