

delegate) within 24 hours of the notification under paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section.

(iii) As soon as practicable, upon receipt of stakeholders' notice of intent to participate in an investigation, FRA shall establish clear channels of communication with the identified stakeholders. These channels may include, but are not limited to, email correspondence, teleconferences, in-person meetings, and online forums.

(2) *On-site investigation.* (i) Stakeholders may only gain access to the accident site through the incident command or on-site railroad personnel. When investigations occur on railroad property, FRA encourages railroads to permit on-site access to stakeholders participating in FRA's investigation process and expects that railroads will grant such access. However, FRA cannot, at its own discretion, provide stakeholders' access to an accident site. If a railroad rule prohibits a stakeholder from accessing the accident site during FRA's on-site investigation, a railroad must promptly notify FRA in writing of any such rule, and FRA will subsequently communicate the substance of the rule to all affected stakeholders. In these instances, as practicable, FRA may consult with any affected stakeholder by other means (e.g., through real-time participation in on-site meetings via video or conference call, off-site in-person meetings, virtual meetings, or phone calls).

(ii) Stakeholders are not actual or implied agents of FRA. FRA is not responsible for the safety of stakeholders.

(iii) FRA will initiate its on-site investigation when FRA staff arrive at an accident site, and the FRA investigation team will depart the accident site upon completion of FRA's on-site investigation activities. FRA will not wait for participating stakeholders to arrive at the accident site to begin its investigation, but FRA will make a reasonable effort to provide a stakeholder that does not arrive at the accident site during the investigation a verbal summary of the status of the investigation. As needed, FRA will advise stakeholder representatives when the FRA team expects to leave the accident site.

(iv) Each stakeholder representative participating in FRA's on-site investigation must contact the FRA Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) upon arrival at the accident site and provide photo identification to the IIC. At the time of a stakeholder's initial contact with the IIC, the IIC or other FRA representatives will provide the stakeholder with the name and contact information for the

incident commander and other pertinent information related to the accident known to the IIC at the time. As needed, FRA's investigation team should coordinate meeting(s) with stakeholders and provide a verbal summary of the status of the investigation as stakeholders arrive to the accident site.

(3) *Off-site information gathering and investigative activities.* (i) When conducting accident/incident investigations under this paragraph, to the extent practicable, FRA will establish a means to receive and share documents and information with Stakeholders electronically. Any documents or information stakeholders submit to FRA's investigation team must be provided to FRA through such established system. With the exception of confidential information or documents or information appropriately submitted consistent with paragraph (4) of this section, FRA may share documents relevant to its investigation with Stakeholders.

(ii) Stakeholders may request meetings with representatives of other non-FRA stakeholders and request that FRA participate in such meetings. FRA participation is not guaranteed, and any information pertinent to the investigation made available through these meetings must be documented and submitted through the established electronic information sharing system.

(iii) Any stakeholder seeking to provide confidential information to FRA, or to maintain the confidentiality of such stakeholder's identity, must coordinate with the IIC prior to submittal of that information and submit the information to FRA in compliance with 49 CFR 209.11.

(4) *Analysis activities.* As appropriate, the FRA investigation team will consult with stakeholders to review the facts gathered during the team's investigation of the accident/incident, FRA's analysis of those facts, and FRA's inputs and outputs of root cause analyses. Stakeholders may offer input, raise concerns, and participate in discussions aimed at identifying root causes and potential recommendations to mitigate risk or prevent reoccurrence of the accident/incident. Stakeholders will not be included in FRA deliberations or consideration of potential compliance or enforcement issues related to an accident/incident investigation.

(5) *Confidentiality.* (i) FRA recognizes the sensitive nature of certain information involved in accident or incident investigations. In accordance with applicable laws and regulations, FRA will maintain as confidential any personally identifiable information or

sensitive security information as defined in 2 CFR 200.1 and 49 CFR 1520.5, respectively. Any other documents or information a participating stakeholder provides to FRA as part of that stakeholder's participation in an accident/incident investigation under this section, and for which a stakeholder claims confidentiality, must be submitted in accordance with 49 CFR 209.11.

(ii) FRA shall maintain the confidentiality of any stakeholder if:

(A) such stakeholder requests confidentiality;

(B) such stakeholder was not involved in the accident or incident; and

(C) maintaining such stakeholder's confidentiality does not adversely affect an FRA investigation.

(iii) Until FRA publishes its report on the investigation, a stakeholder participating in an investigation may not disseminate any information or comment on an investigation to non-stakeholders through any means. Only when necessary for public safety, and only with the FRA Chief Safety Officer's written permission, may stakeholders release information to non-stakeholders if the information is factual, neutral and objective in tone, and without purported FRA characterization of the matter's contribution to the underlying accident/incident.

(6) *Whistleblower protections.*

Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to reduce in any way the protections afforded to individuals who exercise the conduct protected by 49 CFR 225.33, *Internal Control Plans*, and 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 20109, *Federal Railroad Safety Act, Whistleblower Protections*.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Allison Ishihara Fultz,
Chief Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 217

[Docket No. 240524-0146]

RIN 0648-BL96

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the New England Wind Project, Offshore Massachusetts; Correction

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to a final rule. The document being corrected is the regulations governing the Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the New England Wind Project, Offshore Massachusetts, published on June 21, 2024.

DATES: Effective on March 27, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karolyn Lock, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS published a final rule in the **Federal Register** on June 21, 2024 (89 FR 52222) announcing the promulgation of regulations governing the incidental take of marine mammals incidental to Avangrid Renewables, LLC's (Avangrid), construction of the New England Wind Project in Federal and State waters offshore Massachusetts, specifically within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Areas (OCS-A 0534 and OCS-A 0561) and the southwest (SW) portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501 (collectively referred to as the Lease Area), and along an export cable routes to sea-to-shore transition points (collectively, the Project Area), valid for 5 years from the date of effectiveness.

The regulations, which allow for the issuance of a Letter of Authorization to Avangrid for the incidental take of marine mammals during the specified activities within the specified geographical region during the effective dates of the regulations, prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat, as well as requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. NMFS refers the reader to the final rule (89 FR 52222, June 21, 2024) for background information concerning the regulations.

The following corrections are being made:

- The regulations contained an inconsistency between the headings for 50 CFR 217.325 wherein the heading in the table of contents did not agree with the text of the section, necessitating relabeling.

- 50 CFR 217.324(c)(15)(xiv) was promulgated twice (*i.e.*, two different measures were both designated as 50 CFR 217.324(c)(15)(xiv), necessitating renumbering).

Correction

Subpart GG [Corrected]

■ 1. In rule document 2024-12085 at 89 FR 52222 in the issue of June 21, 2024, on page 52301, in the first column, in the table of contents for Subpart GG, correct the entry for 50 CFR 217.325 to read as 50 CFR 217.325 Monitoring and reporting requirements.

§ 217.324 [Corrected]

■ 2. On page 52308, in the first column, the second paragraph (c)(15)(xiv) is corrected to read as follows: (xv) LOA Holder must conduct SFV measurements during turbine operations to estimate turbine operational source levels and transmission loss rates, in accordance with a NMFS-approved SFV Plan.

Dated: September 24, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,
Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-22307 Filed 9-30-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 240924-0251]

RIN 0648-BL45

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Amendment 23 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action implements the approved trigger for the in-season closure accountability measure contained in Amendment 23 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 23 was developed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries

Commission to address the allocation-related impacts of the significant changes in the distribution of black sea bass that have occurred since the original allocations were implemented. This rule implements a measure that allows a buffer before triggering a closure to the coastwide commercial fishery to address negative economic impacts of coastwide closures on states that have not fully harvested their commercial black sea bass state allocations.

DATES: Effective January 1, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Amendment 23, including the Environmental Assessment, the Regulatory Impact Review, and the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis prepared in support of this action are available from Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Suite 201, 800 North State Street, Dover, DE 19901. The supporting documents are also accessible via the internet at: <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/bsb-commercial-allocation>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emily Keiley, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9116, emily.keiley@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) cooperatively manage the black sea bass fishery. Amendment 23 considered changes to the management of the commercial black sea bass fishery. Specifically, Amendment 23 considered:

1. Adjusting the commercial black sea bass state allocations;
2. Adding the state allocations and payback provisions to the Federal fishery management plan (FMP) and regulations; and,
3. Changes to the Federal in-season closure regulations for black sea bass.

The Council and the Commission's Black Sea Bass Board (Board) initially approved their respective amendment and addendum during a joint meeting on February 1, 2021. However, in response to a remand from the Commission's Policy Board, the two management bodies revisited their previous recommendations and voted to revise the commercial state quota allocations. A notice of availability (NOA) for the amendment was published in the **Federal Register** on May 4, 2023 (88 FR 28456), with a comment period ending on July 3, 2023. NMFS published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** on May 15, 2023 (88