

stakeholder survey. An agenda and background documents will be posted at the Council's website ([www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)) prior to the meeting.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is 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 the meeting date.

Dated: March 28, 2019.

#### Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06342 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG924

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Tilefish Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar with an audio-only connection option. Details on the proposed agenda, connection information, and briefing materials will be posted at the MAFMC's website: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; [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 purpose of the meeting is for the Advisory Panel to provide feedback on the development of the Council's 2020-24 strategic plan, after reviewing the results of a recent strategic planning stakeholder survey. An agenda and background documents will be posted at

the Council's website ([www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)) prior to the meeting.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is 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 the meeting date.

Dated: March 28, 2019.

#### Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06343 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG922

#### 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) will convene a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel meeting to review the 2019 Pacific mackerel stock assessment.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23, through Thursday, April 25, 2019. The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. PDT on April 23 and 8 a.m. on April 24-25. The meeting will continue until 5 p.m. each day or when business for the day has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Pacific Room at the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037-1508.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kerry Griffin, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2409.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the 2019 stock assessment for Pacific mackerel, which will be used to set annual harvest specifications and management measures for two fishing years (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, and July 1, 2020 through June 30,

2021). The review panel will consist of three members of the Pacific Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee's Subcommittee on Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS), and two independent experts. Representatives of the Council's CPS Management Team and the CPS Advisory Subpanel will also participate in the review as advisers.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

The public listening station is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Dale Sweetnam, [dale.sweetnam@noaa.gov](mailto:dale.sweetnam@noaa.gov) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 28, 2019.

#### Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06341 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

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### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

#### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Barataria Basin, LA Study

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE) intends to prepare a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DIFR-EIS) to assess the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with the proposed project titled, Upper Barataria Basin Coastal Feasibility Study. The DIFR-EIS will document the existing condition of environmental resources in and around areas considered for construction, and potential impacts on those resources as

a result of implementing the alternatives.

**DATES:** A Scoping Meeting Notice announcing the locations, dates and times for scoping meetings is anticipated to be posted on the project website, <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/> and published in the local newspapers no later than 15 days prior to the meeting dates.

**ADDRESSES:** Mr. Scott Wandell, Room 335, CEMVN-PMR-C, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118. *Upper BaratariaFS@usace.army.mil*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have any questions or comments about the proposed action or would like to be added to the project mailing list please call Mr. Scott Wandell at (504) 862-1798. For additional information, please visit the following <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The lead agency for this proposed action is the USACE. The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board is the non-Federal sponsor.

1. *Authority.* The Resolution dated May 6, 1998 of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives authorizes a study that will investigate alternatives that may include structural and non-structural measures to address flood risk from tidal surges, coastal storm surges, and heavy rainfall in the area between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River System, from Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico. Notwithstanding Section 105(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(a)), which specifies the cost-sharing requirements generally applicable to feasibility studies, Title IV, Division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Public Law 115-123, enacted February 9, 2018 ("BBA 2018"), authorizes the Government to conduct the Study at full Federal expense to the extent that appropriations provided under the Investigations heading of the BBA 2018 are available and used for such purpose. The study phase is 100% federally funded.

2. *Background.* The study area encompasses the Louisiana coastal parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, Assumption, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Ascension Parish. A previous feasibility study was begun for the entire basin, but never completed due to the benefit cost ratio. While the previous Donaldsonville to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Feasibility Study

looked at the entire Barataria basin, this study differs from that by focusing solely on the upper basin, while drawing on information from that previous study to inform this feasibility study. The study area has experienced numerous tropical storm events and is vulnerable to loss of life, wildlife, damage to property and infrastructure, and repeated mandatory evacuation costs. The feasibility study will evaluate the proposed alternatives resulting in risk of storm damage reduction to industries and businesses critical to the Nation's economy and protect the health and safety of Louisiana coastal communities in the Upper Barataria Basin.

The study area needs increased resiliency to flood events for the affected communities. In addition, the study area's topography, low elevation, and proximity to the Gulf of Mexico are all contributing factors causing flooding and erosion of wetland systems within the upper basin. Without additional storm damage reduction measures, the people, economy, environment, and cultural heritage of coastal areas in Upper Barataria Basin are at risk from reoccurring damages caused by flooding.

The scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination processes will help identify and define the range of potential significant issues that will be considered. Important resources and issues evaluated in EIS could include, but are not limited to, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on socioeconomic, navigation, wetlands, uplands, aquatic and biological resources, prime and unique farmlands, essential fish habitat, waterfowl, wildlife resources, geology and soils agricultural land and prime and unique farmland; hydrology and hydraulics, threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat, wildlife resources, threatened/endangered species and other protected species of concern, cultural resources, recreation, aesthetics and visual resources, hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste, environmental justice, soils, air quality, and water quality. USACE will also consider issues identified and comments made throughout scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination.

3. *Alternatives:* The USACE will evaluate a range of alternatives for the proposed action including structural and nonstructural measures. For the reasonable and practicable alternatives, the USACE will fully evaluate them, including the no action alternative. Alternatives may result in avoidance and minimization, and mitigation

measures of impacts to reduce or offset any impacts.

4. *Public Involvement:* Public involvement, an essential part of the NEPA process, is integral to assessing the environmental consequences of the proposed action and improving the quality of the environmental decision making. The public includes affected and interested Federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, concerned citizens, stakeholders, and other interested parties. Public participation in the NEPA process will be strongly encouraged, both formally and informally, to enhance the probability of a more technically accurate, economically feasible, and socially acceptable EIS. Public involvement will include, but is not limited to: Information dissemination; identification of problems, needs and opportunities; idea generation; public education; problem solving; providing feedback on proposals; evaluation of alternatives; conflict resolution; public and scoping notices and meetings; public, stakeholder and advisory groups consultation and meetings; and making the EIS and supporting information readily available in conveniently located places, such as libraries and on the world wide web.

5. *Scoping:* Scoping, an early and open process for identifying the scope of significant issues related to the proposed action to be addressed in the EIS, will be used to: (a) Identify the affected public and agency concerns; (b) facilitate an efficient EIS preparation process; (c) define the issues and alternatives that will be examined in detail in the EIS; and (d) save time in the overall process by helping to ensure that the draft EIS adequately addresses relevant issues. A Scoping Meeting Notice announcing the locations, dates and times for scoping meetings is anticipated to be posted on the project website, <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/> and published in the local newspapers no later than 15 days prior to the meeting dates.

6. *Coordination:* The USACE will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the EIS. Other federal and/or state agencies may participate as cooperating and/or commenting agencies throughout the EIS process.

In accordance with Executive Order, 1307, referred to as One Federal Decision (OFD), the USACE and other agencies with environmental review, authorization, or consultation responsibilities for major infrastructure projects should develop a single EIS for such projects, sign a single Record of

Decision (ROD) and issue all necessary authorizations within 90 days thereafter, subject to limited exceptions. An essential element of the OFD framework is the development of a schedule, referred to the "Permitting Timetable," including key milestones critical to completion of the environmental review and issuance of a ROD. Cooperating agencies required by law to develop schedules for environmental review or authorization processes should transmit a summary of such schedules to the lead agency for integration into the Permitting Timetable.

To ensure timely completion of the environmental review and issuance of necessary authorizations, OMB and CEQ recommend the Permitting Timetable for major infrastructure projects provide for environmental review according to the following schedule:

(1) Formal scoping and preparation of a Draft EIS (DEIS) within 14 months, beginning on the date of publication of the NOI to publish an EIS and ending on the date of the Notice of Availability of the DEIS;

(2) Completion of the formal public comment period and development of the Final EIS (FEIS) within eight months of the date of the Notice of Availability of the DEIS; and

(3) Publication of the final ROD within two months of the publication of the Notice of Availability of the FEIS. While the actual schedule for any given project may vary based upon the circumstances of the project and applicable law, agencies should endeavor to meet the two-year goal established in E.O. 13807.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will assist in documenting existing conditions and assessing effects of project alternatives through the Fish and Wildlife Start Coordination Act consultation procedures. Other environmental review and consultation requirements for the proposed project include the need for Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality. In addition, because the proposed project may affect federally listed species, the USACE will consult with the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with Endangered Species Act, Section 7. The NMFS will be consulted regarding the effects of this proposed project on Essential Fish Habitat per the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The USACE will also be consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act concerning properties listed, or potentially eligible for listing. The USACE will also be

coordinating with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for Coastal Zone Management Consistency per the Coastal Zone Management Act.

7. *Availability:* The Draft EIS (DEIS) is expected to be available for public comment and review no sooner than December 2019. At that time, a 45-day public review period will be provided for individuals and agencies to review and comment on the DEIS. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the DEIS circulation.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3720-58-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report, Louisiana

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE) intends to prepare a Draft Integrated General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DGRR-EIS) for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Coastal Storm Risk Management Project. The study seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions or comments about the proposed action or requests to be added to the project mailing list should be directed to Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E., CEMVN-PMO-L, Room 361, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118; [CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil). For additional information, please visit the following website: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bradley Drouant, (504) 862-1516.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The lead agency for this proposed action is the USACE. The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the non-Federal sponsor.

1. *Authority.* The USACE is preparing the DGRR-EIS under the authority of Section 3017 of WRRDA 2014. Public Law 115-123 (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018) funded the study as a new start. The study phase is 100% federal funding.

2. *Background.* The devastation to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast from hurricanes Katrina and Rita included the loss of over 1,800 lives, it temporarily and permanently displaced many thousands of residents, and resulted in estimated property damages in excess of \$40 billion in New Orleans and as much as \$100 billion along the Gulf Coast.

After the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, the U.S. embarked on one of the largest civil works projects ever undertaken, at an estimated cost of \$14 billion. The project included restoration, accelerated construction, improvements, and enhancements of various risk reduction projects within southeastern Louisiana, including the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Project (LPV) and the West Bank and Vicinity, Louisiana Project (WBV), jointly referred to as the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). The completion of the levees, floodwalls, gates, and pumps that together form the HSDRRS brought 100-year level of hurricane and storm damage risk reduction to the areas within LPV and WBV.

Southeast Louisiana, including the Greater New Orleans area, is generally characterized by weak soils, general subsidence, and the global incidence of sea level rise that will cause levees to require future lifts to sustain performance of the HSDRRS. The HSDRRS project authority did not provide for future lifts. Engineering analysis indicates the HSDRRS will no longer provide 1% level of risk reduction as early as 2023. Absent future levee lifts to offset consolidation, settlement, subsidence, and sea level rise, risk to life and property in the Greater New Orleans area will progressively increase. USACE will notify FEMA once the system no longer provides the 1% level of risk reduction, which may result in the loss of accreditation required for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The DGRR-EIS seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The study will also consider other levels of risk reduction. A positive determination