

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC), in conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's (GSMFC) Law Enforcement Committee (LEC).

DATES: The meeting will convene on Monday, September 14, 2020; beginning at 9 a.m. and adjourning no later than 12 p.m., CST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. CST, the meeting will be in closed session. From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., the meeting will be open and can be accessed using the following link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/879119909>.

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. Ava Lasseter, Anthropologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; ava.lasseter@gulfcouncil.org, telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion on the agenda are as follows:

Joint Gulf Council's Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC) and GSMFC's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) Meeting Agenda, Monday, September 14, 2020, 9 a.m. Until 12 p.m., CST

The joint meeting will begin in closed session with introductions and a discussion of enforcement of recreational red snapper case handling.

The general session will convene at 10 a.m. CST, beginning with introductions, adoption of agenda, and approval of minutes from the Joint LETC/LETC Meeting on March 11, 2020.

The Gulf Council LETC will discuss the call for nominations for the 2020 Officer/Team of the Year award, and discuss any Other Business items.

The GSMFC LEC will review and approve the LETC/LEC 2021-22 Operations Plan; and review the IJF Program Activity for the status of the Red Drum Profile, and Commission Publications. The committee will present the State Report Highlights from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and any Other Business items. *Written state reports are requested in advance and only highlights will be presented for time purposes during state reporting item.*

—Meeting adjourns

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on www.gulfcouncil.org as they become available.

The Law Enforcement Technical Committee consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf States, as well as the NOAA OLE, USFWS, the USCG, and the NOAA Office of General Counsel for Law Enforcement.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Gulf Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

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

Dated: August 25, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2020-18966 Filed 8-27-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA423]

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a three-day meeting via webinar of its Standing, Reef Fish, Ecosystem and

Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC)

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, September 16, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place via webinar; you may register by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar.

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: Ryan Rindone, Lead Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org, telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, September 14, 2020; 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., EDT

The meeting will begin with Introductions and Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from the August 11–12, 2020 webinar meeting, review of Scope of Work, and Selection of SSC Representative for the October 26–29, 2020 Gulf Council Meeting in Gulfport, Mississippi. The Committees will review the following: SEDAR 38 Update—Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel, including assessment presentations, projections, and the Stock Assessment Executive Summary. The Committees will also review the Gulf Gray Triggerfish Interim Analysis, including presentation and projections; and SEDAR 74: Red Snapper Research Track Terms of Reference.

Tuesday, September 15, 2020; 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., EDT

The Committees will review and hold discussions on the Great Red Snapper Count, Sea Grant/NMFS Greater Amberjack Research Program, Carryover in the Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program, Allocation Review Procedures, and SEDAR 75: Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper Terms of Reference, Schedule, and Participant Solicitation.

Wednesday, September 16, 2020; 9 a.m.–4 p.m., EDT

The Committees will review “*Testing assumptions about sex change and spatial management in the protogynous gag grouper, *Mycteroperca microlepis*, Habitat Research, and Red Snapper Supply Chains and Markets.*”

Lastly, the Committee will discuss Other Business items and receive public comment.

—Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be broadcast via webinar. You may register for the webinar by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on www.gulfcouncil.org as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

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

Dated: August 25, 2020.

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

[RTID 0648-XA247]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Seabird Research Activities in Central California

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from Point Blue Conservation Science (Point Blue), for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to conducting seabird research activities in central California. Point Blue's activities are identical to activities previously analyzed and for which take was authorized by NMFS. Pursuant to the

Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS will consider public comments prior to making any final decision on the issuance of the requested MMPA authorizations and agency responses will be summarized in the final notice of our decision.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than September 28, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. Physical comments should be sent to 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and electronic comments should be sent to ITP.Fowler@noaa.gov.

Instructions: NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments received electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Fowler, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the original application and supporting documents (including NMFS FR notices of the original proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain

exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed incidental take authorization may be provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has preliminarily determined that the issuance of the proposed IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

We will review all comments submitted in response to this notice prior to concluding our NEPA process or making a final decision on the IHA request.