

address governance issues associated with climate-related shifts in stock distributions.

Given the Mid-Atlantic Council's shared regional boundaries with two other East coast Councils, as well as the number of Mid-Atlantic stocks that extend beyond the Council region boundaries, this policy has the potential to directly impact a number of Mid-Atlantic Council fishery management plans. The purpose of this webinar is to inform Mid-Atlantic Council stakeholders on the development of this draft policy, and to ensure that Council stakeholders have the opportunity to provide feedback to NOAA Fisheries on this issue.

Additional information, background documents, and instructions for providing written comments will be posted to the Council's website at: <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/nmfs-climate-governance-policy>.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: September 26, 2023.

#### Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-21455 Filed 9-28-23; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD417]

#### 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 Advisory Panel 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 Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Meeting address:** This meeting will be held at the Fairfield Inn/Waypoint Event Center, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740, Phone (774) 634-2000.

**Webinar URL information:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6354731240783343452>.

**Council address:** New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cate O'Keefe, Ph.D., Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Agenda

The Advisory Panel will review Framework Adjustment (FW) 38: Receive an update and provide input on a range of potential access area and DAS allocations for the 2024 and 2025 fishing years. Council staff will update the group on any modifications the Council may make to the scope of this action at the September Council meeting. FW 38 will set specifications including ABC/ACLs, days-at-sea, access area allocations, total allowable landings for the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) management area, targets for General Category incidental catch, General Category access area trips, and set-asides for the observer and research programs for fishing year 2024 and default specifications for fishing year 2025. They also plan to discuss the Northern Edge Framework: Receive an update on progress and review the timeline for this action. They will also develop recommendations for possible 2024 scallop work priorities. 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 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 Cate

O'Keefe, Ph.D., Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: September 26, 2023.

#### Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-21463 Filed 9-28-23; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD383]

#### Endangered Species; File No. 27686

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application and conservation plan for renewal of an incidental take permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Incorporated (hereinafter 'Clearwater') has applied in due form to renew a permit pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The renewal permit application is for the incidental take of Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*A. brevirostrum*) associated with the otherwise lawful environmental education program conducted on the Hudson River, New York. The education program uses small otter trawls and beach seines to collect fish and invertebrate specimens that are held onboard the vessels for educational purposes. The duration of the proposed permit is 10 years. NMFS is providing this notice in order to allow other agencies and the public an opportunity to review and comment on the application materials. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be available for review.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before October 30, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** The application is available for download and review at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/incidental-take-permits> and at <https://www.regulations.gov>. The application is also available upon request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-

2023–0111 by any of the following methods:

**Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and NOAA–NMFS–2023–0111 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (*e.g.*, name, address, *etc.*) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. We will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Steven Hughes, (301) 427–8576, [steven.hughes@noaa.gov](mailto:steven.hughes@noaa.gov); Celeste Stout, (301) 427–9436, [Celeste.Stout@noaa.gov](mailto:Celeste.Stout@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the ‘taking’ of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The ESA defines “take” to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may issue permits, under limited circumstances to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA provides for authorizing incidental take of listed species. NMFS governing regulations for permits for incidental taking of threatened and endangered species are promulgated at 50 CFR 222.307.

**Background**

On July 10, 2023, Clearwater Inc. sent a permit renewal request before permit number 18600 expires December 31, 2023. On August 28, 2023, NMFS met with Clearwater Inc. to discuss reducing the number of requested takes for the permit from 20 to 10 sturgeon over the course of the 10-year project.

Over the course of the 10-year project two sturgeons were captured during the proposed action. The species affected were two Atlantic sturgeon. The two

sturgeon were released back into the Hudson River immediately after they were brought up to the boat. The Clearwater applicant has submitted end of year reports every year. There were no compliance issues throughout the permit that would prevent the application from being renewed for another 10 years.

**Conservation Plan**

Clearwater’s conservation plan describes measures to minimize, monitor, and mitigate the incidental take of ESA-listed Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon. Clearwater will regularly communicate with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to avoid known sturgeon habitat and spawning grounds. Clearwater will use small otter trawls (95.52 by 45.72 centimeter doors and weigh less than 0.45 kilograms) and short tow times (= < 5 minutes). Beach seines, which allow for targeted catch, will be used where practicable (*e.g.*, away from urban areas and where tides allow). If Clearwater incidentally captures a sturgeon in its sets, it will follow protocols for safe handling and immediately release any sturgeon caught. Clearwater will maintain a detailed log of all gear sets and will submit to NMFS incident and annual reports of incidental capture, if any, of listed sturgeon.

**National Environmental Policy Act**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), as implemented by 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and NOAA Administrative Order 216–6, Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Policy Act (1999), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

**Next Steps**

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments received during the comment period to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA. If NMFS determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed sturgeon. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be made until after the end of the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 26, 2023.

**Catherine G. Marzin,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources.*

[FR Doc. 2023–21446 Filed 9–28–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD415]

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel on November 6–7, 2023, and a meeting of the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel on November 7–8, 2023.

**DATES:** The Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel meeting will be held November 6, 2023, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT and November 7, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel meeting will be held November 7, 2023, from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT and November 8, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meetings will be held at the Town and County Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407.

The meeting will also be available via webinar. Registration is required.

Webinar registration, an online public comment form, and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meeting at: <https://safmc.net/advisory-panel-meetings/>.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christina Wiegand, Fishery Social Scientists, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: [christina.wiegand@safmc.net](mailto:christina.wiegand@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) Meeting**

The Dolphin Wahoo AP will develop and update a fishery performance report for wahoo, receive a presentation from the National Marine Fisheries Service