

readiness activities conducted in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Study Area.

DATES: Effective from February 3, 2023 to February 2, 2030.

ADDRESSES: The LOA and supporting documentation are available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-military-readiness-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leah Davis, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are proposed or, if the taking is limited to harassment, the public is provided with notice of the proposed incidental take authorization and provided the opportunity to review and submit comments.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stocks and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stocks for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in this rule as “mitigation measures”); and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings. The MMPA defines “take” to mean to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2004 (2004 NDAA) (Pub. L. 108-136) amended section 101(a)(5) of the MMPA to remove the “small numbers” and “specified geographical region”

provisions indicated above and amended the definition of “harassment” as applied to a “military readiness activity.” The definition of harassment for military readiness activities (Section 3(18)(B) of the MMPA) is (i) Any act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A Harassment); or (ii) Any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered (Level B harassment). In addition, the 2004 NDAA amended the MMPA as it relates to military readiness activities such that the least practicable adverse impact analysis shall include consideration of personnel safety, practicality of implementation, and impact on the effectiveness of the military readiness activity.

More recently, Section 316 of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2019 (2019 NDAA) (Pub. L. 115-232), signed on August 13, 2018, amended the MMPA to allow incidental take rules for military readiness activities under section 101(a)(5)(A) to be issued for up to 7 years. Prior to this amendment, all incidental take rules under section 101(a)(5)(A) were limited to 5 years.

Summary of Request

On January 4, 2023, we issued a final rule responding to a request from the Navy for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to military readiness activities conducted in the GOA Study Area (88 FR 604, January 4, 2023). The following types of training, which are classified as military readiness activities pursuant to the MMPA, as amended by the 2004 NDAA, are covered under the final rule: surface warfare (detonations at or above the water surface) and anti-submarine warfare (sonar and other transducers). The Navy is also conducting Air Warfare, Electronic Warfare, Naval Special Warfare, Strike Warfare, and Support Operations, but these activities do not involve sonar and other transducers, detonations at or above the water surface, or any other stressors that could result in the take of marine mammals.

Authorization

In accordance with the final rule, we have issued a LOA to Navy authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to training activities in the GOA Study Area, as described above. Take of

marine mammals will be minimized through the implementation of the following planned mitigation measures: (1) use of defined powerdown and shutdown zones (based on activity), which are designed to minimize the number and severity of takes; (2) measures to reduce the likelihood of ship strikes, including the use of trained Lookouts to observe for marine mammals in designated zones on underway vessels and issuance of pre-event awareness messages to alert vessels and aircraft participating in training activities within the TMAA to the possible presence of concentrations of large whales on the continental shelf and slope; and (3) operational limitations in certain areas and times that are biologically important (*i.e.*, for foraging) for marine mammals. Additionally, the rule includes an adaptive management component that allows for timely modification of mitigation or monitoring measures based on new information, when appropriate. The Navy will submit reports as required.

Based on the findings and information discussed in the preamble to the final rule, the activities described under this LOA will have a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stock for subsistence uses.

Dated: February 13, 2023.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC775]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet March 4–10, 2023, in Seattle, WA, in person and via webinar. The Council meeting will be live streamed with the opportunity to provide public comment remotely. The following groups will meet in person in Seattle: Scientific and Statistical Committee, Salmon Technical Team,

Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Enforcement Consultants, Habitat Committee, Groundfish Management Team, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Ecosystem Workgroup, and Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team and Highly Migratory Species Management Subpanel will meet by webinar only.

DATES: The Pacific Council meeting will begin on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 9 a.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST), reconvening at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 6 through Friday, March 10, 2023. The ancillary meetings will begin on Saturday, March 4, 2023. All meetings are open to the public, except for a Closed Session held from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Sunday, March 5, to address litigation and personnel matters. The Pacific Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: Meetings of the Pacific Council and its advisory entities will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Seattle Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, Seattle, WA; telephone: (206) 246-8600.

Specific meeting information, including directions on joining the meeting, connecting to the live stream broadcast, and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820-2412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Merrick Burden, Executive Director, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2280 or (866) 806-7204 toll-free, or access the Pacific Council website, www.pcouncil.org, for the proposed agenda and meeting briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The March 4–10, 2023 meeting of the Pacific Council will be streamed live on the internet. The broadcasts begin initially at 9 a.m. PST Sunday, March 5, 2023, and 8 a.m. PST Monday, March 6 through Friday, March 10, 2023. Broadcasts end when business for the day is complete. Only the audio portion and presentations displayed on the screen at the Pacific Council meeting will be broadcast. The audio portion for the public is listen-only except that an opportunity for oral public comment will be provided prior to Council Action

on each agenda item. Additional information and instructions on joining or listening to the meeting can be found on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org).

The following items are on the Pacific Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order. Agenda items noted as "Final Action" refer to actions requiring the Council to transmit a proposed fishery management plan, proposed plan amendment, or proposed regulations to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, under Sections 304 or 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Additional detail on agenda items, Council action, and advisory entity meeting times, are described in Agenda Item A.3, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, and will be in the advance March 2023 briefing materials and posted on the Pacific Council website at www.pcouncil.org no later than Friday, February 17, 2023.

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Executive Director's Report

B. Open Comment Period

1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items

C. Pacific Halibut Management

1. Annual Report of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)
2. Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Action on Recommendations for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

D. Salmon Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
2. Review of 2022 Fisheries and Summary of 2023 Stock Forecasts
3. Identify Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2023 Management Alternatives
4. Recommendations for 2023 Management Alternative Analysis
5. Further Direction for 2023 Management Alternatives
6. Further Direction for 2023 Management Alternatives
7. Adopt 2023 Management Alternatives for Public Review
8. Appoint Salmon Hearing Officers

E. Habitat Issues

1. Current Habitat Issues

F. Groundfish Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
2. Implementation of the 2023 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement
3. Sablefish Pot Gear Marking—Feasibility Report
4. Non-Trawl Area Management—Final Preferred Alternative

5. Electronic Monitoring Program Changes—Final Preferred Alternative
6. Final Assessment Methodologies
7. Amendment 31 Groundfish Stock Definitions
8. Workload and New Management Measure Priorities
9. Inseason Adjustments—Final Action

G. Administrative Matters

1. United States Coast Guard (USCG) Annual Report
2. Report of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)
3. Marine Planning
4. Approval of Council Meeting Record
5. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
6. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

H. Ecosystem

1. California Current Ecosystem Annual Report
2. Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative Workplan

I. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
2. International Management Activities
3. Drift Gillnet Hard Caps Update

Advisory Body Agendas

Advisory body agendas will include discussions of relevant issues that are on the Pacific Council agenda for this meeting and may also include issues that may be relevant to future Council meetings. Proposed advisory body agendas for this meeting will be available on the Pacific Council website, www.pcouncil.org, no later than Friday, February 17, 2023.

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

Day 1—Saturday, March 4, 2023	
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team.	8 a.m.
Habitat Committee	8 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Scientific and Statistical Committee.	8 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	2 p.m.
Tribal Policy Group	As Necessary.
Breakout.	
Tribal and Washington Technical Group.	As Necessary.
Day 2—Sunday, March 5, 2023	
California State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS—
Continued

Washington State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team.	8 a.m.
Habitat Committee	8 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Scientific and Statistical Committee.	8 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary.
Tribal Policy Group Breakout.	As Necessary.
Tribal and Washington Technical Group.	As Necessary.
<i>Day 3—Monday, March 6, 2023</i>	
California State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team.	8 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary.
Tribal Policy Group Breakout.	As Necessary.
Tribal and Washington Technical Group.	As Necessary.
<i>Day 4—Tuesday, March 7, 2023</i>	
California State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team.	8 a.m.
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m. Online Only.
Highly Migratory Species Management Team.	8 a.m. Online Only.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary.
Tribal Policy Group Breakout.	As Necessary.
Tribal and Washington Technical Group As Necessary.	As Necessary.
<i>Day 5—Wednesday, March 8, 2023</i>	
California State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation.	7 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS—
Continued

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team.	8 a.m.
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m. Online Only.
Highly Migratory Species Management Team.	8 a.m. Online Only.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary/Online Only.
Tribal Policy Group Breakout.	As Necessary.
Tribal and Washington Technical Group.	As Necessary.
<i>Day 6—Thursday, March 8, 2023</i>	
California State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m. Online Only.
Highly Migratory Species Management Team.	8 a.m. Online Only.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel.	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary/Online Only.
Tribal Policy Group Breakout.	As Necessary.
Tribal and Washington Technical Group.	As Necessary.
<i>Day 7—Friday, March 10, 2023</i>	
California State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Washington State Delegation.	7 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov; (503) 820-2412) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 13, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

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**COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY**

[CEQ-2022-0005]

RIN 0331-AA06

**National Environmental Policy Act
Guidance on Consideration of
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and
Climate Change**

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice of extension for request for comments.

SUMMARY: On January 9, 2023, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued guidance to assist agencies in analyzing greenhouse gas and climate change effects of their proposed actions under the National Environmental Policy Act and requested public comment on the guidance. This notice extends the deadline date for receiving public comments for an additional 30 days, until April 10, 2023.

DATES: The comment period for the interim guidance published January 9, 2023, at 88 FR 1196, is extended. Comments should be received on or before by April 10, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number CEQ-2022-0005, by any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- **Fax:** 202-456-6546.

- **Mail:** Council on Environmental Quality, 730 Jackson Place NW, Washington, DC 20503.

All submissions received must include the agency name, "Council on Environmental Quality," and the docket number, CEQ-2022-0005. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be private, Confidential Business Information (CBI), or other information, the disclosure of which is restricted by statute.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jomar Maldonado, Director for NEPA, 202-395-5750 or Jomar.MaldonadoVazquez@ceq.eop.gov.