

Dated: August 17, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-17905 Filed 8-19-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB328]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This webinar will be held on Friday, September 3, 2021, at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8411461181815869964>.

**ADDRESSES:** Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Agenda

The Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee will receive an update on EBFM public information workshop plans, possibly meeting with a contractor chosen to facilitate the workshops. They will discuss potential National Standard 1 issues about managing catches by stock complex without specifying MSY for individual stocks. The Committee will also discuss and develop a plan for a mock EBFM Management Strategy Evaluation exercise as well as discuss and develop recommendations for 2022. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come

before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: August 17, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB260]

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks data scoping webinar.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 77 assessment of the Atlantic stock of hammerhead sharks will consist of a stock identification (ID) process, data webinars/workshop, a series of assessment webinars, and a review workshop.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks Data Scoping Webinar has been scheduled for Friday, September 10, 2021, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. EDT.

#### ADDRESSES:

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Registration is

available online at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5354318578386847501>

*SEDAR address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405; [www.sedarweb.org](http://www.sedarweb.org).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathleen Howington, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4371; email: [Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net](mailto:Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: Data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion at the SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Shark Data Scoping are as follows:

- Discuss available data sources

- Identify and discuss potential new data sources

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: August 17, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA086]

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Final Amendment 12 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a fishery management plan amendment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the availability of Final Amendment 12 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Final Amendment responds to revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) National Standard (NS) guidelines, a rulemaking addressing reporting methodologies for bycatch as defined under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and recent NMFS policy directives which aim to improve and streamline fishery management

procedures to enhance their utility for managers and the public. This final amendment does not include a proposed rule or regulatory text. Any operational changes to fishery management measures as a result of Final Amendment 12 would be considered in future rulemakings, as appropriate.

**DATES:** The amendment was approved on August 16, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of Final Amendment 12 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP may be obtained on the internet at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-12-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-msa-guidelines-and-national>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah McLaughlin, [sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov), 978-281-9260, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz, [karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov](mailto:karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov), 301-427-8503.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Atlantic HMS fisheries are managed under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA; 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). The 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP and its amendments are implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that any FMP or FMP amendment be consistent with 10 NSs. In 2016, NMFS published a final rule revising the guidelines for NS1, NS3, and NS7 to improve and clarify the guidance and to facilitate compliance with requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to end and prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and achieve optimum yield (OY) (81 FR 71858, October 18, 2016). The final rule on the NS guidelines included a recommendation that FMP objectives should be reassessed on a regular basis to reflect the changing needs of fisheries over time. Although no time frame was prescribed, the guidelines indicated that NMFS should provide notice to the public of the expected schedule for review. The final rule also noted that, for stocks managed under international agreements, consistent with provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS may decide to use the international stock status determination criteria (SDC) defined by the relevant international body (e.g., the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)). Thus, Final Amendment 12 revises some of the objectives contained in the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP, and adopts the ICCAT SDC for ICCAT-managed HMS.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act further requires that any FMP, with respect to

any fishery, establish standardized bycatch reporting methodology (SBRM) to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in a fishery. On January 19, 2017, NMFS published a final rule (82 FR 6317) to interpret and provide guidance on this requirement. Specifically, the 2017 final rule indicated that each FMP must identify the required procedure or procedures that constitute the SBRM for a fishery and conduct an analysis that explains how the SBRM meets the purposes described at 50 CFR 600.1600. Final Amendment 12 reviews of SBRMs for HMS fisheries.

Also in 2017, NMFS issued a Fisheries Allocation Review Policy Directive and Procedures (01-119), which described a mechanism to ensure that fishery quota allocations are periodically reviewed and evaluated to remain relevant to current conditions, improve transparency, and minimize conflict for a process that is often controversial. Final Amendment 12 establishes triggers for review of allocations of quota-managed HMS.

Finally, the HMS Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report is a public document that provides a summary of scientific information concerning the most recent biological condition of stocks, stock complexes, and marine ecosystems, essential fish habitat (EFH), and the social and economic condition of recreational and commercial HMS fishing interests, fishing communities, and the fish processing industries. NS2 guidelines specify that SAFE reports summarize, on a periodic basis, the best scientific information available concerning the past, present, and possible future condition of the stocks, EFH, marine ecosystems, and fisheries being managed under Federal regulation. In 2008, NMFS published Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP which, among other things, indicated that publication of the HMS SAFE Report would occur by the fall of each year. Final Amendment 12 notifies the public of modified timing for release of the HMS SAFE Report to account for unexpected delays (e.g., data availability, staff availability, furloughs, emergencies, etc.).

Final Amendment 12 is consistent with the revised 2016 NS guidelines, the 2017 SBRM rulemaking, and the 2017 Fisheries Allocation Review Policy Directive 01-119, along with other relevant statutes and the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP and its amendments. There is no final rule or regulatory text associated with Final Amendment 12. Quotas or other fishery management measures will not be