

continuing through Thursday June 9. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions. The Ecosystem Committee will meet Thursday, June 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Enforcement Committee will meet Thursday, June 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Alyeska Prince Hotel, Seward Highway, Girdwood, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports

Executive Director's Report
NMFS Management Report (includes comment on proposed rule language for Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) Amendment 79 and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements for Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) measures and possible Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for specifications process)

U.S. Coast Guard Report
NMFS Enforcement Report
Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Report (GHL issues delayed to October)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Report
North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) Report
Alaska Fishery Science Center (AFSC) Fishery Interaction research

Protected Species Report (includes update on Council/Board of Fisheries Committee and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) listing)

Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS)

2. Community Development Quota (CDQ) Management of Reserves: Status Report and action as necessary to refine alternatives

3. GOA Groundfish Rationalization: Receive Community Committee report. Review Preliminary Alternatives for Tanner Crab Bycatch. Review other information and refine alternatives

4. GOA Rockfish Demonstration Project: Final action

5. BSAI Pacific Cod Allocations: Review discussion paper on seasonal allocation issues and refine alternatives as necessary. Review discussion paper on alternative in-season management measures and refine alternatives as necessary

6. BSAI Salmon Bycatch: Initial Review

7. Bairdi Crab Split: Initial Review

8. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU): Initial Review of Amendment 80 Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) (Head & Gut Cooperatives)

9. Observer Program Restructuring: Update of on Fair Labor Standard Act issues and discussion with Department of Labor. Preliminary Review of EA/RIR/IRFA. Review of Observer Advisory Committee report

10. Groundfish Management: GOA Other Species calculation: Final Action

11. Crab: Crab Plan Team report, action as necessary

12. Ecosystem Management: Review Aleutian Island Area-specific management discussion paper, action as appropriate; review discussion paper on the Council's role in Ecosystem Approach Management, action as appropriate

13. Staff Tasking: Review tasking and committees and initiate action as appropriate. Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS) Priorities, review objectives and develop workplan

14. Other Business

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

GOA Rockfish Demonstration Project

BS/AI Salmon Bycatch

Bairdi Crab Split

IR/IU

Observer Program

North Pacific Research Board Report

AFSC Fishery Research

Protected Species Report

AOOS Report

Crab

Ecosystem Management

Advisory Panel: The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 17, 2005.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050905E]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Notice of Sea Turtle Release/Protocol Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: NMFS is announcing workshops that will demonstrate proper sea turtle handling, resuscitation, and release techniques for vessel operators using bottom longline (BLL) gear to catch sharks in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico. The workshops will also summarize the current regulations pertaining to safe handling and release protocols and requirements for possession and use of mitigation equipment for sea turtles and other protected resources.

DATES: The workshops will be held in June 2005. For specific dates and times see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

ADDRESSES: The workshops will be held in Galveston and Port Isabel, TX; Venice, LA; Panama City, Madeira Beach, Key West, and Cocoa Beach, FL; Charleston, SC; and Manteo, NC. For specific locations see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charlie Bergmann, 3209 Frederic St., Pascagoula, MS 39567 or by phone at 228-762-4591 (office phone) or 228-623-0748 (cellular phone).

Additional information on Highly Migratory Species (HMS) management can be found online at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms> or by calling the Highly Migratory Species Management Division at 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Atlantic tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA), which authorizes rulemaking as may be necessary and appropriate to implement recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Implementing regulations for the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks and the Billfish Fishery

Management Plan are at 50 CFR part 635.

On October 29, 2003, a Biological Opinion (BiOp) for Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks concluded that the measures in the Amendment were not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species under NMFS' purview. Pursuant to the 2003 BiOp, NMFS is conducting workshops for BLL fishermen to provide information regarding gear handling techniques and protocols that demonstrate ways to reduce the potential for serious injury or mortality should incidental capture of sea turtles or other protected resources via hooking or entanglement occur.

NMFS has scheduled nine workshops for June 2005 to ensure that shark BLL fishermen are aware of gear handling and release protocols and are proficient at using equipment available to reduce post-release mortality of protected resources that are caught with BLL gear. Additionally, fishermen who use BLL for other species such as grouper are also invited to attend these workshops.

Dates, Times, and Locations

The dates, times, and locations of these workshops are scheduled as follows:

1. June 1, 2005, NMFS Laboratory, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX, from 1 to 5 p.m. (409) 766-3500.
2. June 3, 2005, Coast Guard Station, 436 Coast Guard Road, Venice, LA, from 1 to 5 p.m. (985) 534-2332.
3. June 6, 2005, Sea Grant Office/ County Extension Office, Panama City, FL, from 1 to 5 p.m. (850) 874-6105.
4. June 8, 2005, Harvey Government Center, 1200 Truman Ave., 2nd Floor, Key West, FL, from 1 to 5 p.m. (305) 292-4431.
5. June 10, 2005, City Hall, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL, from 1 to 5 p.m. (727) 391-9951 x 228.
6. June 13, 2005, Sea Grant Building, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa Beach, FL, from 1 to 5 p.m. (321) 952-4536.
7. June 15, 2005, Marine Resources Institute, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston/James Island, SC, from 1 to 5 p.m. (843) 953-9300.
8. June 17, North Carolina Aquarium—Roanoke Island, Airport Road, Manteo, NC, from 1 to 5 p.m. (252) 473-3494.
9. June 30, Port Isabel Community Center, 213 Yturria, Port Isabel, TX, from 1 to 5 p.m. (956) 943-9991.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Request for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be

directed to Charlie Bergmann (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days before the meeting.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 17, 2005.

Galen R. Tromble,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051705A]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint meeting of its Snapper Grouper Committee and Advisory Panel, a meeting of its Snapper Grouper Committee, Joint Executive and Finance Committees, Protected Resources Committee, Joint Ecosystem and Habitat Committees, and a meeting of the full Council. In addition, there will be a public scoping meeting addressing the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and Comprehensive Amendment and public comment will be taken on Council consideration of an Interim Rule addressing overfishing for snapper grouper species.

DATES: The meeting will be held in June 2005. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920; Telephone: (1-800) 333-3333 or 321/784-0000, FAX 321/783-7718.

Copies of documents are available from Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information

Officer; telephone: 843/571-4366 or toll free at 866/SAFMC-10; fax: 843/769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

1. *Joint Snapper Grouper Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting: June 13, 2005, 1:30 p.m. 5 p.m. and June 14, 2005, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon*

The Snapper Grouper Committee will meet jointly with the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) to review the results of the updated black sea bass assessment and receive a report from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). In addition, the Committee and AP will review the draft of Amendment 13B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan regarding mandates under the Sustainable Fisheries Act to address overfishing and discuss the potential for Interim Rule. The Committee and AP will also discuss species to be considered in future stock assessments through the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process and receive a presentation from NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office regarding linking permits and landings databases.

Note: A public scoping meeting on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and Comprehensive Amendment will be held June 13, 2005 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Council will also accept public comment on Council consideration of an Interim Rule addressing overfishing for snapper grouper species immediately following the scoping meeting.

2. *Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting: June 14, 2005, 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m. and June 15, 2005, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon*

The Snapper Grouper Committee will review Amendment 13B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan and finalize for public hearings. The Committee will also discuss the potential for Interim Rule and discuss species for future SEDAR assessments.

3. *Joint Executive Committee and Finance Committee Meeting: June 15, 2005, 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.*

The Committees will develop the Council's positions on reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, review NOAA's Ocean Action Plan, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Peer Review Bulletin, and NOAA Fisheries' Report to Congress.

4. *Protected Resources Committee Meeting: June 16, 2005, 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.*

The Protected Resources Committee will discuss a proposal for installation of a wind farm in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coast of Georgia. The Committee will receive