

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

RIN 0648–XC414

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Dr. John R. Gold (Texas A&M University). If granted, the EFP would authorize the applicant to use the captain and crew of a charter vessel to collect a total of 125–150 adult red snapper, south of the Florida Keys and near the Dry Tortugas, FL. Samples would be collected over multiple trips using conventional hook-and-line gear from deep water. Small pieces of fin tissue and otoliths would be collected from the fish for genetic analysis, and age and growth studies. Additional information on the geographic origin, degree of connectivity, and life history of red snapper would provide the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and NMFS data that may be used for future management of red snapper stocks in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). Collections would occur from April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern time, on March 21, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by RIN 0648–XC414, on the application by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov.

Include in the subject line of the email comment the following document identifier: “John Gold EFP 2013”.

- *Mail:* Nikhil Mehta, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to any of the above addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nikhil Mehta, 727–824–5305; email: Nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

The described research is part of a Marine Fisheries Initiative funded study titled, “Stock structure, connectivity, and effective population size of red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) in U.S. waters of the Gulf of Mexico.” Objectives of the study are to: (i) Further refine a geographic stock model in areas from southern Texas to the southwest coast of Florida; (ii) quantify historical and present connectivity (genetic migration) among sampled locations in the Gulf and South Atlantic; and (iii) utilize recently developed algorithms to estimate the effective number of breeding adult red snapper at each sampling location.

If granted, the EFP would authorize the applicant and the captain and crew of a charter vessel to collect a total of 125–150 red snapper using conventional hook-and-line gear from deep water (200–240 ft (61–73 m)). Red snapper would be collected over multiple 2–3 day trips south of the Florida Keys and near the Dry Tortugas, FL. The fish would be placed on ice and the fins removed at the end of each fishing day. Small pieces of red snapper fin tissue would be placed into sample tubes containing a non-flammable, non-explosive fixative. Upon reaching the dock, all the fish and tubes with fin clips would be collected by a NMFS port sampler. After a total of 125–150 red snapper have been sampled, the fin clips would be shipped to the laboratory at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, for genetic analysis. Otoliths would also be removed from the collected red snapper by the NMFS port sampler to facilitate age and growth studies.

The proposed collection for scientific research involves activities that would otherwise be prohibited by regulations at 50 CFR part 622, as they pertain to red snapper managed by the Council. The EFP would exempt this research activity from Federal regulations at § 622.32(b)(3)(vi) (Prohibited and limited harvest species) and § 622.37(e)(v) (Size limits).

NMFS finds this application warrants further consideration. Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition of conducting research within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, or special management zones, without additional authorization. A report on the research would be due at the end of

the collection period, to be submitted to NMFS and reviewed by the Council.

A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS’ review of public comments received on the application, consultations with appropriate fishery management agencies of the affected states, the Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as a determination that it is consistent with all applicable laws.

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

Dated: February 13, 2013.

Kara Meckley,

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

[FR Doc. 2013–03777 Filed 2–15–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

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

RIN 0648–XC503

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Executive and Budget Standing Committee and 156th Council to take actions on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

DATES: The meetings will be held March 11, 2013 through March 14, 2013. All meetings will be held in Pago Pago, American Samoa. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The Executive and Budget Standing Committee meetings will be held at Sadies by the Sea in Pago Pago, American Samoa. The 156th Council meeting and Fishers Forum will be held at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium (or Fale Laumei), Department of Commerce, Government of American Samoa, Pago Pago, American Samoa; telephone: (684) 633–5155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council’s Executive and Budget Standing Committee will meet on March 11, 2013, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon; the 156th Council will meet on March

12–14, 2013. The 156th Council meeting will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on March 12, 2013, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on March 13, 2013, and between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on March 14, 2013. A Fishers Forum will be held in association with the 156th Council Meeting between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on March 12, 2013.

In addition to the agenda items listed here, the Council will hear recommendations from Council advisory groups. Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agendas. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

10 a.m.–12 Noon, Monday, March 11, 2013

Executive and Budget Standing
Committee Meeting

Schedule and Agenda for 156th Council Meeting

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2013

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Governor's Remarks
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Welcoming Remarks
5. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Remarks
6. Approval of the 156th Agenda
7. Approval of the 155th Meeting Minutes
8. Executive Director's Report
9. Agency Reports
 - A. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
1. Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO)
2. Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)
 - B. NOAA Office of General Counsel, Pacific Islands Report
 - C. NOAA
 - D. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - E. Enforcement
1. U.S. Coast Guard
2. NMFS Office for Law Enforcement
3. NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation
 - F. Public Comment
 - G. Council Discussion and Action
10. American Samoa Archipelago
 - A. Motu Lipoti
 - B. Fono Report
 - C. Update on Two-Samoas Initiative
 - D. Enforcement Issues
 - E. Community Activities and Issues
 1. Update on Community Fisheries Development
 2. Report on Samoa Tuna Packers Cannery Development
 - F. Update on American Samoa National Marine Sanctuary

- G. Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
1. NMFS PIRO/PIFSC Monument Projects
2. Update on Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
3. American Samoa Community College Rose Atoll Study
- H. Cook Islands Satellite Fisheries Office
- I. Education and Outreach Initiatives
- J. Coastal Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Workshop
- K. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Recommendations
- L. Public Comments
- M. Council Discussion and Action
11. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
 - Fishers Forum: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning and Environmental Monitoring for Pago Pago Bay

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2013

12. Program Planning and Research
 - A. Report on Fisheries Data Coord. Committee
 - B. Methods for ACL Specifications
 - C. Report on the NMFS Science Plan
 - D. Marianas Skipjack Resource Assessment
 - E. National Ocean Council Governance Coordination Committee
 - F. Update on Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body
 - G. Education and Outreach
 1. Other Activities
 - H. SSC Recommendations
 - I. Public Comment
 - J. Council Discussion and Action
13. Protected Species
 - A. False Killer Whale Assessments: Report of SSC Subcommittee
 - B. Update on Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Actions
 1. Final False Killer Whale Take Reduction Plan
 2. List the Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whales as Endangered under the ESA
 3. List 66 Species of Coral as Endangered or Threatened under the ESA
 - C. ESA Section 7 Re-consultation of the Hawaii Deep-set Longline Fishery
 - D. Update on the Monk Seal Recovery Program
 - E. Update on the Council Coordinating Committee/Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (CCC/MAFAC) ESA Working Group
 - F. Update on the Council Sea Turtle Conservation Program
 - G. SSC Recommendations

- H. Public Comment
- I. Council Discussion and Action
14. Mariana Archipelago
 - A. Island Reports
 1. Arongo Flaeey
 2. Isla Informe
 - B. Legislative Report
 1. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
 2. Guam
 - C. Enforcement Issues
 1. CNMI
 2. Guam
 - D. PIRO/PIFSC Marianas Trench Monument Projects
 - E. Community Activities and Issues
 - F. Education and Outreach Initiatives
 - G. Tanapag CMSP Training Workshop Report
 - H. SSC Recommendations
 - I. Public Comment
 - J. Council Discussion and Action

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2013

15. Pelagic & International Fisheries
 - A. Action Item
 1. Management Options for American Samoa South Pacific Albacore Fishery
 - B. American Samoa and Hawaii Longline Quarterly Reports
 - C. Outcomes of the Ninth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Commission (WCPFC 9)
 - D. SSC Recommendations
 - E. Public Hearing
 - F. Council Discussion and Action
16. Hawaii Archipelago and Pacific Remote Islands Areas (PRIAs)
 - A. Moku Pepa
 - B. Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Report
 1. Deep Sea to Clouds (fisheries/watershed management)
 2. Enforcement
 3. Legislation
 - C. Hawaii Green Sea Turtle Status Review under the ESA
 - D. Bottomfish Fishery
 1. Report on State Evaluation of Bottomfish Restricted Areas (BRFAs) through Bottom Camera (BotCam) Research
 2. Report on Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) Bottomfish Research Coordination Meeting
 - E. Community Projects, Activities and Issues
 1. Community Development Program (CDP) Multi-fishery Proposal
 2. Report on Aha Moku Projects
 - F. Report on PIRO/PIFSC Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Monument Projects
 - G. Education and Outreach Activities
 1. Other Hawaii Outreach Activities
 - H. SSC Recommendations
 - I. Public Comment

- J. Council Discussion and Action
17. Administrative Matters
 - A. Financial Reports
 - B. Administrative Reports
 - C. Department of Commerce Inspector General's (IG) Report on Council Rulemaking Process
 - D. Marine Fishery Allocation Issues Report
 - E. Council Family Changes
 1. SSC
 2. Protected Species Standing Committee
 3. Plan Team
 4. Noncommercial Advisory Committee
 - F. Meetings and Workshops
 - G. Other Business
 - H. Standing Committee Recommendations
 - I. Public Comment
 - J. Council Discussion and Action
 18. Other Business

Non-Emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion and formal Council action during its 156th meeting. However, Council action on regulatory issues will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any regulatory issue arising after publication of this document that requires emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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: February 12, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-03665 Filed 2-15-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC504

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet jointly with its Groundfish Advisory Panel to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Colonial, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300; fax: (781) 245-0842.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Groundfish Committee will hold a joint meeting with the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP). The primary purpose of the meeting is to resume work on the development of Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (A18). A18 is being developed with two broad objectives; (1) to consider the establishment of accumulation caps for the groundfish fishery and; (2) to consider issues associated with fleet diversity in the multispecies fishery. A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this amendment was filed published on December 21, 2011 (76 FR 79153). After completing a scoping period in early summer of 2012, progress on this amendment was delayed while the Council completed other management actions. At this meeting, the Committee and GAP will review scoping comments received, analyses developed by the Plan Development Team (PDT), and other comments. The Committee and GAP will develop a plan to move forward on this amendment. They may also receive an update on a Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) meeting that will be held in February and may address other groundfish management priorities for FY 2013, including modifications to rebuilding plans. Other business may be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 12, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD-2013-OS-0026]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: DoD, Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), Enterprise Management.

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the DoD Washington Headquarters Services, Enterprise Management announces the proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 22, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- **Mail:** Federal Docket Management System Office, 4800 Mark Center Drive,