



Figure 1. Southern Exclusion Zone.

NMFS set the annual observer coverage rate in the Hawaii deep-set longline fishery for 2024 at 13.5 percent. Observer coverage was previously set at 20 percent, but has been reduced due to increased program costs and available funding for the observer program. The abundance estimate for the Hawaii pelagic stock of false killer whales is 2,086 (CV = 0.35) individuals in the Hawaii EEZ. The minimum population abundance (N_{min}), used for calculating PBR, is 1,567 animals within the EEZ around Hawaii.¹ The PBR published in the final 2022 SAR for this stock within the EEZ is calculated as 16 pelagic false killer whales (Carretta *et al.*, 2023). Based on the current published PBR of 16 whales for the Hawaii pelagic stock of false killer whales within the EEZ, and the 2024 annual observer coverage (13.5 percent), the trigger value is calculated as 3 observed M/SI of false killer whales. This value is smaller than the currently published trigger value because of the decrease in the observer coverage rate. Therefore, NMFS sets the trigger value for SEZ closure at three observed false killer whale M/SI in the

deep-set longline fishery in the EEZ around Hawaii.

Information on the Plan is available on the internet at the following address: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/false-killer-whale-take-reduction>. Copies of reference materials may also be obtained from the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, Protected Resources Division, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Building 176, Honolulu, HI 96818.

This notice serves as a notification to fishermen, the fishing industry, and the general public that the SEZ closure trigger value is three observed false killer whale M/SI in the deep-set longline fishery in the EEZ around Hawaii.

References

- Carretta, J.V., E. Oleson, D.W. Weller, A.R. Lang, K.A. Forney, J. Baker, B. Hanson, K. Martien, M.M. Muto, M.S. Lowry, J. Barlow, D. Lynch, L. Carswell, R.L. Brownell Jr., D.K. Mattila, and M.C. Hill. 2012. U.S. Pacific Marine Mammal Stock Assessments: 2012. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-504. 378p.
- Carretta, J.W., E.M. Oleson, K.A. Forney, M.M. Muto, D.W. Weller, A.R. Lang, J. Baker, B. Hanson, A.J. Orr, J. Barlow, J.E. Moore, and R.L. Brownell. 2023. U.S. Pacific Marine Mammal Stock Assessments: 2022. U.S. Department of Commerce. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SWFSC-684. 409 p.
- Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*

Dated: February 16, 2024.

Samuel D. Rauch, III,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Request for Public Comment on Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee Recommendations

AGENCY: National Ocean Service,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA), Department of
Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA's Marine Debris Program, on behalf of the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee (IMDCC), is soliciting public comments regarding draft recommendations to address marine debris. The IMDCC is required to submit a biennial report to Congress that includes the status of implementation of any recommendations and strategies of the Committee. These recommendations will replace the recommendations first published by the IMDCC in 2008.

¹ At a March 2023 False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team meeting, NMFS introduced a False Killer Whale Management Area that included areas inside and outside the EEZ around Hawaii with a PBR calculated to be 33 pelagic false killer whales. The False Killer Whale Management Area and associated PBR are not yet available for current management use. NMFS is using the PBR (16) from the 2022 final SAR to revise the SEZ trigger.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 25, 2024, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted via email to yael.seid-green@noaa.gov. *Instructions:* All comments received are a part of the public record. All personal identifying information (name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Comments that are not related to the IMDCC recommendations, or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ya'el Seid-Green, Executive Secretariat, IMDCC, Marine Debris Program; Phone 240-622-5910; Email yael.seid-green@noaa.gov or visit the IMDCC website at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/our-work/IMDCC>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Marine Debris Act establishes the IMDCC. 33 U.S.C. 1954. The IMDCC is a multi-agency body responsible for coordinating a comprehensive program of marine debris research and activities among Federal agencies, in cooperation and coordination with non-governmental organizations, industry, academia, States, Tribes, and other nations, as appropriate. Representatives meet to share information, assess and promote best management practices, and coordinate the Federal Government's efforts to address marine debris. NOAA serves as the Chairperson of the IMDCC.

Why develop the recommendations?

The IMDCC is required to submit a biennial report to Congress that includes the status of implementation of any recommendations and strategies of the Committee and an analysis of their effectiveness. 33 U.S.C. 1954(e). In its first report to Congress, in 2008, the IMDCC published recommendations for addressing marine debris. The 25 recommendations were organized into four themes and eight subthemes. The goal of the recommendations was to "guide the Federal government's strategies with respect to the problems of persistent marine debris (IMDCC 2008)". They were "designed to be broad in scope, with the intention that federal agencies work collaboratively through the IMDCC to develop more detailed priorities and an action plan (*ibid*)". The 2008 report can be accessed at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/sites/>

[default/files/publications-files/imdccreport_2008.pdf](https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/publications-files/imdccreport_2008.pdf).

A report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in September 2019 (GAO-19-653) highlighted that the biennial reports did not include an analysis of the effectiveness of the IMDCC's recommendations and strategies. The GAO recommended that the IMDCC develop and implement a process to analyze the effectiveness of the recommendations and strategies, and include the results in its biennial reports.

However, it is difficult to analyze the effectiveness of the 2008 recommendations based on their scope and age. In addition, several new agencies have joined as members of the IMDCC, and the recommendations do not reflect the full scope of current IMDCC member agency activities. As a result, the IMDCC has developed an entirely new set of draft recommendations through a collaborative process. Once finalized, the new recommendations will be included in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 IMDCC Biennial Report to Congress.

The Recommendations

The new draft recommendations attempt to identify and express what the IMDCC sees as priorities for reducing the impacts of marine debris, aligning with the purposes and policies articulated in the Marine Debris Act and based on current authorities and activities of the IMDCC member agencies. The recommendations are designed to be broad in scope and are written to maintain relevance for several years. Not all IMDCC member agencies have activities that are relevant to each recommendation. The recommendations are divided into seven categories. The number of recommendations in each category varies.

International Activities

Recommendation #1: The IMDCC member agencies should strengthen the capacity of local actors in foreign nations to prevent marine debris; mitigate waste that may contribute to marine debris; and capture, clean up, and remove waste that may contribute to marine debris and existing marine debris in the environment.

Recommendation #2: The IMDCC member agencies should participate in and support international efforts to address marine debris.

Prevention

Recommendation #1: The IMDCC member agencies should work to reduce the federal contribution of materials that

may contribute to marine debris in their operations.

Recommendation #2: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support external efforts to prevent marine debris and mitigate waste that may contribute to marine debris, incorporating principles of environmental justice and focusing on disadvantaged communities.

Recommendation #3: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support efforts to prevent and mitigate abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear.

Capture, Clean Up, and Removal

Recommendation #1: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support efforts to capture, clean up, and remove waste that may contribute to marine debris and existing marine debris in the environment, incorporating principles of environmental justice and focusing on disadvantaged communities.

Outreach and Education

Recommendation #1: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support public awareness and education efforts to inform communities and the general public about marine debris, incorporating principles of environmental justice and focusing on disadvantaged communities.

Recommendation #2: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support efforts to engage members of the public in science and data collection efforts to learn about marine debris, incorporating principles of environmental justice and focusing on disadvantaged communities.

Coordination

Recommendation #1: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support outreach to partners to improve coordination across jurisdictions to more effectively prevent, remove, inform people about, research, and monitor marine debris.

Research and Monitoring

Recommendation #1: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support research to improve understanding of marine debris sources, abundance, distribution, transport, degradation, and the social, environmental, and economic impacts of marine debris.

Recommendation #2: The IMDCC member agencies should collaborate with partners on congruent and harmonized data collection, as appropriate.

Recommendation #3: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support efforts to develop and apply technologies (e.g., modeling or remote sensing) that support a more robust understanding of the status of marine debris, prevent marine debris, or address the impacts of marine debris.

Recommendation #4: The IMDCC member agencies should conduct and support efforts to monitor marine debris to better understand marine debris sources, fate, and transport.

Enforcement

Recommendation #1: The IMDCC member agencies, as appropriate, should issue notices of non-compliance to correct violations of federal law and either address violations through agency administrative processes or, when violations warrant, refer violations of federal law for civil or criminal enforcement action.

How Comments Will Be Addressed

NOAA's Marine Debris Program, on behalf of the IMDCC, invites comments, feedback, and recommendations on the draft recommendations. Following the comment period, the feedback provided will be reviewed and the recommendations will be updated as necessary. The final recommendations will be included in the Fiscal Year 2022–2023 IMDCC Biennial Report to Congress and in a stand-alone report. An appendix will be added to the stand-alone report describing how comments from the public comment period were incorporated into the recommendations. This report will be posted to <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/our-work/IMDCC>.

The recommendations do not imply approval for any specific action, although they may inform future federal budget development. All activities included in the recommendations are subject to budgetary constraints, interagency processes, stakeholder input and other approvals, including the weighing of priorities and available resources by the Administration in formulating its annual budget and by Congress in legislating appropriations. In some cases, implementing the recommendations may require a sustained, multi-year effort by federal, state, tribal and community partners. The recommendations are not intended to, and do not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its

officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Scott Lundgren,

Director, Office of Response and Restoration, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024–03678 Filed 2–22–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; reopening of application window for Advisory Committee nominations.

SUMMARY: Through this Notice, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is reopening an application window for nominations to the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee (CSMAC). On December 27, 2023, NTIA published a Notice seeking nominations to the CSMAC with a deadline of January 31, 2024, for submissions. In reopening this application window, NTIA seeks to expand the pool of applicants and best ensure that the composition of the committee reflects balanced points of view.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to the address below on or before March 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Persons may submit applications to Antonio Richardson, Designated Federal Officer, by email (preferred) to arichardson@ntia.gov or by U.S. mail or commercial delivery service to Office of Spectrum Management, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4600, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Antonio Richardson at (202) 482–4156 or arichardson@ntia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CSMAC was established and chartered by the Department of Commerce under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, and pursuant to section 105(b) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 904(b). The committee will continue as provided in

Executive Order 14109, effective September 29, 2023. The Department of Commerce re-chartered the CSMAC on November 21, 2023, for a two-year period. More information about the CSMAC may be found at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/csmac>. On December 27, 2023, NTIA published a Notice in the **Federal Register** seeking nominations for appointment to the CSMAC. See Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee; Call for nominations to serve on Advisory Committee, 88 FR 89408 (December 27, 2023), available at <https://www.ntia.gov/federal-register-notice/2024/call-applications-serve-department-commerce-spectrum-management>. The original application deadline was January 31, 2024.

Through this Notice, NTIA is reopening the application window for 10 days to expand the pool of applicants and best ensure that the composition of the committee reflects balanced points of view (e.g., past professional or academic accomplishments, industry sector representation, and educational background). All other requirements for appointment to the CSMAC appear in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of the December 27, 2023, Notice.

Sean T. Conway,

Deputy Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024–03663 Filed 2–22–24; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to delete product(s) and service(s) from the Procurement List that were furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before: March 24, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 355 E Street SW, Suite 325, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit comments contact: Michael R.