

as the temporal or spatial scale of the activities.

The amount of take NMFS authorized is below one third of the estimated stock abundance for all species with available abundance estimates (in fact, take of individuals is less than fifteen percent of the abundance of the affected stocks, see Table 6). This is likely a conservative estimate because we assume all takes are of different individual animals, which is likely not the case. Some individuals may be encountered multiple times in a day, but PSOs will count them as separate individuals if they cannot be identified.

NMFS considers it appropriate to make a small numbers finding in the case of a species or stock that may potentially be taken but is either rarely encountered or only expected to be taken on rare occasions. In that circumstance, one or two assumed encounters with a group of animals (meaning a group that is traveling together or aggregated, and thus exposed to a stressor at the same approximate time) should reasonably be considered small numbers, regardless of consideration of the proportion of the stock (if known), as rare encounters resulting in take of one or two groups should be considered small relative to the range and distribution of any stock. In this case, NMFS authorized take resulting from a single exposure of one group each for Fraser's dolphin and killer whale (using average group size), and find that a single incident of take of one group of either of these species represents take of small numbers for that species.

For pygmy killer whale, we authorized six incidents of take by Level B harassment. No abundance information is available for this species in the survey area. Therefore, we refer to other SAR abundance estimates for the species. NMFS estimates that the Hawaii stock of pygmy killer whales has a minimum abundance estimate of 5,885 whales (Carretta *et al.*, 2020). In the Gulf of Mexico, NMFS estimates a minimum abundance of 613 whales for that stock (Hayes *et al.*, 2020). Therefore, NMFS assumes that the estimated take number of six would be small relative to any reasonable estimate of population abundance for the species in the Atlantic.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the activity (including the mitigation and monitoring measures) and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals would be taken relative to the population size of the affected species or stocks.

Unmitigable Adverse Impact Analysis and Determination

There are no relevant subsistence uses of the affected marine mammal stocks or species implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species, in this case with the ESA Interagency Cooperation Division within NMFS' Office of Protected Resources (OPR).

The NMFS Office of Protected Resources ESA Interagency Cooperation Division issued a Biological Opinion under section 7 of the ESA, on the issuance of an IHA to L-DEO under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS OPR Permits and Conservation Division. The Biological Opinion concluded that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of ESA-listed North Atlantic right whales, blue whales, fin whales, sei whales, and sperm whales.

National Environmental Policy Act

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), as implemented by the regulations published by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), the National Science Foundation prepared an Environmental Analysis (EA) to consider the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to the human environment from the planned marine geophysical survey off of North Carolina. NSF's EA was made available to the public for review and comment in relation to its suitability for adoption by NMFS in order to assess the impacts to the human environment of issuance of an IHA to L-DEO. In compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations, as well as NOAA Administrative Order 216–6, NMFS has reviewed the NSF's EA, determined it to be sufficient, and adopted that EA and signed a Finding

of No Significant Impact (FONSI). NSF's EA is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/envcomp/north-carolina-2023/LDEO-NC-EA-7-Oct2022.pdf>.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to L-DEO for the potential harassment of small numbers of 30 marine mammal species incidental to a marine geophysical survey off North Carolina in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean that includes the previously explained mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Dated: May 5, 2023.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2023–10024 Filed 5–10–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC996]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of web conference.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce (LKTKS) meeting will be held on June 22, 2023.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Alaska Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be a web conference. Join online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2995>.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501–2252; telephone: (907) 271–2809. Instructions for attending the meeting are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Haapala, Council staff; phone: (907) 271–2809 and email: kate.haapala@noaa.gov. For technical support, please contact our administrative staff; email: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Thursday, June 22, 2023

The LKTKS Taskforce agenda will include: (a) introductions, welcome, and

review agenda; (b) review input from April 2023 Council meeting; (c) review and discuss public comment period; (d) discussion on capacity and resources for onramp implementation; (e) public comment; (f) reflections and final recommendations; and (g) other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2995> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone; or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2995>.

Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2995>. The written comment period will open Friday, June 2, 2023 at 8 a.m. and will be closed on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 12 p.m. Alaska Time. An opportunity for oral public testimony will also be provided during the meeting.

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

Dated: May 8, 2023.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-10082 Filed 5-10-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC997]

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 is convening an ad-hoc sub-panel of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) 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 Thursday, June 1, 2023, beginning at 9 a.m.

Webinar registration information:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5510384372857768792>.

Call in information: 1 (415) 655-0060, Access Code: 723-991-313.

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 Scientific and Statistical Committee sub-panel will convene to examine closed-loop simulation results of the Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (pMSE) for Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management. Operating model scenarios will be based on a Georges Bank 10-stock, 3-fleet operating model with trophic interactions. The sub-panel will formulate suggestions for the pMSE team to improve the final results. The Council may also take these recommendations into account for a potential full MSE in the future.

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: May 8, 2023.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-10083 Filed 5-10-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP23-214-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC; Notice of Application and Establishing Intervention Deadline

Take notice that on April 21, 2023, Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia), 700 Louisiana Street, Suite 1300, Houston, Texas 77002-2700, filed an application under section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations requesting authorization for its Greenwood and North Greenwood Storage Fields Abandonment Project (Project). The Project consists of abandoning Columbia's Greenwood and North Greenwood Storage Fields, including all associated facilities and base gas, all located in Steuben County, New York. Columbia states that the Project will serve to lower the overall safety risk to its system and reduce future integrity and location risk in alignment with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Storage Final Rule (Docket 2016-0016).¹ Columbia estimates the total cost of the Project to be \$18.5 million, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

Water Quality Certification

Columbia's application states that a water quality certificate under section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required for the project from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).² The request for certification must be submitted to the certifying agency and to the Commission concurrently. Proof of the certifying agency's receipt date must be filed no later than five (5) days after the request is submitted to the certifying agency.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (www.ferc.gov) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's

¹ 85 FR 8104 (February 12, 2020).

² See Columbia's application, Vol. I, Resource Report 1, Section 1.7, Table 1-6.