

Dated: September 26, 2023.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-21464 Filed 9-28-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB844]

#### Pacific Island Fisheries; Experimental Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice; amendment of permit.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issued an amended experimental fishing permit (EFP) to the Hawaii Longline Association (HLA) on September 20, 2023 to evaluate the risk of seabird interactions in the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery when setting fishing gear 1 hour before and 1 hour after local sunset and using tori lines instead of required blue-dyed bait and strategic offal discharge as seabird mitigation measures. The intent of the EFP is to conduct a preliminary evaluation of potential alternative effective methods of discouraging seabird interactions while providing operational flexibility during setting in the shallow-set longline fishery. The amendment will extend the expiration date to August 24, 2024 and modify the list of vessels authorized under the EFP. All other terms and conditions of the EFP are unchanged. The amended EFP invalidates and replaces the EFP issued by NMFS to HLA on January 24, 2023.

**DATES:** The EFP is authorized from March 24, 2022, through August 24, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the EFP, HLA's application, and supporting documents are available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2021-0128>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Heather Nelson, Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, tel (808) 725-5179.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS is issuing an amended EFP to the HLA under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific (FEP), and regulations at 50 CFR 665.17. Under the EFP, HLA will conduct a

pilot test of tori lines (bird scaring streamers) as replacement seabird mitigation measures to discourage seabird interactions during setting in the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery. The purpose of the experiment is to test new ways to mitigate seabird interactions that also increase operational flexibility during setting. HLA will use no more than one vessel at any given time to test tori lines as an alternate seabird mitigation measure to currently required blue-dyed bait, strategic offal discharge, and night setting measures (50 CFR 665.815(a)(2) & (4)).

On March 18, 2022, under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the FEP, and regulations at 50 CFR 665.17, NMFS issued an EFP to the HLA to evaluate the risk of seabird interactions in the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery when setting fishing gear one hour before and one hour after local sunset and using tori lines instead of required blue-dyed bait and strategic offal discharge as seabird mitigation measures. The EFP was authorized from March 24, 2022, through September 24, 2023. On January 24, 2023, NMFS issued an amended EFP which authorized the participation of a new vessel, the F/V *Vui Vui II* under the EFP and approved the tori line design submitted to NMFS by HLA. All other terms and conditions of the EFP remained the same. This EFP invalidated and replaced the EFP issued by NMFS to HLA on March 24, 2022.

In a letter to NMFS dated June 13, 2023 HLA notified NMFS that no fishing effort occurred under the EFP due to unforeseen circumstances, including a delay in obtaining electronic monitoring equipment and crew shortages, and that none of the authorized vessels will participate in the trial. HLA requested a permit modification to authorize the participation of the F/V's *Queen Diamond* (Official No. 964927), *Queen Diamond II* (Official No. 949947), *Lady Luck* (Official No. 905580), and *Lucky Lady* (Official No. 616365) in place of the authorized vessels, and to extend the expiration date of the EFP through August 2024.

The requested vessels are of the same type, with a similar length and weight as the previously authorized vessels. No experimental fishing has occurred under the current permit, and the proposed extension is an extension of time to conduct the experimental fishing contemplated by the 2022 permit, rather than an extension that would allow for more effort than what was originally considered (80 fishing sets).

The project is limited in scale (only 4 vessels, setting a combined total of 80

sets with no more than 1 vessel operating at any given time), proposes a minor change in fishing operations that does not have the potential to change the overall effects of the fishery, and will be effective for no longer than 11 months. All other regulatory requirements would remain in effect for participating vessels, including seabird mitigation requirements at 50 CFR 665.815(a)(2) for strategic offal discharge during hauling, and 50 CFR 665.815(b) for short-tailed albatross handling techniques.

In addition, gear configurations and operations under the EFP would be compliant with international seabird mitigation requirements under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. More information about the EFP may be found in the December 15, 2021 notice, and in HLA's EFP application (see **ADDRESSES**).

The amended EFP is effective through August 24, 2024, unless revoked, suspended, or modified earlier.

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

Dated: September 25, 2023.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-21329 Filed 9-28-23; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD414]

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) ad-hoc Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup (Workgroup) will hold two online meetings.

**DATES:** The online meetings will be held Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, or until business for the day concludes. The second meeting will be held Monday, November 20, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, or until for the day business concludes.

**ADDRESSES:** These meetings will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will

be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt ([kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov)) or contact him at (503) 820-2280, extension 412 for technical assistance.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2410.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Workgroup will elect a chair and vice chair and conduct other logistical business. The Workgroup will also review and finalize the draft terms of reference as needed, identify, and assign tasks and a general schedule to provide technical data and analysis to the Pacific Council. Data collection, analysis, and discussion may also occur.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt ([kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov); (503) 820-2412) at least 10 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.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD424]

### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of web conference.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Social Science Planning Team (SSPT) will meet October 18, 2023.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Alaska Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be a web conference. Join online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3010>.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via video conference are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Marrinan, Council staff; phone: (907) 271-2809; email: [sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov). For technical support, please contact our admin Council staff, email: [npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Agenda

*Wednesday, October 18, 2023*

The SSPT agenda will meet to elect a chair or co-chairs, discuss the upcoming research priority process and the requested SSPT engagement, and other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3010> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

#### Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3010>.

#### Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3010>.

*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.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD281]

### Scoping for a Marine Mammal Take Reduction Team to Address Incidental Mortality and Serious Injury of Humpback Whale Stocks in the Pacific

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

**ACTION:** Notice of scoping for a Marine Mammal Take Reduction Team; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is establishing a Take Reduction Team (TRT or Team) to address the incidental mortality and serious injury (M/SI) of humpback whales that would, at a minimum, consider Federal sablefish pot fishery interactions with the Central America/Southern Mexico-CA/OR/WA and Mainland Mexico-CA/OR/WA stocks of humpback whales, and may also be expanded to consider other fisheries in the Pacific Ocean. The TRT will develop a Take Reduction Plan (TRP or Plan) as required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). NMFS requests public comments on information relevant to establishing the TRT as well as interest from stakeholders who wish to be considered for TRT membership.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by November 28, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this notice, by either of the following methods:

*Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA-NMFS-2023-0104 in the Search box. Click on the "Comment" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

*Mail:* Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, NMFS West Coast Region, 501 W Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA.

*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.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will