

Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 19641–03 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available 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.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713–0376, or by email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Malcolm Mohead or Erin Markin, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject modification to Permit No. 19641–01, issued on March 12, 2019 (84 FR 15595), is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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).

Permit No. 19641–01 authorizes the permit holder to conduct scientific research on Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon to determine their presence, status, health, habitat use, and movements in Connecticut waters. Researchers may use gill nets and trawls to capture Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon to then measure, weigh, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag, tissue sample, and photograph prior to release. A subset of individuals may also be anesthetized, acoustically tagged, fin ray sampled, and gastric lavaged. Early life stages (ELS) of shortnose sturgeon may be lethally sampled to document the occurrence of spawning in Connecticut waters. During research activities, the unintentional mortality of up to one juvenile and adult/sub-adult life stage of each species may occur, annually. Due to an expanding population of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon in the Connecticut River, the Permit Holder requests annual increases in the take numbers authorized (*i.e.*, from 250 to 500) for both juvenile Atlantic sturgeon and

adult/sub-adult shortnose sturgeon life stages. The Permit Holder also requests authorization for lethal collection of 300 Atlantic sturgeon ELS to document the occurrence of spawning events in Connecticut waters. The permit expires March 31, 2027.

Dated: April 14, 2020.

**Julia Marie Harrison,**

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2020–08237 Filed 4–17–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Federal Consistency Appeal by Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P. and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, LP

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

**ACTION:** Notice of appeal.

**SUMMARY:** This announcement provides notice that the Department of Commerce has received a “Notice of Appeal” filed by Appellants Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P. and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, LP. Appellants are requesting that the Secretary of Commerce override an objection by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to a consistency certification for a proposed project to construct and operate a liquified natural gas export terminal and a 229-mile interstate natural gas pipeline and compressor station off the Pacific Coast.

**ADDRESSES:** NOAA intends to post publicly available materials and related documents comprising the appeal record on the following website: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-HQ-2020-0058>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions about this Notice, contact Rachel Morris, Attorney-Advisor, NOAA Office of the General Counsel, Oceans and Coasts Section, and Patrick Carroll, Attorney-Advisor, NOAA Office of the General Counsel, Oceans and Coasts Section, at [jordancove.appeal@noaa.gov](mailto:jordancove.appeal@noaa.gov) or (301) 713–7387.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Notice of Appeal

On March 20, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) received a “Notice of Appeal” filed by Appellants Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P. and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, LP pursuant to the Coastal Zone

Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations found at 15 CFR part 930, subpart H. Appellants are appealing an objection by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to Appellants’ CZMA federal consistency certification for a proposed project to construct and operate a liquified natural gas (LNG) export terminal within the North Spit of Coos Bay and a 229-mile interstate natural gas pipeline and compressor station to connect the LNG export terminal to existing pipeline infrastructure. This matter constitutes an appeal of an “energy project” within the meaning of the CZMA regulations. See 15 CFR 930.123(c).

Under the CZMA, the Secretary may override the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development’s objection on grounds that the project is consistent with the objectives or purposes of the CZMA, or is necessary in the interest of national security. To make the determination that the proposed activity is “consistent with the objectives or purposes of the CZMA,” the Secretary must find that: (1) The proposed activity furthers the national interest as articulated in sections 302 or 303 of the CZMA, in a significant or substantial manner; (2) the national interest furthered by the proposed activity outweighs the activity’s adverse coastal effects, when those effects are considered separately or cumulatively; and (3) no reasonable alternative is available that would permit the proposed activity to be conducted in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of the applicable coastal management program. 15 CFR 930.121. To make the determination that the proposed activity is “necessary in the interest of national security,” the Secretary must find that a national defense or other national security interest would be significantly impaired if the proposed activity is not permitted to go forward as proposed. 15 CFR 930.122.

#### II. Public Availability of Appeal Documents

NOAA intends to provide access to publicly available materials and related documents comprising the appeal record on the following website: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-HQ-2020-0058>.

The consolidated record maintained by the lead federal permitting agency is also located at FERC Docket Numbers CP17–494 and CP17–495, FERC Online Docket Search, available at [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/docket\\_search.asp](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/docket_search.asp).

**Authority Citation:** 15 CFR 930.128(a).

**Adam Dilts,**

*Chief, Oceans and Coasts Section, NOAA  
Office of General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2020-07862 Filed 4-17-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA130]

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of scoping process; notice of public scoping meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold two public scoping meetings via webinar and a written comment period to solicit public comments on a developing management action to consider potential changes to the allocation of the black sea bass commercial quota among the states of Maine through North Carolina.

**DATES:** The webinar scoping hearings will be held on Monday May 11, 2020, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., EDT and on Thursday, May 14, 2020, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., EDT. Written comments must be received on or before 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 31, 2020. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for more details.

**ADDRESSES:** Both webinar hearings may be accessed at: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/bsb-com-allocation-scoping/>.

Webinar audio will also be accessible by phone by dialing 1-800-832-0736 and entering room number 5068871. A scoping document is available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bsb-commercial-allocation>.

Copies of the scoping document are also available by request from Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**Public comments:** Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

- **Email to:** [jbeaty@mafmc.org](mailto:jbeaty@mafmc.org); Include “black sea bass commercial allocation amendment” in the subject line.

- **Via webform at:** <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/bsb-com-allocation-amendment>.

- **Mail to:** Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope “black sea bass commercial allocation amendment.”

- **Fax to:** (302) 674-5399.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are developing a joint action to consider adjusting the allocations of the black sea bass commercial quota among states. These allocations were loosely based on landings data from 1980–2001. They were first implemented in 2003 and have not been modified since that time. They are currently included only in the Commission’s fishery management plan and are not jointly managed with the Council. This joint action will consider whether modifications to these allocations should be made to account for changes in black sea bass distribution and abundance over time, as well as other considerations. It will also consider whether the allocations should be added to the Council’s Fishery Management Plan and managed jointly by the Council and Commission.

Additional information on this action is available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/bsb-commercial-allocation>.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council office, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 15, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-08265 Filed 4-17-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XW024]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits; California Wetfish Producers Association

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an application for an Exempted Fishing Permit warrants further consideration. The application, submitted by the California Wetfish Producers Association, requests an exemption from the prohibition on directed fishing for Pacific sardine during the remainder of the 2019–2020 fishing year and the upcoming 2020–2021 fishing year. The goal of this research is to collect fishery-dependent data for potential use in the 2021 and 2022 Pacific sardine stock assessments. NMFS requests public comment on the application.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by May 5, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2020–0060, by the following method:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) #!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2020-0060, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. The Exempted Fishing Permit application will be available under Relevant Documents through the same link.

- **Instructions:** Comments must be submitted by the above method to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments received after the end of the comment period may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or