

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

#### Authority

Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR 222–226). NMFS issues permits based on finding that such permits: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and, (3) are consistent with the purposes and policy of section 2 of the ESA. The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits.

Dated: August 22, 2023.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Request for Public Comment on Draft Hydrographic Survey Specifications and Deliverables

**AGENCY:** Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA’s) Office of Coast Survey (OCS) requests public comment from all interested parties on a draft of the newly-revised Hydrographic Survey Specifications and Deliverables document (HSSD). The HSSD has been rewritten to be more forward looking with respect to new and developing technologies, best facilitate the use of automated tools, and better integrate with the S–100 based products and the National Bathymetric Source (NBS), which is the OCS database for best-available bathymetry. Additionally, the revised HSSD will better accommodate the increasing amounts of hydrographic data obtained from external sources,

with metadata tags to denote data quality and universal data licenses to define terms of use, which will result in more streamlined, standardized workflows. Numerous subject matter experts collaborated to modernize the HSSD so that it best supports OCS as a data-driven organization.

**DATES:** Comments must be received via email by 5 p.m. ET on October 12, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the revised HSSD may be downloaded or viewed at: [https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/docs/standards-and-requirements/specs/HSSD\\_2023-2-02.pdf](https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/docs/standards-and-requirements/specs/HSSD_2023-2-02.pdf).

All comments must be submitted by email to [hssd.staff@noaa.gov](mailto:hssd.staff@noaa.gov) by 5 p.m. ET on October 12, 2023.

**Instructions:** Please include “Public Comment on Revised HSSD” in the subject line of the email message. If applicable, clearly indicate the HSSD section and page number to which submitted comments pertain. All submissions must be in English. Email attachments will be accepted in plain text, Microsoft Word, or Adobe PDF formats only. Each individual or institution is requested to submit only one comment. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation or the use of any information contained in the response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Matt Wilson, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, at [hssd.staff@noaa.gov](mailto:hssd.staff@noaa.gov), (757) 828–6915.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Coast and Geodetic Survey Act, 33 U.S.C. 883 *et seq.*, and the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, 33 U.S.C. 892 *et seq.*, NOAA promulgates standards and specifications for hydrographic data in the HSSD in order to ensure safe and efficient navigation in support of our maritime economy. NOAA has revised the HSSD to better accommodate new and developing technologies and increasing amounts of externally-sourced hydrographic data submissions. The revised HSSD facilitates more streamlined workflows via critical metadata tags and universal data licenses, and is better integrated with the NBS program, for a more efficient means of product generation and public access to our national bathymetry.

*Authority:* 33 U.S.C. 883 *et seq.*; 33 U.S.C. 892 *et seq.*

**RDML Benjamin K. Evans,**

*Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD239]

#### New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Monkfish Committee 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, September 13, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### ADDRESSES:

*Webinar registration URL information:* <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/774583284656558933>.

*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 Monkfish Committee will meet to receive Advisory Panel comments on fishery performance and outlook for the remainder of fishing year 2023, as well as reviewing the outcomes and recommendations of the Monkfish Research-Set-Aside (RSA) Working Group and make recommendations to the Council on next steps with the RSA program. They will make recommendations to the Council for monkfish-related work in 2024, which could include developing regulatory changes to the RSA program.