

address a new study objective to understand the factors influencing humpback whale migration along the east coast of Australia within the context of a rapidly changing environment. Specifically, the study aims to analyze the size, age, and body condition of the sub-population of whales undertaking migration in a given year to provide insights into the overall health and status of the regional humpback whale population. The permit is valid through April 30, 2028. All other terms and conditions of the permit would remain the same.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), 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.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: January 8, 2024.

Julia M. Harrison,

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024-00450 Filed 1-10-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD644]

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, NEFMC) will hold a three-day hybrid meeting with both in-person and remote participation to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, January 30, January 31, and February 1, 2024, beginning at 9 a.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at The Venue at Portwalk Place, 22 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone (603) 422-6114; online at

<https://www.thevenueatportwalkplace.com>. Join the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4656306835494284629>.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone (978) 465-0492; www.nefmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492, ext. 113.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

The Council will begin this meeting in Closed Session to discuss appointments to its Scientific and Statistical Committee. At 9:30 a.m., the open session will begin with brief announcements, followed by reports on recent activities from the Council's Chair and Executive Director, the GARFO Regional Administrator, the NOAA Office of General Counsel, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Director, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaison, and representatives from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The Council then will receive a progress report from its Risk Policy Working Group that will focus on addressing Terms of Reference 1 and 2 to revise the Council's Risk Policy. Next, the Council will receive an update from GARFO and the NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science on revised siting for the Blue Water Fisheries offshore aquaculture project in federal waters off the coast of New Hampshire.

After the lunch break, members of the public will have the opportunity to speak during an open comment period on issues that relate to Council business but are not included on the published agenda for this meeting. The Council asks the public to limit remarks to 3-5 minutes. These comments will be received both in person and through the webinar. A guide for how to publicly comment through the webinar is available on the Council website at https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation_generic.pdf. The Council then will hear from its Herring Committee, which will provide an update on Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. This is an action to

minimize user conflicts in the herring fishery. The Council will review a draft scoping document and scoping meeting schedule to gather public input on the range of issues that potentially could be addressed in this amendment. To close out the day, the Council will receive a congressional update on current legislative activities. Following the adjournment of official business, the Council will host a public outreach session to foster open lines of communication among Council members, staff, industry, and all meeting attendees. This event will be held at the AC Hotel on the Lobby Level, 299 Vaughn Street, which is a four-minute walk from the Council meeting room at The Venue at Portwalk Place in Portsmouth, NH.

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

The Council will begin the second day of its meeting with a presentation on the three-year review of the Northeast Region's Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology. Next, the Council will receive a report on activities within the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Fishery Monitoring and Research Division, including: (1) the status of ongoing responsibilities; (2) at-sea monitoring and observer program activities; and (3) cooperative research updates. This report will be followed by an overview of a Northeast Fisheries Science Center white paper outlining potential plans for industry-based surveys to complement federal spring and fall bottom trawl surveys on the NOAA ship *Henry B. Bigelow*. The Council will have an opportunity to provide input on research priorities for consideration in future industry-based survey as they relate to its own research priorities.

Following the lunch break, the Council will receive a NOAA Fisheries presentation on the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), which will include an update on the status of MRIP's Fishing Effort Survey (FES). This will be followed by the Groundfish Committee report, which will cover four items as follows. (1) Recreational Measures: the Council will provide recommendations to GARFO on fishing year 2024 recreational measures for Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine cod, and Gulf of Maine haddock. (2) The Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: the Council will receive an update on transition planning. (3) Metrics for the Groundfish Amendment 23 Monitoring System Review: the Council will receive a progress report on this action. And (4) 2024 Groundfish Priorities: the Council will receive a preliminary overview of the groundfish

workplan for year ahead. As the final item of business for the day, the Council will revisit fishing year 2024–2026 specifications approved in December 2023 for the small-mesh multispecies (whiting) fishery to address southern red hake rebuilding.

Thursday, February 1, 2024

The Council will lead off the third day of its meeting with a Spiny Dogfish Committee report, where it will review, discuss, and approve fishing year 2024–2026 spiny dogfish specifications. Next, the Council will receive a progress report on Monkfish Framework 15, which is part of a joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council action to reduce monkfish/dogfish large-mesh gillnet fishery interactions with Atlantic sturgeon. Then, the Council will receive an update from its On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group on activities to prevent or reduce potential gear conflicts between mobile, fixed, and recreational gear and on-demand (ropeless) fishing gear. This update will be followed by a presentation on the peer-reviewed 2023 Black Sea Bass Research Track Stock Assessment. The Council then will close out the meeting with other business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before the 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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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 Executive Director Cate O'Keefe (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 8, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024–00471 Filed 1–10–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD638]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Withdrawal of notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: NMFS is issuing this notice to advise Federal, state, and local government agencies and the public of withdrawal of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed operation of salmon hatchery programs in the Nooksack River Basin in Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Morgan Robinson, Lacey, WA (phone: 253–307–2670, email: morgan.robinson@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS published a NOI in the **Federal Register** on June 20, 2016 (81 FR 39911) to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze the impacts on the human environment resulting from the operation of salmon hatchery programs in the Nooksack River Basin in Washington. NMFS hereby advises the public of the rescission of this NOI. This change occurred because the proposed hatchery and genetic management plans jointly submitted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Lummi Nation, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community as co-managers were withdrawn since the NOI was published.

Any future hatchery and genetic management plans submitted by the above parties to NMFS will comply with the environmental review requirements of NEPA.

Dated: January 8, 2024.

Angela Somma,

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

[FR Doc. 2024–00473 Filed 1–10–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD–2024–OS–0005]

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: This Computer Matching Agreement (CMA) verifies the eligibility of Military Health System (MHS) beneficiaries who are Medicare eligible to receive TRICARE Benefits.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before February 12, 2024. This proposed action will be effective the day following the end of the comment period unless comments are received which result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

* *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

* *Mail:* Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 08D09, Alexandria, VA 22350–1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mindy Smith, Management and Program Analyst, Privacy and Civil Liberties Directorate at (703) 571–0070.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoD, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) will provide the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a list of specific data elements for all DoD eligible beneficiaries both over and under the age of 65. CMS will: (1) match the Social Security Numbers (SSNs) of beneficiaries provided by DMDC against the information found in CMS's "Enrollment Database (EDB)" system of records; (2) validate the identification of the individual against CMS beneficiary records based on SSN and date of birth