

as legal requirements, and are beyond the direct scope of the Technical Guidance (*i.e.*, the Technical Guidance may inform these decisions, but the Technical Guidance does not mandate any specific mitigation be required).

NMFS acknowledges the importance of supporting sustainable ocean use, such as energy exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf, provided activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Our development and implementation of the Technical Guidance are consistent with allowing activities vital to our nation's security and economy to proceed, including those mentioned in EO 13795. As an example, during the development of the Technical Guidance, NMFS recognized that action proponents may have varying abilities to model and estimate exposure, and that the Technical Guidance may be more complex than some action proponents are able to incorporate. Accordingly, NMFS developed optional user tools in the form of an alternative methodology and associated user spreadsheet to assist action proponents with the application the more complex acoustic thresholds. Additionally, NMFS recognized that for some proposed actions, analyses may have already substantially progressed using the prior thresholds or other methods for assessing hearing effects, and it would be impractical to begin those analyses anew, taking into account timing constraints, expense, and other considerations. Hence, NMFS has been using a transitional approach for "pipeline" cases that considers various factors to determine the extent to which the Technical Guidance would be considered.

The Office of Management and Budget previously classified the Technical Guidance as a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment (HISA). As such, the document underwent three independent peer reviews, at three different stages its development, including a follow-up to one of the peer reviews, prior to its dissemination by NMFS. Details of each peer review are included within the Technical Guidance (Appendix C), and specific peer reviewer comments and NMFS' responses are at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/acoustics/>. In addition to three independent peer reviews, there were three public comment periods. A previously published **Federal Register** Notice (81 FR 51694; August 4, 2016) provides substantive public comments and NMFS' responses.

NMFS is soliciting public comment and will also consult the appropriate Federal agencies to assist the Secretary

of Commerce in reviewing the Technical Guidance for consistency with the policy in section 2 of EO 13795. The Technical Guidance will remain in use during this review, and this review will not delay the processing of any permits, applications, or consultations currently underway.

NMFS advises the public to focus comments on those relating to the purpose of the review of the Technical Guidance under section 10 of EO 13795, which is to ensure consistency with the policy in section 2 of the EO, cited above. For example, NMFS welcomes comments on two particular aspects of the Technical Guidance:

(1) *Peer-reviewed scientific literature:* Information regarding the availability of published new science relevant to marine mammal hearing or impacts of noise on hearing since the publication of the Technical Guidance and suggestions for how to consider new information within the Technical Guidance, and

(2) *Implementation support:* Recommendations regarding how NMFS can further aid in the application and implementation of the Technical Guidance (based on difficulties encountered and/or ways NMFS can facilitate and/or improve implementation for action proponents).

Dated: May 24, 2017.

**Donna S. Wieting**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XF466**

### Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Hawaii Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Advisory Panel (AP) to discuss and make recommendations on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

**DATES:** The Hawaii Archipelago FEP AP will meet on Thursday, June 15, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. All times listed

are local island times. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The Hawaii Archipelago FEP AP will meet at the Council Office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813 and by teleconference. The teleconference will be conducted by telephone. The teleconference numbers are: U.S. toll-free: 1-888-482-3560 or International Access: +1 647 723-3959, and Access Code: 5228220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public comment periods will be provided in the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

### Schedule and Agenda for the Hawaii Archipelago FEP AP Meeting

*Thursday, June 15, 2017, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.*

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Report on Previous Council Action Items
3. Council Issues
  - A. Sustainable Fisheries Fund Marine Conservation Plan
  - B. Options for Fishing Regulations in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Monument Expansion Area
  - C. Research Priorities
    - i. Cooperative Research
    - ii. Five-year Research Priorities
  - D. Re-specification of ACL for the MHI Kona Crab Fishery
4. Hawaii FEP Community Activities
5. Hawaii FEP AP Issues
  - A. Report of the Subpanels
    - i. Island Fisheries Subpanel
    - ii. Pelagic Fisheries Subpanel
    - iii. Ecosystems and Habitat Subpanel
    - iv. Indigenous Fishing Rights Subpanel
  - B. Other Issues
6. Public Comment
7. Discussion and Recommendations
8. Other Business

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically listed 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 26, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017-11287 Filed 5-30-17; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Evaluation of State Coastal Management Programs**

**AGENCY:** Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management is soliciting comments on the performance evaluation of the Washington Coastal Management Program. The Office for Coastal Management will hold a public meeting to solicit comments, and will also accept written comments as part of the evaluation of the Washington Coastal Management Plan.

**DATES:** *Washington Coastal Management Program Evaluation:* The public meeting will be held on June 27, 2017, and written comments must be received on or before July 7, 2017.

For specific dates, times, and locations of the public meetings, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the program NOAA intends to evaluate by any of the following methods:

**Public Meeting and Oral Comments:** A public meeting will be held in Lacey, Washington. For the specific location, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**Written Comments:** Please direct written comments to Carrie Hall, Evaluator, Planning and Performance Measurement Program, Office for Coastal Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, N/OCM1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or email comments *Carrie.Hall@noaa.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Carrie Hall, Evaluator, Planning and Performance Measurement Program, Office for Coastal Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, N/OCM1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (240) 533-0730 or *Carrie.Hall@noaa.gov*. Copies of the previous evaluation findings and 2016-2020 Assessment and Strategy may be viewed and downloaded on the Internet at <http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations>. A copy of the evaluation notification letter and most recent progress report may be obtained upon request by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires NOAA to conduct periodic evaluations of federally approved state and territorial coastal programs. The process includes one or more public meetings, consideration of written public comments and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. During the evaluation, NOAA will consider the extent to which the state has met the national objectives, adhered to the management program approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance under the CZMA. When the evaluation is completed, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

Specific information on the periodic evaluation of the state and territorial coastal program that is the subject of this notice is detailed below as follows:

**Washington Coastal Management Program Evaluation**

You may participate or submit oral comments at the public meeting scheduled as follows:

**Date:** June 27, 2017.

**Time:** 5:30 p.m., local time.

**Location:** Department of Ecology, Auditorium, 300 Desmond Drive SE., Lacey, WA 98503.

Written public comments must be received on or before July 7, 2017.

Dated: May 16, 2017.

**Paul M. Scholz,**

*Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2017-11135 Filed 5-30-17; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE461**

**Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings and hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 126th Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting, Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee (FDCRC) and its 170th Council meeting to take actions on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held between June 13 and June 22. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** The 126th SSC; FDCRC; Fishery Rights of Indigenous People Standing Committee; Pelagic, International, Enforcement and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Standing Committee; and Executive and Budget Standing Committee meetings will be held at the Council office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, phone: (808) 522-8220. The 170th Council meeting will be held at the Laniakea YWCA, Fuller Hall, 1040 Richards Street, Honolulu HI 96813, phone: (808) 538-7061. The Fishers Forum will be held at the Pomaika'i Ballrooms at Dole Cannery Iwilei, 735 Iwilei Rd, Honolulu, HI 96817, phone: (808) 369-8600.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, phone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 126th SSC meeting will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on June 13-15, 2017. The FDCRC will be held on June 19, 2017, between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The Fishery Rights of Indigenous People Standing Committee will be held on June 19, 2017, between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The Pelagic, International, Enforcement and VMS Standing Committee will be held on June 19, 2017, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The Executive and Budget Standing Committee will be held on June 19, 2017, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The 170th Council meeting will be held between June 20, 2017, and June 22, 2017, between 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. On June 21, 2017, the Council will host