

5. Report on Mariana Archipelago FEP AP Plan Activities
6. Fishery Issues and Activities
7. Public Comment
8. Discussion and Recommendations
9. Other Business

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 25, 2021.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-04269 Filed 3-1-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA905]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) via webinar.

DATES: The webinar will convene on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. Visit the Gulf Council website for registration and log in information.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4701 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Natasha Mendez-Ferrer, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; *natasha.mendez@gulfcouncil.org*; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the agenda, though agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's website when possible).

Wednesday, March 24, 2021; 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; EDT

The meeting will begin with Introduction; Election of Chair and Vice-Chair;

Adoption of Agenda; Approval of Minutes from the October 9, 2018 webinar; and, review of Scope of Work with its members.

The AP will receive an update on the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Landings; SEDAR 28 Update: Gulf Migratory Group Cobia—with presentations on the stock assessment and results, Something's Fishy, and Draft Management Alternatives. The AP will then provide recommendations.

Following lunch, the AP will receive an update on SEDAR 38: Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel—with presentations on the stock assessment and results, Something's Fishy, and scoping of management alternatives. The AP will then provide recommendations.

The AP will receive a summary on the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34 for Atlantic King Mackerel; and will review a presentation and discuss Commercial Electronic Logbooks.

The AP will receive any public comment; and discuss any Other Business items.

—*Meeting Adjourns*

The meeting will be held via webinar. You may register for the webinar by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the Mackerel Advisory Panel meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on www.gulfcouncil.org as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Advisory Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Advisory Panel will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice 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 Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

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

Dated: February 25, 2021.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-04266 Filed 3-1-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA846]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application from the Coonamessett Farm Foundation contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This Exempted Fishing Permit would allow a participating party/charter fishing vessel to temporarily possess undersized black sea bass for tagging and biological sampling purposes. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 17, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by the following method:

- *Email:* NMFS.GAR.EFP@noaa.gov.

Include in the subject line "Comments on CFF Black Sea Bass Tagging EFP." If you cannot submit a comment through this method, please contact Laura Hansen at 978-281-9225, or email at Laura.Hansen@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Hansen, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9225, Laura.Hansen@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on October 26, 2020, to conduct fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would authorize a participating vessel to temporarily possess undersize black sea bass while conducting tagging procedures and biological sampling. This research is designed to tag and release black sea bass to study movement patterns, habitat usage, and migratory cycles for up to the 2-year battery life of the telemetry tags.

If approved, this research would be conducted over the course of two 3-day sampling trips in April and August of 2021, for a total of 6 research fishing days. All fishing would be conducted using rod and reel gear on a contracted charter vessel in state and Federal waters off the coasts of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The exact fishing locations would be determined by the vessel captain and recorded via GPS.

All black sea bass caught on directed research trips under this EFP would be placed in a live well, and the length and sex of each individual would be recorded before tagging. Each black sea bass would then be tagged with an internal anchor spaghetti tag, allowed to recover from the procedure, assessed for barotrauma, and released back into the water using a pressure-activated recompression descending release device. All non-target species would be returned to the water as quickly as possible, and no catch would be retained for sale. CFF personnel would accompany all trips and oversee these research activities.

In addition to the spaghetti tags, 77 black sea bass would be tagged with specialty tags/equipment through this project, with the type of specialized tag used and data gathered depending on the size and vigor of each fish. A total of 40 fish would receive acoustic transmitters to record temperature. An additional 34 slightly larger fish (greater than 25 cm) would receive an archival tag that records temperature, depth, and conductivity, and 3 fish (greater than 46 cm) will be affixed with satellite tags. The satellite tags measure temperature, depth, light level, and geolocation. CFF will also distribute 2,000 Floy internal anchor tags to collaborators to opportunistically tag black sea bass.

CFF is requesting temporary exemptions from the recreational possession limit and minimum size restrictions in the Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan found at 50 CFR 648.145(a) and § 648.147(b), respectively, to sample and tag all black sea bass during these selected fishing trips. Funding for this research has been awarded under a NOAA Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research grant (NA18NMF4570257).

If approved, CFF may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the study period. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any

fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: February 25, 2021.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2021-04264 Filed 3-1-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Western Pacific Community Development Program Process

AGENCY: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 3, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0612 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Kate Taylor, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional Office, 1845 Wasp Blvd. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818. Telephone: (808) 725-5182; Email: kate.taylor@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection. The Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 665 authorize the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Pacific Island Region to provide eligible western Pacific communities with access to fisheries that they have traditionally depended upon, but may not have the capabilities to support continued and substantial participation, possibly due to economic, regulatory, or other barriers. To be eligible to participate in the western Pacific community development program, a community must meet the criteria set forth in 50 CFR part 665.20, and submit a community development plan that describes the purposes and goals of the plan, the justification for proposed fishing activities, and the degree of involvement by the indigenous community members, including contact information.

This collection of information provides NMFS and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) with data to determine whether a community that submits a community development plan meets the regulatory requirements for participation in the program, and whether the activities proposed under the plan are consistent with the intent of the program, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and other applicable laws. The information is also important for evaluating potential impacts of the proposed community development plan activities on fish stocks, endangered species, marine mammals, and other components of the affected environment for the purposes of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and other applicable laws.

II. Method of Collection

The collection of information of a community development plan involves no forms and respondents have a choice of submitting information by electronic transmission or by mail. Instructions on how to submit a community development plan can be found on the Council's website at <http://www.wpcouncil.org/western-pacific-community-development-program/>.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0612.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).