

FR 15115). The meeting will be rescheduled at a later date and announced in the **Federal Register**.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 25, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-06524 Filed 3-27-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Federal Consistency Appeal by WesternGeco of North Carolina Objection

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

**ACTION:** Notice of closure—administrative appeal decision record.

**SUMMARY:** This announcement provides notice that the decision record has closed for an administrative appeal filed with the Department of Commerce (Department) by WesternGeco requesting that the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) override an objection by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management to a consistency certification for a proposed project to conduct a marine Geological and Geophysical seismic survey in the Atlantic Ocean.

**DATES:** The decision record for WesternGeco's Federal consistency appeal of North Carolina's objection closed on March 30, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** NOAA has provided access to publicly available materials and related documents comprising the appeal record on the following website: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-HQ-2019-0089>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions about this Notice, contact Martha McCoy, NOAA Office of General Counsel, Oceans and Coasts Section, 1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-7391, [martha.mccoy@noaa.gov](mailto:martha.mccoy@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 20, 2019, the Secretary received a "Notice of Appeal" filed by WesternGeco pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations found at 15 CFR part 930, subpart H. The "Notice of Appeal" is taken from an objection by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management to a consistency

certification for a proposed project to conduct a marine Geological and Geophysical seismic survey in the Atlantic Ocean. This matter constitutes an appeal of an "energy project" within the meaning of the CZMA regulations, see 15 CFR 930.123(c).

Under the CZMA, the Secretary may override the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management's objection on grounds that the project is consistent with the objectives or purposes of the CZMA, or is necessary in the interest of national security. To make the determination that the proposed activity is "consistent with the objectives or purposes of the CZMA," the Department must find that: (1) The proposed activity furthers the national interest as articulated in sections 302 or 303 of the CZMA, in a significant or substantial manner; (2) the national interest furthered by the proposed activity outweighs the activity's adverse coastal effects, when those effects are considered separately or cumulatively; and (3) no reasonable alternative is available that would permit the proposed activity to be conducted in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of the applicable coastal management program. 15 CFR 930.121. To make the determination that the proposed activity is "necessary in the interest of national security," the Secretary must find that a national defense or other national security interest would be significantly impaired if the proposed activity is not permitted to go forward as proposed. 15 CFR 930.122.

The Secretary must close the decision record in a Federal consistency appeal 160 days after the Notice of Appeal is published in the **Federal Register**. 15 CFR 930.130(a)(1). However, the CZMA authorizes the Secretary to stay closing the decision record for up to 60 days when the Secretary determines it necessary to receive, on an expedited basis, any supplemental information specifically requested by the Secretary to complete a consistency review or any clarifying information submitted by a party to the proceeding related to information in the consolidated record compiled by the lead Federal permitting agency. 15 CFR 930.130(a)(2), (3).

Consistent with the above schedule, the decision record for WesternGeco's Federal consistency appeal of North Carolina's objection closed on March 30, 2020. No further information or briefs will be considered in deciding this appeal.

NOAA has provided access to publicly available materials and related documents comprising the appeal record on the following website: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-HQ-2019-0089>.

[www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-HQ-2019-0089](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-HQ-2019-0089).

(Authority Citation: 15 CFR 930.130(a))

**Adam Dilts,**

*Chief, Oceans and Coasts Section, NOAA Office of General Counsel.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Science Advisory Board

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda for the meeting of the Science Advisory Board (SAB). The members will discuss issues outlined in the section on Matters to be considered.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and April 15, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. EST. This time and the agenda topics described below are subject to change.

For the latest agenda please refer to the SAB website: <http://sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx>.

**ADDRESSES:** This will be a webinar meeting. The link for the webinar registration for the April 14-15, 2020 meeting may be found here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8446468520392398605>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11230, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone Number: 301-734-1156; Email: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov); or visit the SAB website at <http://sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NOAA 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