

Atlantic Reports

In the Atlantic region (including the Atlantic coast, Gulf Coast, and U.S. territories in the Caribbean), 45 Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico SARs were updated and one added—the Northern South Carolina Estuarine System stock of bottlenose dolphins, a strategic stock. Most revisions included updates of abundance and/or serious injury and mortality estimates. Strategic stocks included: North Atlantic right whale, humpback whale, fin whale, sei whale, sperm whale, bottlenose dolphin (Western North Atlantic: coastal/northern migratory, coastal/southern migratory, coastal/South Carolina/Georgia, coastal/northern Florida, coastal/central Florida; Northern North Carolina Estuarine System; Southern North Carolina Estuarine System; Charleston Estuarine System; Northern Georgia/Southern South Carolina Estuarine System; Southern Georgia Estuarine System; Jacksonville Estuarine System; Indian River Lagoon Estuarine System; Biscayne Bay) and harbor porpoise (Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy). Non-strategic stocks included: Minke whale, dwarf sperm whale, pygmy sperm whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, Blainville's beaked whale, Gervais beaked whale, Sowerby's beaked whale, True's beaked whale, long-finned pilot whale, short-finned pilot whale, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, short-beaked common dolphin, Atlantic spotted dolphin; pantropical spotted dolphin, striped dolphin, rough-toothed dolphin, Clymene dolphin, spinner dolphin, bottlenose dolphin (Western North Atlantic/offshore; Florida Bay; Gulf of Mexico Oceanic), gray seal, harp seal, harbor seal, and Risso's dolphin (Western North Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico Oceanic).

The status of long-finned pilot whales changed from strategic to non-strategic, because serious injury and mortality likely do not exceed PBR. Information on the remaining Atlantic region stocks can be found in the final 2012 reports (Waring *et al.*, 2012).

Pacific Reports

In the Pacific region (waters along the west coast of the United States, within waters surrounding the main and Northwest Hawaiian Islands, and within waters surrounding U.S. territories in the Western Pacific), SARs were revised for 52 stocks under NMFS jurisdiction. Two stocks changed from non-strategic to strategic: Cuvier's beaked whale, CA/OR/WA, and mesoplodont beaked whales, CA/OR/WA.

Strategic stocks included: Monk seal, killer whale (Eastern North Pacific

Southern Resident), Mesoplodont beaked whales (CA/OR/WA), Cuvier's beaked whale (CA/OR/WA), humpback whale, blue whale (Central North Pacific, Eastern North Pacific), fin whale (Hawaii, CA/OR/WA), false killer whale (Main Hawaiian Islands, Hawaii Pelagic), sperm whale (Hawaii), and sei whale. Non-strategic stocks included: Harbor seal (OR/WA coast, Northern Washington Inland waters, Southern Puget Sound, and Hood Canal), northern fur seal, harbor porpoise (Morro Bay, Monterey Bay, San Francisco—Russian River, Northern California/Southern Oregon, Northern Oregon/Washington coast), Baird's beaked whale, Pacific white-sided dolphin, common bottlenose dolphin (CA/OR/WA Offshore, Hawaii Pelagic, 'Kaua'I and Ni'ihau, O'ahu, four-islands region, Hawaii Island), gray whale, Risso's dolphin, pantropical spotted dolphin (Hawaii pelagic, O'ahu, four-islands region, Hawaii Island), striped dolphin, Fraser's dolphin, melon-headed whale (Hawaiian Islands, Kohala Resident), pygmy killer whale, false killer whale (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands), killer whale (Hawaii), short-finned pilot whale, Blainville's beaked whale, Longman's beaked whale, Cuvier's beaked whale (Hawaii), pygmy sperm whale, dwarf sperm whale, minke whale, Bryde's whale. Information on the remaining Pacific region stocks can be found in the final 2012 reports (Carretta *et al.*, 2013).

Three new prospective stocks of harbor seals in Washington inland waters are presented (Hood Canal, Southern Puget Sound, and Washington Inland Waters), based on recent genetic and pupping phenology data. The Hawaii stock of melon-headed whales was split into two: The Kohala resident stock and the Hawaiian Islands stock (both non-strategic). The Hawaii stock of pantropical spotted dolphin was split into four (all non-strategic): The Oahu stock, the 4-Islands stock, the Hawaii Island stock, and the Hawaii pelagic stock.

NMFS intended to prepare a separate stock assessment report for the western stock of gray whales in 2013; however, the agency was awaiting completion of the Report of the NMFS Gray Whale Stock Identification Workshop (NMFS 2013) before drafting a SAR for this stock. NMFS anticipates preparing a SAR for the western stock of gray whales in 2014.

The San Miguel Island stock of northern fur seal has been renamed the "California Northern Fur Seal stock," to reflect that in addition to San Miguel Island, this species regularly breeds at the Farallon Islands of California.

Dated: October 31, 2013.

Donna S. Wieting,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC791

Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of final environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact for the issuance of a special coral reef ecosystem fishing permit.

SUMMARY: NMFS issued a Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishing Permit that authorizes Kampachi Farms, LLC, to culture and harvest a coral reef ecosystem management unit fish species in a floating pen in Federal waters west of the Island of Hawaii. This notice informs the public that NMFS prepared an environmental assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed activity, and finds that there will be no significant impact to the environment from the activity.

DATES: The special coral reef ecosystem fishing permit is effective from October 25, 2013, through October 24, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may review the final environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2013-0125, at the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal www.regulations.gov/ #!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0125.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phyllis Ha, Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS PIR, tel 808-944-2265.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS issued a Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishing Permit to Kampachi Farms, LLC, consistent with Federal regulations for Hawaii fisheries at 50 CFR § 665.224, pertaining to management of coral reef ecosystem fisheries, and in accordance with the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Hawaii Archipelago (FEP). The permit authorizes the culture and harvest of the native coral reef ecosystem management unit fish species *Seriola rivoliana*, marketed as Kona Kampachi®, using a

floating cage tethered to a 28-ft vessel connected to a single-point mooring established at around 6,000 feet deep, approximately 5.5 nm west of Keauhou Bay, Hawaii.

NMFS published in the **Federal Register** a notice of availability of a draft EA and request for public comments on August 13, 2013 (78 FR 49258). NMFS received comments from eight individuals, and considered those comments by improving information in the baseline and the clarity of the final EA. None of the comments resulted in substantial changes to the analysis about the significance of impacts of the proposed action on the human environment in the final EA.

Based on the information in the final EA, NMFS determined that the action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

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

Dated: November 1, 2013.

James P. Burgess,

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-XC960

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Advisory Panel

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

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of nominations.

SUMMARY: NMFS solicits nominations for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP). NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of the HMS AP when preparing and implementing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish. Nominations are being sought to fill approximately one-third (11) of the seats on the HMS AP for a 3-year appointment. Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, and non-governmental organizations are considered for membership in the HMS AP (note that there are no Academic terms expiring,

so no nominations for that sector will be considered at this time).

DATES: Nominations must be received on or before December 6, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit nominations and requests for the Advisory Panel Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* HMSAP.Nominations@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following identifier: "HMS AP Nominations."

- *Mail:* Jenni Wallace, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

- *Fax:* 301-713-1917.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenni Wallace at (301) 427-8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, provided that the Secretary may establish Advisory Panels to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or FMP amendment for any highly migratory species fishery that is under the Secretary's authority. NMFS has consulted with the HMS AP on: Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999); the HMS FMP (April 1999); Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2003); the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (October 2006); Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a, 5b, 6, 7, and 8 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (April and October 2008, February and September 2009, May and September 2010, April and September 2011, March and September 2012, and January and September 2013); among other relevant fishery management issues.

Procedures and Guidelines

A. Nomination Procedures for Appointments to the Advisory Panel

Nomination packages should include:

1. The name of the nominee and a description of his/her interest in HMS or in particular species of sharks, swordfish, tunas, or billfish;
2. Contact information, including mailing address, phone, and email of the nominee;
3. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
4. A written commitment that the nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the meetings and tasks of the HMS AP; and

5. A list of outreach resources that the nominee has at his/her disposal to communicate HMS issues to various interest groups.

Qualifications for HMS AP Membership

Qualification for membership includes one or more of the following: (1) Experience in HMS recreational fisheries; (2) experience in HMS commercial fisheries; (3) experience in fishery-related industries (*e.g.*, marinas, bait and tackle shops); (4) experience in the scientific community working with HMS; and/or (5) representation of a private, non-governmental, regional, national, or international organization representing marine fisheries; or environmental, governmental, or academic interests dealing with HMS.

Tenure for the HMS AP

Member tenure will be for 3 years (36 months), with approximately one-third of the members' terms expiring on December 31 of each year. Nominations are sought for terms beginning January 2014 and expiring December 2016.

B. Participants

Nominations for the HMS AP will be accepted to allow representation from commercial and recreational fishing interests, and the environmental/non-governmental organization community, who are knowledgeable about Atlantic HMS and/or Atlantic HMS fisheries. Current representation on the HMS AP, as shown in Table 1, consists of 12 members representing commercial interests, 12 members representing recreational interests, 4 members representing environmental interests, 4 academic representatives, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee Chairperson. Each HMS AP member serves a 3-year term with approximately one-third of the total number of seats (33) expiring on December 31 of each year. NMFS seeks to fill 5 commercial, 4 recreational, and 2 environmental/non-governmental organization vacancies by December 31, 2013. NMFS will seek to fill vacancies based primarily on maintaining the current representation from each of the sectors. NMFS also considers species expertise and representation from the fishing regions (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean) to ensure the diversity and balance of the AP. Table 1 includes the current representation on the HMS AP by sector, region and species with terms that are expiring identified in bold. It is not meant to indicate that NMFS will only consider persons who have expertise in the species or fishing