

the meeting. No management actions will be decided by the HMSMT.

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

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt, (503) 820-2411, at least 10 business days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 21, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-10961 Filed 5-23-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XH045

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee on 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 Monday, June 10, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

#### ADDRESSES:

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Portland, 363 Maine Mall Road, South Portland, ME 04106; telephone: (207) 775-6161.

*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 receive reports from the Plan Development Team (PDT) and develop the following components of the Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP). This document is being developed for presentation to the Council in September. They will discuss catch monitoring, ecosystem data collection, and research as well as Incentive-based management approaches—PDT progress report only. The committee will also discuss Jurisdiction, Cooperation, Coordination amongst management authorities. Other business may be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. 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: May 21, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-10962 Filed 5-23-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Evaluation of Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Office for Coastal Management (OCM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting; notice of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management will hold a public meeting to solicit comments for the performance evaluation of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. NOAA will also accept written comments.

**DATES:** *Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Evaluation:* The public meeting will be held on Wednesday July 17, 2019, and written comments must be received on or before Friday, July 26, 2019.

For the specific date, time, and location of the public meetings, see

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the reserve by any of the following methods:

#### *Public Meeting and Oral Comments:*

A public meeting will be held in Castroville, California for the Elkhorn Slough Reserve. For the specific location, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

*Written Comments:* Please direct written comments to Jean Tanimoto, Evaluator, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818, or via email to [Jean.Tanimoto@noaa.gov](mailto:Jean.Tanimoto@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jean Tanimoto, Evaluator, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818, by phone at (808) 725-5253, or via email to [Jean.Tanimoto@noaa.gov](mailto:Jean.Tanimoto@noaa.gov). Copies of the previous evaluation findings, Management Plan, and Site Profile may be viewed and downloaded on the internet at <http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations>. A copy of the evaluation notification letter and most recent performance report may be obtained upon request by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Sections 312 and 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) 116 U.S.C. 1458, 1461, AND 15 CFR 921.40, require NOAA to conduct ongoing evaluations of federally-approved National Estuarine Research Reserves. The process includes a public meeting, consideration of written public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. For the evaluation of National Estuarine Research Reserves, NOAA will consider the extent to which the state has met the

national objectives, adhered to its management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to and implemented the terms of financial assistance under the Coastal Zone Management Act. When the evaluation is completed, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

You may participate and submit oral comments at the public meeting scheduled as follows:

*Date:* Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

*Time:* 6:00 p.m., local time.

*Location:* Castroville Branch Library, 11160 Speegle Street, Castroville, CA 95012.

Written comments must be received on or before Friday, July 26, 2019.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. § 1458, 15 CFR 921.40, 15 CFR 923.134.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: May 16, 2019.

**Keelin Kuipers,**

*Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2019-10855 Filed 5-23-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG990**

#### Draft Cook Inlet & Kodiak Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS, in an effort to increase preparedness for wildlife response under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, has drafted guidelines for marine mammal response in disaster situations in Cook Inlet and Kodiak, Alaska entitled "Cook Inlet & Kodiak Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines" (Guidelines). NMFS invites the public to comment on and/or provide additional information for NMFS to consider in finalizing the guidelines.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before June 24, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2019-0038, by any one of the following methods;

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/) #!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-0038, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments;

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Sadie Wright, attention Ellen Sebastian, National Marine Fisheries Service, Protected Resources Division, Alaska Region, 709 West 9th Street, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Electronic copies of the draft Guidelines and associated Appendices may be obtained from <http://www.regulations.gov> or from the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/marine-life-distress/alaska-marine-mammal-stranding-network>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Sadie Wright, (907) 586-7630 or [Sadie.Wright@noaa.gov](mailto:Sadie.Wright@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Marine mammal oil spill response and preparedness in the Cook Inlet and Kodiak region of Alaska presents many challenges including remote conditions; lack of infrastructure, equipment, and trained personnel; and large populations of marine mammals that may be impacted. Additionally, marine mammals are important subsistence and cultural resources for Alaska Native coastal communities, and response efforts must be cooperative with and sensitive to local communities. NMFS developed the Guidelines through stakeholder engagement to develop regionally specific and culturally sensitive response strategies during disasters that impact marine mammals.

NMFS sought input on communication and response protocols for carcass collection, de-oiling, tissue sampling, necropsies, and subsistence food issues through meetings with local leaders and responders in Kenai, Seward, Ninilchik, Seldovia, Port

Graham, Homer, Anchorage, Nanwalek, Kodiak, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Larsen Bay, and teleconferences and email correspondence with outlying communities. These stakeholder meetings resulted in three key recommendations for the Guidelines:

- (1) Include a communication structure that is locally based and efficient;
- (2) prioritize response to address impacts to fish and associated public health and economy; and
- (3) address the lack of infrastructure, equipment, and trained personnel for response efforts.

These recommendations are addressed by the Guidelines in the following ways:

- (1) The local marine mammal stranding agreement holder or community-appointed organization(s) is the local lead, and communication protocols outline cooperative approaches between stakeholders;
- (2) All response protocols are congruent with food safety testing, and the Alaska state public health representative is part of the communication loop; and
- (3) Caches of equipment should be developed and stored in hub communities with smaller caches in outlying villages, to include modular and adaptive infrastructure for response activities.

Finally, the Guidelines provide decision-making tools regarding Cook Inlet beluga whale deterrence that will be useful to NMFS protocols, and to other responders to gain a better understanding of potential concerns in deterring this endangered population.

The draft Guidelines focus on marine mammal species under NMFS jurisdiction that occur in Cook Inlet and within the Kodiak archipelago. Different approaches may be appropriate for sea otters, which are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any response to marine mammals per these Guidelines should occur in coordination with NMFS through the Incident Command Structure, if put in place for an oil spill or other major incident. The draft Guidelines also focus primarily on marine mammal response during oil spills, but include considerations for response in a non-spill disaster situation such as a natural disaster (response typically under the Stafford Act) or a marine mammal Unusual Mortality Event.

Comments are invited on any aspect of the draft Guidelines. We are particularly interested in maintaining an efficient communication strategy for marine mammal disaster response in the Cook Inlet and Kodiak region, and seek suggestions to ensure the final