

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS

Species	Authorized take	Scaled take ¹	Abundance ²	Percent abundance
Rice's whale	0	n/a	51	n/a
Sperm whale	674	284.9	3,007	9.5
<i>Kogia</i> spp.	³ 259	79.0	980	9.4
Beaked whales	254	25.7	803	3.2
Rough-toothed dolphin	1,862	534.5	4,853	11.0
Bottlenose dolphin	2,581	740.8	165,125	0.4
Clymene dolphin	3,209	921.1	4,619	19.9
Atlantic spotted dolphin	4,349	1,248.2	21,506	5.8
Pantropical spotted dolphin	11,870	3,406.7	67,225	5.1
Spinner dolphin	⁴ 152	43.6	5,548	0.8
Striped dolphin	1,887	541.6	5,634	9.6
Fraser's dolphin	742	213.0	1,665	12.8
Risso's dolphin	482	142.1	1,974	7.2
Blackfish ⁵	5,034	1,484.9	6,113	24.3
Short-finned pilot whale	2,561	755.5	2,741	27.6

¹ Scalar ratios were applied to "Authorized Take" values as described at 86 FR 5322, 5404 (January 19, 2021) to derive scaled take numbers shown here.

² Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Garrison *et al.*, 2023). For Rice's whale, Atlantic spotted dolphin, and Risso's dolphin, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

³ Includes 13 takes by Level A harassment and 246 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take plus authorized Level A harassment take.

⁴ Modeled take of 9 increased to account for potential encounter with a group of average size (Maze-Foley and Mullin, 2006).

⁵ The "blackfish" guild includes melon-headed whales, false killer whales, pygmy killer whales, and killer whales.

Based on the analysis contained herein of TGS's proposed survey activity described in its LOA application and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes (*i.e.*, less than one-third of the best available abundance estimate) and therefore the taking is of no more than small numbers.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued an LOA to TGS authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: December 20, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE526]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will hold a hybrid in person/webinar work session that is open to the public.

DATES: The GMT meeting will be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025 from 12:30 p.m., Pacific standard time, until business for the day has been completed. The GMT will reconvene Wednesday, February 5 through Friday, February 7, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. until business for each day has been completed.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council Office, Large Conference Room, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384. This work session is being conducted in person with a web broadcast that provides the opportunity for remote public comment. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be

provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). Please contact Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or (503) 820-2412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Todd Phillips, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2426.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this work session is for the GMT to prepare for 2025 Pacific Council meetings. Specific agenda items will include: Phase 2 stock definitions, new management measure development and prioritization, 2027/2028 harvest specifications and management measure expectations, the expected humpback whale and leatherback sea turtle biological opinion, and GMT chair/vice chair elections. The GMT may also address groundfish management actions the Pacific Council has indicated on their Year-at-a-Glance calendar, such as the 2025 Pacific whiting fishery and limited entry fixed gear follow-on actions. A detailed agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website prior to the meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after

publication of this document 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

Requests for sign language interpretation or auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov; (503) 820-2412) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 20, 2024.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE562]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will convene Monday, January 27 through Thursday, January 30, 2025. Daily schedule will be 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., CST Monday and Wednesday and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., CST on Tuesday and Thursday.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Renaissance New Orleans Pere Marquette French Quarter, located at 817 Common Street, New Orleans, LA 70112. If you prefer to “listen in”, you may access the log-in information by visiting our website at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, January 27, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., CST

Committee Sessions will begin with the Administrative/Budget Committee review and discussion of Proposed 2025 Activities and Budget and receive update on 2020–2024 Administrative Award No Cost Extension Request and Inflation Reduction Act Funding. The Committee will Review Advisory Panel appointments for Data Collection, *Spiny Lobster*, and Coral. The Habitat Protection & Restoration Committee will receive updates on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment 5 and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement of Proposed Aquaculture Opportunity areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Draft Comment Letter. The *Shrimp* Committee will review Draft *Shrimp* Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico *Shrimp* Fishery and *Shrimp* Advisory Panel (AP) Recommendations, and review remaining meeting summary items from the December 16, 2024 *Shrimp* AP meeting.

Following lunch, the *Mackerel* Committee will receive a presentation on Gulf Stakeholder Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Engagement Meetings Summary Draft. The Committee will discuss *Spanish Mackerel* Framework Action and next steps and *King Mackerel* Document and next steps, including a presentation on *King Mackerel* Data Request Report, Framework Action and background of SEDAR 99 Draft Schedule. The Outreach and Education Technical Committee (OETC) will review 2024 Communications improvement Plan Progress and Analytics, Domestic *Shrimp* and Seafood Education and Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Outreach Update on Red Tide Fishery Ecosystem Issues (FEI). The Committee will discuss Management Areas and Boundary Outreach, Public Comment Improvements, 2025 Communications Improvement Plan and remaining items from the O&E Technical Committee meeting summary.

Tuesday, January 28, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., CST

The Council will receive a Litigation update. Following, the *Reef Fish* Committee will convene to review and discuss Draft: *Reef Fish* Amendment 58B:

Modifications to *Deep-water Grouper* Management Measures, receive a presentation on Modifications to *Lane Snapper* Minimum Size and Recreational Bag Limits and Draft *Reef*

Fish Amendment 59: Requirements for Participation in Individual Fishing Quota Programs. *The Committee will review Draft Framework: Other Shallow-water Grouper* Catch Limits, receive a summary from the December 2024 Gulf SSC Webinar and remaining *Reef Fish* AP Discussions and Recommendations.

Wednesday, January 29, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., CST

The *Reef Fish* Committee will reconvene to review summary reports from Working Group 1 & 2 for the Recreational Initiative and Public Engagement Sessions and receive a presentation on Recreational *Red Snapper* Accountability Measures. The Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC) will review the meeting summary from the January 2025 meeting.

Following lunch, the Council will convene at approximately 1:30 p.m., CST with a Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes. The Council will receive a presentation on Stock Assessments 101: Spawning Potential Ratio and Maximum Sustainable Yield. The Council will hold public testimony beginning at 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., CST for comments for open testimony on other fishery issues or concerns. Public comment may begin earlier than 2 p.m. CST but will not conclude before that time. Persons wishing to give public testimony in-person must register at the registration kiosk in the meeting room. Persons wishing to give public testimony virtually must sign up on the Council website during the Council meeting. Registration for virtual testimony closes one hour (1 p.m. CST) before public testimony begins.

Thursday, January 30, 2025; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., CST

The Council will receive Committee reports from Administrative/Budget, Habitat Protection & Restoration, *Shrimp*, *Mackerel*, Outreach and Education, *Reef Fish*, and Law Enforcement. The Council will receive updates from the following supporting agencies: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Liaison; Louisiana Law Enforcement Efforts, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE); Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Department of State.

Lastly, the Council will hold a discussion on Council Planning and Primary Activities, and any Other Business items.

–Meeting Adjourns