

Impacts section of this notice would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a Renewal would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the *Dates and Duration* section of this notice, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to the needed Renewal IHA effective date (recognizing that the Renewal IHA expiration date cannot extend beyond one year from expiration of the initial IHA).

- The request for renewal must include the following:

(1) An explanation that the activities to be conducted under the requested Renewal IHA are identical to the activities analyzed under the initial IHA, are a subset of the activities, or include changes so minor (*e.g.*, reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, mitigation and monitoring requirements, or take estimates (with the exception of reducing the type or amount of take); and

(2) A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

Upon review of the request for Renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

Dated: March 4, 2021.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2021-04905 Filed 3-9-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA857]

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 contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The Exempted Fishing Permit would allow commercial fishing vessels to fish outside of scallop regulations in support of funding research under the Scallop Research Set-Aside Program by conducting compensation fishing. 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 25, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by email to nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "ME DMR Compensation Fishing EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shannah Jaburek, Fisheries Management Specialist, 978-282-8456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on December 23, 2020, requesting an exemption for vessels with Federal Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) permits fishing under their 2020 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Letters of Authorization to fish their allocation outside of the NGOM management area. Under the Scallop RSA program, projects are awarded a set amount of pounds of scallops for vessels to harvest that pays for the research component of the project. Compensation fishing under the Scallop RSA Program is not restricted to the NGOM management area; however, vessels with a NGOM scallop permit are restricted to only fishing for and possessing scallops within this area.

ME DMR needs this exemption in order to provide vessels the most flexibility to harvest all of the pounds it was allocated under the Scallop RSA Program. Allowing the exemption would not create additional fishing pressure in other areas because it is already assumed that vessels participating in compensation fishing have access to any areas that are allowed under Framework Adjustment 32 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. This EFP would be valid through the 2020 Scallop RSA compensation fishing season and must be used in conjunction with a valid compensation fishing Letter of

Authorization. All compensation fishing trips would otherwise be consistent with normal compensation fishing activity and catch would be retained for sale.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. 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: March 4, 2021.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA919]

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits and permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that permits and permit amendments have been issued to the following entities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

ADDRESSES: The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D. (Permit Nos. 19257-01 and 20341-01), Carrie Hubbard (Permit No. 23078), Jennifer Skidmore (Permit No. 23447), Sara Young (Permit Nos. 23554 and 23858), Malcolm Mohead (Permit Nos. 24016 and 24020), and Jordan Rutland (Permit No. 25417) at (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests for a permit or permit amendment had been submitted by the below-named applicants. To locate the **Federal**