

notice to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2019-16142 Filed 7-29-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XV008**

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting (webinar).

**SUMMARY:** The Groundfish Subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council's) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a meeting to review new benchmark and update assessments and catch-only update assessment projections to inform new 2021 and 2022 groundfish harvest specifications. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee webinar will be held Tuesday, August 20 and Wednesday, August 21, 2019, beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day and continuing until 5:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or until business for the day has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** The SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee meeting will be an in-person meeting and will also be held by webinar. The SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee meeting will be held in the Auditorium at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Blvd. E, Seattle, WA 98111; telephone: (206) 860-3200. To attend the webinar, visit: <https://nwfsccfram.webex.com/nwfsccfram>. Enter the Webinar Access Code, which is 626 668 260, and your name and email address (required). After logging into the webinar, dial the TOLL number (not a toll-free number) 1-650-479-3208 or connect audio using the computer. Technical Information and System Requirements: PC-based attendees are required to use Windows® 7 or newer; Mac®-based attendees are required to use Mac OS® X 10.10 or newer. Webex supports all major iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or

Android tablet OS 4.3 or newer (See webex system requirements: [https://help.webex.com/en-us/nki3xqr/Webex-Meetings-Suite-System-Requirements#reference\\_91D7DC41368764B9E3\\_7B8593ED86A11C](https://help.webex.com/en-us/nki3xqr/Webex-Meetings-Suite-System-Requirements#reference_91D7DC41368764B9E3_7B8593ED86A11C)). You may send an email to Dr. Owen Hamel at [Owen.Hamel@noaa.gov](mailto:Owen.Hamel@noaa.gov) or contact him at (206) 860-3481 for technical assistance.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John DeVore, Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820-2413.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting is to review groundfish stock assessments and catch-only updates that will inform management decisions for 2021 and beyond. Specifically, the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will review new benchmark assessments and Stock Assessment Review panel reports for cabezon, longnose skate, big skate, sablefish, cowcod, and gopher/black-and-yellow rockfish; as well as new update assessments for petrale sole and widow rockfish. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will also review catch-only update projections for black rockfish, blackgill rockfish, brown rockfish, California blue/deacon rockfish north of Pt. Conception, canary rockfish, China rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Dover sole, lingcod, longspine thornyhead, rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and yelloweye rockfish.

No management actions will be decided by the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee members' role will be development of recommendations and reports for consideration by the SSC and Pacific Council at the September meeting in Boise, ID.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agendas 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 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 intent of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee to take final action to address the emergency.

Visitors who are foreign nationals (defined as a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States) will require additional security clearance to access the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Foreign national visitors should contact Ms. Stacey Miller at (541) 867-0535 at least two weeks prior to the meeting date to initiate the security clearance process.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt, (503) 820-2411, at least 10 business days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: July 25, 2019.

**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

**RIN 0648-XV007**

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Bluefish Monitoring Committee will hold a meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, beginning at 9 a.m. and conclude by 11:30 a.m. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar with a telephone-only connection option.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331 or on their website at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is for the

Bluefish Monitoring Committee to recommend 2020–21 annual catch limits, trip limits, discards and other management measures for the bluefish fishery.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

**Dated:** July 25, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019–16138 Filed 7–29–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XG737**

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Confined Rock Blasting Near Ketchikan, Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the City of Ketchikan to incidentally harass, by Level B and Level A harassment only, marine mammals during underwater confined rock blasting activities associated with a rock pinnacle removal project in Ketchikan, Alaska.

**DATES:** This Authorization is effective from September 16, 2019 to September 15, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gray Redding, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401. Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. 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.

The definitions of all applicable MMPA statutory terms cited above are included in the relevant sections below.

#### Summary of Request

On December 10, 2018, NMFS received a request from the City of Ketchikan for an IHA to take marine mammals incidental to underwater confined blasting and excavation in southeastern Alaska. The application was deemed adequate and complete on February 7, 2019. City of Ketchikan’s request is for take of a small number of nine marine mammal species by Level B harassment and three marine mammal species by Level A harassment. Neither the City of Ketchikan nor NMFS expects serious injury or mortality to result from this activity and, therefore, an IHA is appropriate.

### Description of Specified Activity

#### Overview

The City of Ketchikan plans to conduct underwater confined blasting of a rock pinnacle in the Tongass Narrows, southeastern Alaska. Removal of the underwater pinnacle will expand the area of safe navigation depths for cruise ships that presently visit Berths I and II. Removing the pinnacle will provide a more reliable ingress and egress for ships over a much wider range of wind and water level conditions. The project is scheduled to occur from September 16, 2019 through April 30, 2020. The blasting portion of the activities is expected to occur between November 15, 2019 and March 15, 2020, but blasting is not restricted to this time period, in order to allow appropriate flexibility for the applicant to complete the project. The action has the potential to affect waters in the Tongass Narrows and nearby Revillagigedo Channel, approximately 3 miles to the south.

There will be up to 50 days of blasting (currently anticipating between 25 and 50 total blasts) limited to at most, one blast per day. A blast consists of a detonation of a series of sequential charges, delayed from one another at an interval of 8 milliseconds (ms), with the total blast typically lasting less than 1 second (one second = 1000 milliseconds). Each delayed charge in the blast will contain a maximum of 75 total lbs (34 kg) of explosive. The timing of the blast must assure that the maximum pounds per delay does not exceed 75 lbs. The planned daily blast will consist of a grid of boreholes, each containing a delayed charge (total number may vary but typically it ranges between 30 to 60 holes), with the top section of the hole then filled in with stone (this process is referred to as “rock stemming”).

Following blasting, the material freed by blasting will be dredged. As discussed in the proposed **Federal Register** Notice, take is highly unlikely and is not authorized for dredging activities.

A detailed description of the planned rock pinnacle removal project is provided in the **Federal Register** notice for the proposed IHA (84 FR 11508; March 27, 2019). Since that time, no changes have been made to the planned confined underwater blasting activities. Therefore, a detailed description is not provided here. Please refer to that **Federal Register** notice for the description of the specific activity.

#### Comments and Responses

A notice of NMFS’s proposal to issue and IHA to the City of Ketchikan was