

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XA874]

**Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow eight commercial fishing vessels to use fish pots to collect pre-construction data on the abundance, size structure, and distribution of scup and black sea bass in the South Fork Wind Farm (SFWF) work area and adjacent waters, under the direction of the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF). Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed EFP.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 19, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email: nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov.*

Include in the subject line “CFRF South Fork Wind Farm Fish Pot EFP.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Louis Forristall, Marine Resources Management Specialist, 978-281-9321, *Louis.Forristall@noaa.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The CFRF submitted a complete application for an EFP in support of its SFWF Fish Pot Survey on October 16, 2020. The proposed research would use scup traps in a Before-After-Control-Impact study design to collect pre-construction data on the abundance, size structure, and distribution of scup, black sea bass, and tautog in the SFWF area and adjacent waters.

This EFP would temporarily exempt 8 vessels (2 active, 6 reserve) during 14 2-day trips in statistical area 537 from: Possession limits and minimum size requirements specified in 50 CFR 648 subparts B and D through O for on-board sampling; trap escape vent and gear marking requirements in 50 CFR 648 subparts H and I, as well as § 697 subpart A; and trap limit requirements at § 697.19(b) to allow participating vessels to temporarily carry survey traps plus in addition to the vessel’s allocated traps in Lobster Management Area 2.

The proposed research activity would sample 6 randomly selected locations in the SFWF work area located within NOAA Statistical Area 537. The proposed research would consist of 14 2-day survey trips that will take place

over 2 seasonal periods: April 2021–October 2021 and April 2022–October 2022. Survey trips would take place each month over each of the 7-month seasonal periods. The first day would be used for setting pots and the second day for hauling pots and sampling catch.

On each survey trip, 25 pots will be set on 6 trawl lines (150 pots total) at randomly selected turbine locations at the SFWF. Each trawl line would soak for 24 hours. Between each survey within a season, pots will be left open underwater. Pots would be removed between each survey season.

The proposed research would use ventless scup traps that include an anti-ghost fish panel. The rigging lines will be 3/8 inch (.95 cm) pro flex sink and float rope attached to buoys. Buoy stick swivel ends and breakaway 600 pound (272 kg) swivel links would be used to reduce marine mammal entanglement.

During survey periods, the fishing vessel would redeploy the pot trawl at the sampling location. In between monthly survey trips, the pots will be un-baited and doors will be left open. On the first day of the next monthly survey, pots will be hauled, baited, and redeployed.

Estimated catch that would be expected under this EFP is shown below in Table 1. Survey catch estimates were derived from the Rhode Island Department of Management’s ventless fish pot monitoring survey. The survey was conducted within Narraganset Bay, but used similar gear and fishing methods as the proposed activity.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED CATCH PER SURVEY TRIP, AND TOTAL ESTIMATED CATCH

Species name/species group	Catch per area per trip	Estimated total survey catch
Scup .....	248.0 lbs (112.5 kg) .....	3,472.3 lbs (1575.0 kg).
Black Sea Bass .....	115.7 lbs (52.5 kg) .....	1,620.4 lbs (735.0 kg).
Tautog .....	20.1 lbs (9.1 kg) .....	324.1 lbs (147.0 kg).

If approved, CFRF may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the study. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: February 26, 2021,

**Kelly Denit,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of a virtual meeting of the U. S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Advisory Committee (Committee).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 17, 18, and 19, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Refer to the web page listed below for the most up-to-date agenda and dial-in information.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held virtually. Refer to the U.S. IOOS

Advisory Committee website at <http://ioos.noaa.gov/community/u-s-ioos-advisory-committee/> for the most up-to-date information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Krisa Arzayus, Designated Federal Official, U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee, U.S. IOOS Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone 240-533-9455; Fax 301-713-3281; Email [krisa.arzayus@noaa.gov](mailto:krisa.arzayus@noaa.gov) or visit the U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee website at <http://ioos.noaa.gov/community/u-s-ioos-advisory-committee/>. To register for the meeting, contact Laura Gewain, [laura.gewain@noaa.gov](mailto:laura.gewain@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee was established by the NOAA Administrator as directed by Section 12304 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act, part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11), and reauthorized under the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116-271). The Committee advises the NOAA Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC) on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and other appropriate matters as the Under Secretary refers to the Committee for review and advice.

The Committee will provide advice on:

- (A) Administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the System;
- (B) expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of the System;
- (C) identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by the System, and the System's effectiveness in disseminating information to end-user communities and to the general public; and
- (D) additional priorities, including—
  - (i) a national surface current mapping network designed to improve fine scale sea surface mapping using high frequency radar technology and other emerging technologies to address national priorities, including Coast Guard search and rescue operation planning and harmful algal bloom forecasting and detection that—
    - (I) is comprised of existing high frequency radar and other sea surface current mapping infrastructure operated by national programs and regional coastal observing systems;
    - (II) incorporates new high frequency radar assets or other fine scale sea

surface mapping technology assets, and other assets needed to fill gaps in coverage on United States coastlines; and

(III) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models;

(ii) fleet acquisition for unmanned maritime systems for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle;

(iii) an integrative survey program for application of unmanned maritime systems to the real-time or near real-time collection and transmission of sea floor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;

(iv) remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the System into hydrodynamic models;

(v) integrated, multi-State monitoring to assess sources, movement, and fate of sediments in coastal regions;

(vi) a multi-region marine sound monitoring system to be—

(I) planned in consultation with the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

(II) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.

The meeting will be open to public participation with a 10-minute public comment period on from 4:45pm to 5:00pm EDT each day of the meeting (check agenda on website to confirm time). The Committee expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three (3) minutes. Written comments should be received by the Designated Federal Official by March 15, 2021, to provide sufficient time for Committee review. Written comments received after March 15, 2021, will be distributed to the Committee, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. To submit written comments, please email your comments, your name as it appears on your driver's license, and the

organization/company affiliation you represent to Krisa Arzayus, [Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov](mailto:Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov) and Laura Gewain, [Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov](mailto:Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov).

**Matters to be considered:** The meeting will focus on updates from committee working groups on ongoing committee priorities, including the role of ocean observations in forecasting, strategy and vision for the System, partnerships for a successful System, and requirements for the System, in order to develop the next set of recommendations to NOAA and the IOOC. The latest version of the agenda will be posted at <http://ioos.noaa.gov/community/u-s-ioos-advisory-committee/>.

**Special accommodations:** These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Krisa Arzayus, Designated Federal Official at [Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov](mailto:Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov) and [Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov](mailto:Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov) or 240-533-9455 by March 10, 2021.

**Krisa M. Arzayus,**

*Deputy Director, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Office, National Ocean Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Recruitment of First Responder Network Authority Board Members

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issues this Notice to initiate the annual process to seek expressions of interest from individuals who would like to serve on the Board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority Board or Board). The terms of 11 of the 12 non-permanent members to the FirstNet Authority Board will be available for appointment and reappointment in 2021.

**DATES:** To be considered for the calendar year 2021 appointments, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before April 5, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants should submit expressions of interest as described below to: Michael Dame, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of