

relatively short duration of the proposed survey (10 days; eight days of survey plus two contingency days) will further limit the potential impacts of any temporary behavioral changes that will occur;

- The availability of alternate areas of similar habitat value for marine mammals to temporarily vacate the survey area during the proposed survey to avoid exposure to sounds from the activity;
- The proposed project area does not contain areas of significance for feeding, mating or calving;
- The potential adverse effects on fish or invertebrate species that serve as prey species for marine mammals from the proposed survey will be temporary and spatially limited; and
- The planned mitigation measures, including visual and acoustic monitoring and shutdowns, are expected to minimize potential impacts to marine mammals.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the likely effects of the specified activity on marine mammals and their habitat, and taking into consideration the implementation of the required monitoring and mitigation measures, NMFS finds that the total marine mammal take from the proposed activity will have a negligible impact on all affected marine mammal species or stocks.

#### Small Numbers

As noted above, only small numbers of incidental take may be authorized under Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA for specified activities other than military readiness activities. The MMPA does not define small numbers and so, in practice, where estimated numbers are available, NMFS compares the number of individuals taken to the most appropriate estimation of abundance of the relevant species or stock in our determination of whether an authorization is limited to small numbers of marine mammals. Additionally, other qualitative factors may be considered in the analysis, such as the temporal or spatial scale of the activities.

Marine mammals in the survey area are not assigned to NMFS stocks. For purposes of the small numbers analysis, we rely on the best available information on the abundance estimates for the species of marine mammals that could be taken. The numbers of marine mammals that we authorize to be taken will be considered small relative to the relevant populations (less than 13 percent for all species).

Based on the analysis contained herein of the planned activity (including

the required mitigation and monitoring measures) and the authorized take of marine mammals, NMFS concludes that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the population sizes of the affected species or stocks.

#### Unmitigable Adverse Impact Analysis and Determination

There are no relevant subsistence uses of the affected marine mammal stocks or species implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216–6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (incidental harassment authorizations with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that will preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

#### Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally, in this case with the ESA Interagency Cooperation Division, whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

The NMFS Office of Protected Resources Interagency Cooperation Division issued a Biological Opinion on January 23, 2020, under section 7 of the ESA, on the issuance of an IHA to NSF

under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS Office of Protected Resources Permits and Conservation Division. The Biological Opinion concluded that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of blue, fin, sei, and sperm whales, and is not likely to destroy or modify critical habitat of listed species because no critical habitat exists for these species in the action area.

#### Authorization

As a result of these determinations, NMFS has issued an IHA to NSF for conducting the specified activity in the Amundsen Sea, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: January 27, 2019.

**Donna S. Wieting,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020–01811 Filed 1–30–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XP007]

#### Pacific Island Fisheries; Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review (WPSAR) of a 2020 benchmark stock assessment for Hawaii gray jobfish (*uku*).

**DATES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting dates and times and daily agenda.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Seki, Director, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, tel (808) 725–5360, fax (808) 725–5360, email [michael.seki@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.seki@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) conducted a single-species benchmark stock assessment of the gray jobfish (*uku*, *Aprion virescens*) in the main Hawaiian Islands. PIFSC

previously conducted a stock assessment for uku in 2017 using a data-limited length-based approach. The 2020 benchmark assessment diverges significantly from the 2017 assessment in that it implements the first integrated assessment of a domestic stock in the U.S. Pacific Islands Region. The integrated assessment uses the Stock Synthesis (v. 3.30) framework to integrate catch per unit effort indices, size frequency, diver survey, and catch data into a single age-structured model. PIFSC used this integrated model to estimate biomass and stock status through time, and evaluated stock status against the maximum sustainable yield based reference points described in the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Hawaii Archipelago. The 2020 assessment provides projections to inform management setting of acceptable biological catch and annual catch limits for 2020–2026.

#### Meeting Agenda

The WPSAR panel will meet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The agenda order may change, and the meeting will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

##### Day 1, Monday February 24

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Background information—Objectives and Terms of Reference.
  - a. Fishery Operation.
  - b. Fishery Management.
3. History of stock assessments and reviews.
4. Data.
  - a. Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources Fishing Report System and Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishery Survey.
  - b. Life history information.
  - c. Other.
5. Presentation and review of stock assessment.

##### Day 2, Tuesday February 25

6. Continue presentation and review of stock assessment.

##### Day 3, Wednesday February 26

7. Continue review of stock assessment.

##### Day 4, Thursday February 27

8. Continue review of stock assessment.
9. Public comment period.
10. Panel discussions (closed to the public).

##### Day 5, Friday February 28

11. Continue panel discussions (closed, morning).
12. Panel presents recommendations (afternoon).
13. Adjourn.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids to Michael Seki (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above) at least five days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 27, 2020.

**Karyl K. Brewster-Geisz,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020–01777 Filed 1–30–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA026]

##### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) will convene a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel meeting to review the 2020 Pacific sardine stock assessment.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Monday, February 24, 2020 through Thursday, February 27, 2020. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on February 24, and 8:30 a.m. on each subsequent day. The meeting will continue until 5 p.m. each day or when business for the day has been completed.

##### ADDRESSES:

**Meeting address:** The meeting will be held in the Pacific Room at the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037–1508.

**Council address:** Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kerry Griffin, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2409.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the 2020 benchmark stock assessment for Pacific sardine, which will be used to set annual harvest specifications and management measures for the fishing year beginning

July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The review panel will consist of three members of the Pacific Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee's Subcommittee on Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS), and two independent experts. Representatives of the Pacific Council's CPS Management Team and the CPS Advisory Subpanel will also participate in the review as advisers.

As a courtesy, the meeting will be broadcast via Webex in listen-only mode. Login information will be available in advance of the meeting on the Pacific Council website or by contacting Kerry Griffin ([kerry.griffin@noaa.gov](mailto:kerry.griffin@noaa.gov); (503) 820–2409).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

The public listening station is physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Dale Sweetnam ([dale.sweetnam@noaa.gov](mailto:dale.sweetnam@noaa.gov)) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 28, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020–01874 Filed 1–30–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### Patent and Trademark Office

##### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Patent Law Treaty

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**Agency:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**Title:** Patent Law Treaty.

**OMB Control Number:** 0651–0073.