

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS—Continued

CFR Citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
§ 697.20(d)(1) and (3)	Berried female possession requirements.	To allow landing of egg-bearing female lobsters for research purposes.
§ 697.20(h)(1)	Minimum carapace width requirements.	To allow sub-legal Jonah crabs to be landed for research purposes.
§§ 697.20(h)(2)(i) and (ii)	Berried female possession requirement.	To allow landing of egg-bearing female Jonah crabs for research purposes.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	2023 MA DMF Ventless Trap Survey
Institution	MA DMF.
Principal Investigator	Tracy Pugh.
Division action number	DA23–045.
Funding source	State funded.
Continuing project (yes/no)	Yes.
Project objectives	To provide fishery-independent data on lobster growth and abundance within Massachusetts State waters of statistical areas 514 and 538.
Initial application date	May 3, 2023.
Final application date	N/A.
Project Start	June 2023.
Project End	October 2023.
Project location	Statistical Areas 514 and 538.
Number of vessels	Up to 4.
Number of trips	Approximately 10.
Trip duration (days)	1.
Total number of days	Approximately 40.
Gear type(s)	Lobster traps.
Number of tows or sets	n/a.
Duration of tows or sets	3 days soak time.

Project Narrative

The purpose of this survey is to provide fishery-independent data on lobster growth and abundance within Massachusetts State waters of statistical areas 514 and 538. MA DMF funds this lobster abundance survey through their commercial and recreational lobster license fees. This survey has occurred annually since 2006. At least one MA DMF scientist would be on board for the sampling trips. MA DMF personnel would not be on board when traps are baited and deployed. Exemptions would not substantively chance vessel operations. All catch during sampling trips would be retained temporarily to collect biological data. MA DMF staff may collect lobster and/or Jonah crab, including undersized, oversized, v-notched, and egg-bearing lobsters. Collected samples would be used for research projects on growth and maturity. No catch from the experimental traps would be landed for sale. All gear would be Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan compliant. Survey traps will be separate from each vessel’s commercial lobster traps and would be tagged as, “MADMF Research Traps.”

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 the 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.

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing in <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/information-technology/foia-reading-room> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

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

Dated: May 22, 2023.

Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,

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

[FR Doc. 2023–11235 Filed 5–25–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD040]

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 Herring Advisory Panel 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 Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8047175401522362205>.

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 Herring Advisory Panel will receive a report from the Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) covering these agenda topics. They will revisit Amendment 8 Inshore Midwater Trawl Closure—suggest revisions to a draft problem statement and discuss preliminary PDT work on Committee tasking. The Panel will discuss a potential change in 2023 Council priorities to develop river herring and shad time/area closures. They will make recommendations to the Herring Committee, as appropriate, and discuss other business, 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: May 23, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-11336 Filed 5-25-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD045]

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 hybrid meeting of its Scallop Committee 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 meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 Boardman Street, Boston, MA 02128; phone: (617) 567-6789.

Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4979380730021207127>.

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 Committee will review the 2024/2025 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) and develop research recommendations for the notice of funding opportunity announcement (NOFO). Also on the agenda are Scallop RSA program modifications: discuss recommending administrative changes to the Scallop RSA program, including the consideration of longer-term regional survey awards. The committee will also discuss scallop specifications and receive an update on the timeline and possible measures. This action will be initiated at the June 2023 Council meeting. The committee will discuss Northern Edge: progress report and timeline for action to potentially authorize scallop fishery access to habitat management area. Other business will be discussed, if 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

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

Dated: May 23, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-11338 Filed 5-25-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD016]

Advisory Committee Open Session on Management Strategy Evaluation for North Atlantic Swordfish

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS is holding a public meeting via webinar session for the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and all interested stakeholders to receive an update and provide input on the development of the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish.

DATES: A virtual meeting that is open to the public will be held by webinar session on June 16, 2023, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: Please register to attend the meeting at: <https://forms.gle/EeMbS76EHZ5s5CQg7>. Registration will close on June 14, 2023, at 5 p.m. EDT. Instructions for accessing the webinar session will be emailed to registered participants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Keller, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, (202) 897-9208 or at Bryan.Keller@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: MSE is a process that allows fishery managers and stakeholders (e.g., industry, scientists, and non-governmental organizations) to assess how well