

for longer than needed to conduct sampling, and no catch would be landed for sale on the LA trip. On LAGC trips, scallop and monkfish catch would be kept for sale in accordance with current regulations, but all other catch will be handled in the same manner as the LA research trip.

CFRF needs these exemptions to allow them to conduct experimental dredge towing without being charged DAS. Participating vessels need crew size waivers to accommodate science personnel. Exemptions are also needed from the turtle deflector dredge requirements for testing of an experimental dredge that has a slightly different configuration that the current gear requirements. Possession waivers would enable researchers to sample finfish catch that exceeds possession limits or prohibitions. The project would be exempt from the sea scallop observer program requirements because activities conducted on the trip are not consistent with normal fishing operations. Researchers from CFRF will accompany each trip taken under the EFP.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: August 15, 2019.

Alan D. Risenhoover,
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-17916 Filed 8-19-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Advisory Board

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This is a virtual meeting. However, members of the public may also come to 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3 Room 8836. This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a meeting of the NOAA Science

Advisory Board (SAB). The members will discuss issues outlined in the section on Matters to be considered.

DATES: The meeting will be held Monday, September 9, 2019 from 11:50 a.m. to 11:55 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). These times and the agenda topic described below are subject to change. For the latest agenda please refer to the SAB website: <http://sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx>.

ADDRESSES: Public access is available at: NOAA, SSMC 3 Room 8836, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD. Members of the public may participate virtually by registering at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7316055114512901633>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11230, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone Number: 301-734-1156; Email: Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov; or visit the SAB website at <http://sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a 10-minute public comment period at 11:50 a.m.–11:55 a.m. EST. The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of two (2) minutes. Written comments for the meeting should be received in the SAB Executive Director's Office by August 26, 2019 to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received after by the SAB Executive Director after these dates will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

Special Accommodations: These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed no later than 12:00 p.m. on

August 26, 2019, to Dr. Cynthia Decker, SAB Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Email: Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov.

Matters To Be Considered: The meeting will include a discussion of the recommendations from the SAB Environmental Information Services Working Group regarding the Environmental Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC). The Meeting materials, including work products will be made available on the SAB website: <http://sab.noaa.gov/SABMeetings.aspx>.

Dated: August 14, 2019.

Eric Locklear,

Deputy Chief Financial Officer/
Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2019-17895 Filed 8-19-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XW006

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that seventeen exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications warrant further consideration, and requests public comment on the applications. All EFP applicants request an exemption from a prohibition on the use of unauthorized gear to harvest highly migratory species (HMS) under the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP), to test the effects and efficacy of using deep-set buoy gear (DSBG), deep-set linked buoy gear (DSLBG), or modified deep-set linked buoy gear set at night, to harvest swordfish and other HMS off of the U.S. West Coast.

DATES: Comments must be submitted in writing by September 19, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2019-0079, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-0079, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

• **Mail:** Attn: Chris Fanning, NMFS West Coast Region, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802. Include the identifier "NOAA-NMFS-2019-0079" in the 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 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 be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Fanning, NMFS West Coast Region, 562-980-4198.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DSBG fishing trials have occurred for the past eight years (2011–2015, research years; 2015–2019, EFP years) in the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off California. Data collected from these fishing activities have demonstrated DSBG to achieve about a 95 percent marketable catch composition (swordfish, opah, tunas, and sharks). Non-marketable species catch rates have remained low and most non-marketable catch are released alive. Due to DSBG being actively tended, strikes are detected within minutes of a catch on the line. As a result, all catches can be tended quickly, with catch brought onboard the vessel in good condition.

To date, DSBG has had four interactions with protected species. Three interactions were with elephant

seals, which were not seriously injured and were released alive due to the strike detection and quick tending of the gear. These species are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, but are not listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

On August 4, 2018, a loggerhead sea turtle was observed entangled in the surface buoy lines of a vessel fishing under an EFP to test standard DSBG. The sea turtle was brought on board, disentangled, and released back to the sea in a lively, uninjured condition. Based on analysis of the incident, NMFS West Coast Region amended the applicable Terms and Conditions to require the following attributes, to minimize the likelihood of future sea turtle entanglements:

1. The surface buoy flotation and strike detection array must be a streamlined inline configuration, with no loops or hanging material, and no more than 6 feet between adjacent buoys, to reduce entanglement potential.

2. The surface buoy flotation and strike detection array must consist of a >40lb flotation non-compressible hard ball, a minimum six pound flotation inline-float, and a sub-surface inline-float, all connected in-line with a minimum of 3/8 inch diameter line, and no more than six feet between adjacent buoys.

3. Use of buoy tether attachments (e.g., non-streamlined gear with loops, nooks, and dangling components) is prohibited.

DSLBG trials have occurred since 2015 and have produced similar results to standard DSBG activities. Swordfish and other marketable species have represented about 97 percent of the catch with very similar catch composition to DSBG. Non-marketable species are released alive due to quick DSLBG strike detection and active gear tending. To date, there have been no protected species interactions with

DSLBG in either EFP fishing or research trials.

At the June 2019 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Council received a total of seventeen additional EFP applications for review. Based on recommendations from the Council's HMS Management Team, the Council recommended that NMFS consider issuing EFPs to authorize use of DSBG and/or DSLBG for sixteen of the applications (see Table).

In addition, one application for one vessel to fish modified linked buoy gear at night, was preliminarily approved by the Council, with a final recommendation scheduled for the September 2019 Council meeting. The gear configuration in this application differs from previously approved EFPs in that the applicants propose fishing at night, at a depth of around 300 feet. The array of surface buoys has also been modified to include a green light to aid in the monitoring, strike detection, and retrieval of gear at night. At previous Council meetings, the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) included a brief summary of DSBG gear trials conducted at night. These sets were fished at a depth of less than 100 ft and resulted in a large proportion of blue shark catch. Due to this high rate of interactions with blue sharks, PIER ceased night fishing with DSBG. Mr. Perez and Mr. Carson believe that fishing at a greater depth at night will increase catch of marketable species, including swordfish during their diurnal migration to and from depth, while greatly reducing the occurrence of non-marketable species interactions. The Council's HMS Management Team (HMSMT) agreed (https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/J5a_Sup_HMSMT_Rpt1_JUN2019BB.pdf) that this theory is worth allowing a single vessel, operated by a fisherman with several years of DSBG fishing experience under both PIER and his own EFP, to test this new approach.

TABLE 1

| Applicant | Applications recommended to NMFS |
|------------------------|--|
| Barker/McCaffrey | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 4:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Jordan McCaffrey. |
| Bateman | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 15:</i> DSBG EFP Application from John Bateman. |
| Burke | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 14:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Sean Burke. |
| Dirkse | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 7:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Douglas and Lucas Dirkse. |
| Doljanin | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 19:</i> DSBG EFP Application from John Doljanin. |
| Estrada | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 12:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Antonio Estrada. |
| Flynn | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 10:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Michael Flynn. |
| Gerritsen | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 3:</i> DSBG EFP Application from J.J Gerritsen. |
| Green | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 13:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Anthony Green. |
| Grey/Gibbs | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 9:</i> DSBG EFP Application from John Gibbs and Anthony Grey. |
| Guglielmo | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 8:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Nicholas Guglielmo. |
| Kirkpatrick | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 18:</i> DSBG EFP Application from John Kirkpatrick. |
| Lins | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 2:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Nathan Lins. |

TABLE 1—Continued

| Applicant | Applications recommended to NMFS |
|--------------------|--|
| Marvin | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 16:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Brock Marvin. |
| Roach | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 6:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Zachary Roach. |
| Stephens | <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 11:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Dave Stephens. |
| Perez/Carson | Application preliminarily approved for Council recommendation: <i>Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 17:</i> DSBG EFP Application from Nathan Perez and Thomas Carson. |

All applications are available at the Council June 2019 meeting briefing book website, under agenda item J.5: <https://www.pcouncil.org/resources/archives/briefing-books/june-2019-briefing-book/#hmsJun2019>.

The Council also recommended that NMFS prioritize issuance of these June 2019 EFP applications over previously-approved EFP applications that have not yet been issued, that NMFS extend currently issued DSBG EFPs through 2020, and that NMFS consider any EFP applications previously approved by the Council but not issued by December 31, 2019, due to inaction or abandoned by the applicant, as ineligible for issuance.

NMFS is requesting public comment on the seventeen DSBG/DSLGB EFP applications recommended for consideration by the Council. If all applications are approved, the EFPs would allow up to eighteen vessels to fish with DSBG, four vessels to fish with DSLBG, and one vessel to fish modified linked buoy gear at night, in the U.S. West Coast EEZ. Aside from the exemption described above, vessels fishing under an EFP would be subject to all HMS FMP requirements implemented in NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 660, including measures to protect sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds. For up-to-date information on HMS EFPs, please visit NMFS West Coast Region's "Highly Migratory Species—Exempted Fishing Permits" web page: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/sustainable-fisheries/highly-migratory-species-exempted-fishing-permits>.

NMFS will consider all public comments submitted in response to this **Federal Register** Notice prior to issuance of any EFP. Additionally, NMFS will analyze the effects of issuing EFPs in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and NOAA's Administrative Order 216–6, as well as compliance with other applicable laws, including Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), which requires the agency to consider whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence and recovery of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

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

Dated: August 15, 2019.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 2019–17919 Filed 8–19–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD–2019–OS–0098]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, DoD.

ACTION: Information collection notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by October 21, 2019.

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

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Department of Defense, Office of the Chief Management Officer, Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 08D09, Alexandria, VA 22350–1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title 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 <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the Defense Contract Management Agency, 14501 George Carter Way, 2nd Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151, ATTN: Procurement Center, or call (804) 734–1534.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Department of Defense Application for Priority Rating for Production or Construction Equipment; DD Form 691; OMB Control Number 0704–0055.

Needs and Uses: Executive Order 12919 delegates to DoD authority to require certain contracts and orders relating to approved Defense Programs to be accepted and performed on a preferential basis. This program helps contractors acquire industrial equipment in a timely manner, thereby facilitating development and support of weapons systems and other important Defense Programs.

Affected Public: Business or other For-Profit; Not-for-Profit Institutions.

Annual Burden Hours: 610.

Number of Respondents: 610.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 610.

Average Burden per Response: 1 hour.

Frequency: On occasion.

Dated: August 14, 2019.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2019–17828 Filed 8–19–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P