

water pumps (CWPs): (1) When the station is generating electricity; and (2) for incidental maintenance or testing (generally once per month) (referred to collectively as “Essential Station Operations”); or as required by a governmental agency or other entity with jurisdiction to require operations. Depending on station generation and ambient water temperatures, Exelon will also limit operations to one CWP per unit when possible. In addition, Exelon will rely on the river water pumps (RWPs) to provide cooling water for other critical station operations outside of Essential Station Operations. These measures will avoid and minimize the incidental take of sturgeon due to entrainment or impingement by eliminating or reducing water withdrawals at times when such withdrawals are not specifically required for Essential Station Operations or for governmental agency-mandated use. Additionally, Exelon will make all reasonable efforts to schedule fuel oil deliveries outside March 15–July 15.

Eddystone considered and rejected six alternatives: (1) Closed-Cycle Cooling; (2) Fine-Mesh Modified Ristroph Traveling Screens; (3) Cylindrical Wedgewire Screens; (4) Variable Speed Pumps; (5) Modified Ristroph Traveling Screens with a Fish Handling and Return System; and (6) Rail or Tanker Truck Delivery of Fuel Oil. The alternatives considered were determined to either be unfeasible, or to have no significant impact, or would result in an increase in adverse effects compared to the activity as proposed.

Eddystone is an existing facility and there are no construction activities planned, nor additional funding. Continued monitoring related to the take of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon will be ongoing and funding will be provided through the facility’s annual operating budget.

National Environmental Policy Act

Issuing an ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit constitutes a Federal action requiring NMFS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) as implemented by 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and NOAA Administrative Order 216–6, Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Policy Act (1999). NMFS intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment to consider a range of reasonable alternatives and fully evaluate the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts likely to result from issuing a permit.

Next Steps

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments received during the comment period to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA. If NMFS determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed sturgeon. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be made until after the end of the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: July 11, 2019.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2019–15053 Filed 7–15–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XH092

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 (Council) River Herring and Shad (RH/S) Committee will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and concluding by 4:30 p.m. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar with a telephone-only audio connection: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/rhs-com-2019/>. Telephone instructions are provided upon connecting, or the public can call direct: (800) 832–0736, Rm: *7833942#.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331 or on their website at 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 purposes of the meeting are to review the 2019 RH/S Progress Update, review recent related staff and Monitoring Committee work, review Advisory Panel input, and consider making recommendations to the Council regarding possible modifications to the 2020 RH/S Cap for the Atlantic mackerel fishery.

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 any meeting date.

Dated: July 11, 2019.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2019–0025]

Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, July 2019 Update

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (“Office”) issued a further update to the Office Patent Trial Practice Guide (“TPG”) in July 2019 to provide updated guidance to the public on standard practices before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (“Board”) in the post-grant trial procedures implemented following the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (“AIA”). The Office published the TPG to provide practitioners with guidance on typical procedures and times for taking action in AIA trials, as well as to ensure consistency of procedure among panels of the Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Tierney and William Fink, Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judges, by telephone at (571) 272–9797.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office issued a further update to the TPG in July 2019, to update the guidance set forth in the TPG by incorporating the Board’s current practices and precedential decisions, and to provide further explanation of certain aspects of the Board’s practices to the public. The Office previously issued an update to the TPG in August 2018. The TPG is