

whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

NMFS Office of Protected Resources (OPR) has authorized take of four species of marine mammals which are listed under the ESA, including the North Atlantic right, fin, sei, and sperm whale, and has determined that these activities fall within the scope of activities analyzed in NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office's (GARFO) programmatic consultation regarding geophysical surveys along the U.S. Atlantic coast in the three Atlantic Renewable Energy Regions (completed June 29, 2021; revised September 2021).

### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

### Authorization

As a result of these determinations, NMFS has issued an IHA to AE for conducting marine site characterization surveys in coastal waters off of New York and New Jersey in the New York Bight for a period of 1 year, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. The IHA can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-other-energy-activities-renewable>.

Dated: June 22, 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-XD110]

### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a two-day in-person meeting of its Standing, Reef Fish, Socioeconomic, and Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 19 through Thursday, July 20, 2023. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., EDT on Wednesday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., EDT on Thursday.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the Gulf Council office. Registration information will be available on the Council's website by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and clicking on the "meeting tab".

**Council address:** Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ryan Rindone, Lead Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org); telephone: (813) 348-1630.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023; 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., EDT**

The meeting will begin with Introductions and Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Verbatim Minutes and Meeting Summary from the May 2-4, 2023, meeting, and a review of the Scope of Work. The Committees will select an SSC Representative for the August 14-17, 2023, Gulf Council meeting in Austin, TX.

Following, the Committees will review SEDAR 81: Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Operational Assessment; presentation and background documentation and references will be provided to support SSC discussion. The Committees will receive an update on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Cumulative Estimate Reporting and discuss Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations, with

presentations, background documentation and references for SSC discussion. Public comment will be heard at the end of the day.

**Thursday, July 20, 2023; 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., EDT**

The Committees will review and discuss an Evaluation of Interim Analysis Process, Part 2, conclude discussions for SEDAR 81 Evaluation and Projections, and review the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel Interim Analysis; including presentations and background materials for SSC discussion.

The Committees will receive public comment, if any before addressing any items under Other Business.

—Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will also be broadcast via webinar. You may register for the webinar by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Council's intent to take-action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348-1630, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

*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.

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