

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.

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>.

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(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; 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

provide optimal support to resource management.

Status: The April 14–15, 2020 meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period on April 14 at 3:45 p.m. EST. The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three minutes. Written comments for the April 14–15, 2020 meeting should be received in the SAB Executive Director's Office by April 1, 2020 to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after this dates will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

Matters to be Considered: The meeting on April 14–15, 2020 will include the (1) NOAA Priorities; (2) NOAA Artificial Intelligence Strategic Plan and AI Center; (3) Update on NOAA 'Omics and eDNA Strategic Plan; (4) NOAA Tsunami Program; (5) Discussion of the SAB Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel; (6) Update on the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC); and (7) Discussion of the SAB Work Plan. Meeting materials, including work products, will be made available on the SAB website: <http://sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx>.

Dated: March 20, 2020.

David Holst,

Director, Chief Financial Officer/CAO, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2020–06551 Filed 3–27–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RTID 0648-XA083

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting; Cancellation

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

ACTION: Notice of cancellation of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has cancelled a public meeting of its Groundfish Committee that was scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original meeting notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 17, 2020 (85 FR 15124). 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. 2020–06521 Filed 3–27–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA096]

Marine Mammals; File No. 21418

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Marine Mammal Laboratory (MML), 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115–6349 (Responsible Party: John Bengtson, Ph.D.), has applied in due form for a permit to import, export, and receive marine mammal parts for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before April 29, 2020.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 21418 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, 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. 21418 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:

Shasta McClenahan or Jennifer Skidmore, (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), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant requests a five year permit for worldwide import, export, and receipt of biological samples from up to 100,000 cetaceans and 100,000 pinnipeds (excluding walrus) annually for scientific research. The objectives of the permitted research are to provide information on marine mammal biology, including stock structure, diet, reproduction, genetics, fatty acid composition, contaminants, and annual levels of marine mammal bycatch through the analysis of specimens. The foreign and domestic sources of samples may include animals in captivity, legal subsistence harvests, animals killed incidental to legal commercial fisheries, other authorized persons or collections, and animals stranded in foreign countries.

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: March 24, 2020.

Julia Marie Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2020–06494 Filed 3–27–20; 8:45 am]

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