

have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing a workshop and webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Review Workshop are as follows:

Independent peer review of the assessment developed during the Data Workshop and Assessment Process. Panelists will review the assessment and document their comments and recommendations in a Summary Report.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: February 10, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE438

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to review methods for determining the recreational annual catch limit (ACL) in numbers for the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) Hogfish stock.

DATES: The SSC meeting will be held via webinar on Friday, March 4, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact John Carmichael at the Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of the webinar.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Carmichael; 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: john.carmichael@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is held to review proposed

methods for calculating the recreational ACL of FLK/EFL Hogfish in numbers of fish. The Council stated at their September 2015 meeting in Hilton Head, SC that they would like the recreational ACL for the FLK/EFL stock of Hogfish to be set in numbers rather than in pounds. Items to be addressed during this meeting:

Review and comment on the risks and uncertainties associated with proposed methods for calculating the recreational ACL of the FLK/EFL Hogfish stock in numbers. The SSC will provide recommendations for Council consideration as appropriate.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: February 10, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-03050 Filed 2-12-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC348

Endangered Species; File No.17364-01

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Northeast Fishery Center, PO Box 75, Lamar, PA 16848 [Michael Millard: Responsible Party], has been issued a modification to scientific research Permit No. 17364 to take captive Atlantic sturgeon.

ADDRESSES: The modification and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Malcolm Mohead or Rosa L. González, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 13, 2014, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (79 FR 47440) that a modification of Permit No. 17364, issued March 14, 2013 (78 FR 17640), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested modification has been granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The Permit Holder's original objectives were to refine propagation and culture techniques of captive Atlantic sturgeon held in refugia at the USFWS's Northeast Fisheries Center, providing a source of research animals for studies related to tagging, tracking, behavior, physiology, genetics, health, cryopreservation, and other methods to advance population conservation, recovery, or enhancement of the species in the wild.

The Permit Holder is now authorized to conduct similar scientific research on captive Atlantic sturgeon at five captive holding facilities of Atlantic sturgeon located in the state of Maryland. Study objectives would include nutrition, physiology, propagation, contaminants, genetics, fish health, cryopreservation, aging, tagging techniques, and refugia. Additionally, studies would examine abiotic factors (e.g., pH, temperature, salinity dissolved oxygen, etc) influencing the distribution and abundance of Atlantic sturgeon in the wild. The modification would be valid until expiration of the permit on March 13, 2018.

Issuance of this modification, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 9, 2016.

Perry F. Gayaldo,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2016-03027 Filed 2-12-16; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Order Authorizing the National Futures Association as a Commission Designee for Direct Electronic Access to Data in Swap Data Repositories

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice and order.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") is issuing an order ("Order") authorizing the National Futures Association ("NFA") as a Commission designee to receive direct electronic access to data maintained in swap data repositories ("SDRs") registered with the Commission. The Commission is authorized to designate persons to receive direct electronic access to SDR data pursuant to Section 21(c)(4)(A) of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA"). NFA is registered with the Commission as a registered futures association ("RFA") pursuant to Section 17 of the CEA. Direct access to SDR data will facilitate NFA's performance of functions delegated to NFA by the Commission, as well as the performance of other duties authorized by the CEA and the Commission. As a condition to authorizing NFA as a Commission designee, NFA is required to keep all non-public information received through direct electronic access to SDR data confidential and to refer any request for such data to the Commission for handling.

DATES: *Effective date:* February 16, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eileen T. Flaherty, Director, 202-418-5326, eflaherty@cftc.gov, or Frank Fisanich, Chief Counsel, 202-418-5949, ffisanich@cftc.gov, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Authority and Background

Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act¹ amended the CEA² to establish a comprehensive new regulatory framework for swaps. Amendments to the CEA included the addition of provisions requiring the retention, and the reporting to Commission-registered SDRs, of data regarding swap transactions in order to enhance transparency, promote standardization,

and reduce systemic risk. Such amendments also included certain core principles governing the operations of SDRs. Pursuant to these newly added provisions, the Commission adopted certain SDR registration requirements and provisions implementing core principles in part 49 of its regulations,³ and adopted rules for the reporting of swap transaction data to registered SDRs in parts 45 and 46 of its regulations.⁴

Section 21(c) of the CEA sets forth the duties of a registered SDR. Among them is the duty to provide direct electronic access to the Commission (or any designee of the Commission).⁵ "Direct electronic access" is defined in Commission regulation 49.17(b)(3) as "an electronic system, platform or framework that provides internet or web-based access to real-time swap transaction data and also provides scheduled data transfers to the Commission's electronic systems."⁶ As used herein, "direct electronic access to SDR data" means "an electronic system, platform, or framework that provides internet or web-based access to real-time swap transaction data and/or swap transaction data transfers."

As the Commission stated in adopting the SDR registration requirements, direct electronic access by the Commission is a critical function and responsibility of an SDR because real-time access to swap data is necessary for adequate oversight and surveillance of the swaps market.⁷ The Commission implemented the access requirements for Commission designees under Section 21(c)(4)(A) of the CEA by adopting Commission regulation 49.17(c)(1).

Pursuant to Commission regulation 170.1, a basic purpose of an RFA is to regulate the practices of its members.⁸ In order to help NFA achieve this purpose and strengthen its regulatory oversight of its members, including registered swap dealers ("SDs") and major swap participants ("MSPs"), NFA has requested direct electronic access to all SDRs.

II. Use of SDR Data

NFA is the only futures association registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 17 of the CEA and

³ See Swap Data Repositories: Registration Standards, Duties and Core Principles, 76 FR 54538 (Sept. 1, 2011).

⁴ Swap Data Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements, 77 FR 2136 (Jan. 13, 2012).

⁵ See Section 21(c)(4)(A) of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. 24a(c)(4)(A).

⁶ 17 CFR 49.17(b)(3).

⁷ See Swap Data Repositories: Registration Standards, Duties and Core Principles, 76 FR 54538, 54551-52 (Sept. 1, 2011).

⁸ 17 CFR 170.1.

¹ Public Law 111-203, 124 Stat. 1376 (2010).

² 7 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*