

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD102]

**Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Outreach and Education Advisory Panel; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public hybrid meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP) will hold a public hybrid meeting to address the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The OEAP public hybrid meeting will be held on July 19, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., AST.

**ADDRESSES:** The OEAP public hybrid meeting will be held at the Courtyard Isla Verde Beach Resort, 7012 Boca de Cangrejos Avenue, Carolina, Puerto Rico.

You may join the OEAP public hybrid meeting (via Zoom) from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following address:

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84039986774?pwd=SUhDc1hXeFloQWF3ajVtL2ZHRGN3Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/us02web.zoom.us/j/84039986774?pwd=SUhDc1hXeFloQWF3ajVtL2ZHRGN3Zz09)

[us02web.zoom.us/j/84039986774?pwd=SUhDc1hXeFloQWF3ajVtL2ZHRGN3Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84039986774?pwd=SUhDc1hXeFloQWF3ajVtL2ZHRGN3Zz09)

Meeting ID: 840 3998 6774

Passcode: 179728

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 360 209 5623 US  
+1 386 347 5053 US  
+1 507 473 4847 US  
+1 564 217 2000 US  
+1 646 931 3860 US  
+1 669 444 9171 US  
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Passcode: 179728

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84039986774>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Miguel Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1903; telephone: (787) 398–3717.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following items included in the tentative agenda will be discussed:

**July 19, 2023**

9:30 a.m.

—Call to Order  
—Adoption of Agenda

9:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m.

—OEAP Chairperson's Report  
—Updates:  
—Meetings and Webinars Attended:  
CFMC 181st Meeting, Ponce, PR  
—DAP Workshops, St. Croix, U.S.V.I. and Puerto Rico for Outreach & Education Materials for the IBFMPs  
—EEJ Focus Group  
—SSC EBFM TAP Joint Meeting  
—NOAA Caribbean  
—MREP  
—Illustrated Booklet on Climate Change and U.S. Caribbean Fisheries

10:15 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

—Break

10:20 a.m.–11 a.m.

—Update on Status of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)—Liajaj Rivera  
—Outreach Materials on MPAs in Puerto Rico—Vilmarie Román

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

—Update on Island-Based Fishery Management Plans  
—Fact Sheets on IBFMP

12 p.m.–1 p.m.

—Lunch Break

1 p.m.–5 p.m.

—OEAP Recommendations of Outreach Strategies on IBFMPs for Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix, U.S.V.I.  
—Liaisons Recommendations  
—Liaisons Reports:  
—Wilson Santiago—Puerto Rico  
—Nicole Greaux—St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.  
—Mavel Maldonado—St. Croix, U.S.V.I.  
—CFMC Facebook, Instagram and YouTube Communications with Stakeholders

—Other Business

The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. The meeting will begin on July 19, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., and will end on July 19, 2023, at 5 p.m., AST. Other than the start time, interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated, at the discretion of the Chair. In addition, the meeting may be completed prior to the date established in this notice.

**Special Accommodations**

For any additional information on this public hybrid meeting you may contact Diana Martino, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1903; telephone: (787) 226–8849.

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

Dated: June 23, 2023.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023–13768 Filed 6–27–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD095]

**Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of modification to expiration date of Letter of Authorization (LOA).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, its implementing regulations, and NMFS' MMPA Regulations for Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), notification is hereby given that NMFS has modified the expiration date of a LOA issued to Echo Offshore, L.L.C. (Echo) for the take of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activity in the GOM.

**DATES:** This LOA is effective through December 31, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** The LOA, LOA request, and supporting documentation are available online at: [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey-activity-gulf-mexico](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey-activity-gulf-mexico). In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rachel Wachtendonk, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce 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 issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

On January 19, 2021, we issued a final rule with regulations to govern the unintentional taking of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activities conducted by oil and gas industry operators, and those

persons authorized to conduct activities on their behalf (collectively “industry operators”), in Federal waters of the U.S. GOM over the course of 5 years (86 FR 5322, January 19, 2021). The rule was based on our findings that the total taking from the specified activities over the 5-year period will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of those species or stocks for subsistence uses. The rule became effective on April 19, 2021.

Our regulations at 50 CFR 217.180 *et seq.* allow for the issuance of LOAs to industry operators for the incidental take of marine mammals during geophysical survey activities and prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other means of affecting the least practicable adverse impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat (often referred to as mitigation), as well as requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Under 50 CFR 217.186(e), issuance of an LOA shall be based on a determination that the level of taking will be consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under these regulations and a determination that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers.

NMFS issued an LOA to Echo on January 5, 2023, for the take of marine mammals incidental to a two-dimensional (2D) high resolution seismic survey in Lease Block G14576 (Main Pass Area 91) effective through June 30, 2023. Please see the **Federal Register** notice of issuance (88 FR 4973, January 26, 2023) for additional detail regarding the LOA and the survey activity.

Echo initially anticipated that the activity would occur at some point between January 5 and June 30, 2023. Echo subsequently conveyed to NMFS that the survey would occur later than previously expected. Echo has requested modification to the expiration date of the LOA (from June 30, 2023, to December 31, 2023) to account for any potential delays. There are no other changes to Echo’s planned activity. Since issuance of the LOA, no survey work has occurred.

**Authorization**

NMFS has changed the expiration date of the LOA from June 30, 2023 to December 31, 2023. There are no other changes to the LOA as described in the January 26, 2023, **Federal Register** notice of issuance (88 FR 4973): the specified survey activity; estimated take by incidental harassment; and small

numbers analysis and determination remain unchanged and are herein incorporated by reference.

Dated: June 22, 2023.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**  
*Director, Office of Protected Resources,*  
*National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023–13717 Filed 6–27–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD103]

**Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hybrid meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Puerto Rico District Advisory Panel (PR–DAP) will hold a public hybrid meeting to discuss the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The PR–DAP public hybrid meeting will be held on July 18, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Atlantic Standard Time (AST).

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott Isla Verde Resort, 7012 Boca de Cangrejos Avenue, Carolina, Puerto Rico 00979.

You may join the PR–DAP public hybrid meeting (via Zoom) from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following addresses:

Join Zoom Meeting: DAP–PR <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88004907357?pwd=ZnRPL0g4ekMzWHRJUzA1K1FoRnV0dz09>

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Passcode: 849982

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Miguel Rolón, Executive Director,