

**ADDRESSES:** The LOA and supporting documentation are available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-us-navys-construction-activities-q8-bulkhead-naval-station>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Craig Cockrell, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce 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 authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

**Summary of Request**

On October 9, 2024, NMFS issued a final rule upon request from the Navy for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to construction activities (89 FR 81848). The Navy plans

to conduct construction activities from Piers 12 and 14 to restore function of this Navy dock system at Naval Station Norfolk. This construction will include use of vibratory pile driving and removal, and impact pile driving. The use of both vibratory and impact pile driving is expected to produce underwater sound at levels that have the potential to result in behavioral harassment of marine mammals.

NMFS published a correction to the October 9, 2024 final rule that, upon request from the Navy, modified the effective dates of the rule. The final rule delayed the effective date of the original rule from January 1, 2025, to August 4, 2025, and modified the expiration date from December 31, 2029, to August 3, 2030.

**Authorization**

NMFS has issued a LOA to the Navy authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to construction activities, as described above. Take of marine mammals will be minimized through the implementation of the following planned mitigation measures: (1) required monitoring of the construction area to detect the presence of marine mammals before beginning construction activities; (2) shutdown of construction activities under certain circumstances to avoid injury of marine mammals; and (3) soft start for impact pile driving to allow marine mammals the opportunity to leave the area prior to beginning impact pile driving at full power. Additionally, the rule includes an adaptive management component that allows for timely modification of mitigation or monitoring measures based on new information, when appropriate. The Navy will submit reports as required.

Based on these findings and the information discussed in the preamble to the final rule, the activities described under this LOA will have a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stock for subsistence uses.

Dated: June 11, 2025.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE984]

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its American Samoa Council Advisors and its American Samoa Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (REAC) meeting to discuss and make recommendations on fishery management issues in the western Pacific region.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, and Monday, June 30, 2025. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The Council will hold its American Samoa Council Advisors Meeting in-person at the Flying Fox Gastropub, Pava'ia'i, American Samoa, 96799 and the American Samoa REAC Meeting in-person at the Sadie's by the Sea Conference Room, Utulei, American Samoa, 96799.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The American Samoa Council Advisors meeting will be held between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (Samoa Standard Time [SST]) on Saturday, June 28, 2025. The American Samoa REAC will be held between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. SST on Monday, June 30, 2025.

Public Comment periods will be provided in the agendas. The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

**Schedule and Agenda for the American Samoa Council Advisors Meeting**

*Saturday, June 28, 2025, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. SST*

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of the Council's Community Consultation Effort
3. Fishers Observations and Local Knowledge Overview
4. American Samoa Fishery Issues
  - A. Deep Sea Mining

- B. Shark Depredation
- C. Marine National Monuments
- D. Review of Recent Executive Orders
- E. Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change Impacts in American Samoa
- 5. Public Comment
- 6. Discussion and Recommendations
- 7. Other Business

#### **Schedule and Agenda for the American Samoa REAC Meeting**

*Monday, May 30, 2025, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. SST*

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Overview of the American Samoa REAC
- 3. Report of the 2023 American Samoa REAC Meeting
- 4. Federal Fishery Monitoring and Management
  - A. American Samoa FEP Overview
  - B. Recent Executive Orders
  - C. Deep Sea Mining in American Samoa
  - D. Updates on Inflation Reduction Act Projects on Regulatory Review and Community Consultations
- 5. Roundtable Climate Change Impacts in American Samoa
- 6. American Samoa Fishery and Resource Conservation Issues
  - A. American Samoa Territorial Fishery Management Plan
  - B. Shark Depredation in American Samoa
  - C. Marine Debris Monitoring Survey
- 7. Roundtable Agency and Partner Updates
- 8. Public Comment
- 9. Discussion and Recommendations
- 10. Other Business

#### **Special Accommodations**

These meetings are 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: June 12, 2025.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2025–11055 Filed 6–13–25; 8:45 am]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Scientific Research, Exempted Fishing, and Exempted Educational Activity Submissions**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on January 8, 2025, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

*Title:* Scientific Research, Exempted Fishing, and Exempted Educational Activity Submissions.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0309.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].

*Number of Respondents:* 246.

*Average Hours per Response:* Scientific research plans, 13 hours; scientific research reports, 6 hours; exempted fishing permit requests, 10 hours; exempted fishing permit reports, 4.5 hours; exempted educational requests, 5 hours; exempted educational reports, 2.5 hours.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,164.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for extension of a current information collection.

Under section 318 (d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) [16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*], as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act [Pub. L. 104–297], the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) is required to promulgate regulations that create an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process to promote issuance, where practicable, of experimental fishing permits. Regulations under 50 CFR 648.12 and

50 CFR 600.745 establish processes for scientific research plans as well as exempted fishing and exempted educational activities that are exempted from applicable fishing regulations. Fishery regulations do not generally affect scientific research activities conducted by a scientific research vessel. Persons planning to conduct such research are encouraged to submit a scientific research plan to ensure that the activities are considered research and not fishing. The researchers are requested to submit reports of their scientific research activity after its completion. Eligible researchers on board federally permitted fishing vessels that plan to temporarily possess fish in a manner not compliant with applicable fishing regulations for the purpose of collecting scientific data on catch may submit a request for a temporary possession letter of authorization. The researchers are requested to submit reports of their scientific research activity after its completion. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) may also grant exemptions from fishery regulations for educational or other activities (e.g., using non-regulation gear). The applications for these exemptions must be submitted, as well as reports on activities.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations and not-for-profit institutions such as educational and research institutions.

*Frequency:* As needed.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory and Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0309.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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