

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require 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. The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Trish Kennedy at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 17, 2006.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E6-7768 Filed 5-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051706D]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat/MPA/Ecosystem Committee Meeting in June, 2006 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, June 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200; fax: (508) 337-8677.

*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 Committee will review and recommend for Council consideration essential fish habitat (EFH) designation alternatives for inclusion in Phase 1 of the EFH Omnibus Amendment 2 for all Council-managed species (with the exception of Atlantic Salmon). The committee will also review and recommend for Council consideration a prey species identification section for inclusion in Phase 1 of the EFH omnibus Amendment 2 for all Council-managed species (with the exception of Atlantic Salmon). In addition, the committee will discuss and consider topics covered at the May 8, 2006 Habitat Advisory panel meeting. Other topics may be covered at the committee's discretion.

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 listed 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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 17, 2006.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E6-7769 Filed 5-19-06; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051706B]

#### North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings/hearing in Kodiak, AK.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on June 5, 2006 through June 13, 2006. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations of meetings/hearing.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, continuing through June 13, 2006. The Council will hold a Groundfish Rationalization Public Hearing on June 6, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, June 5 and continue through Saturday June 10, 2006. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 5 and continue through Wednesday, June 7, 2006. The Enforcement Committee will meet Monday, June 5, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Harbor Room. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions.

The meetings/hearing will be held at the following locations:

*Council meeting address:* Westmark Kodiak Inn, 236 Rezanof Drive, Harbor Room, Kodiak, AK.

*AP meeting address:* Elks Club, 102 Marine Way, Kodiak, AK.

*SSC meeting address:* Fishermen's Hall, 503 Marine Way, Kodiak, AK.

*Public hearing address:* Kodiak Island Borough School District, 722 Mill Bay Road, Commons A&B, Kodiak, AK.

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

- a. Executive Director's Report
  - b. NMFS Management Report (including report on total allowable catch (TAC) setting EIGH alternatives and potential comment)
  - c. NMFS Enforcement Report
  - d. U.S. Coast Guard Report
  - e. NMFS Enforcement Report
  - f. Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report
  - g. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Report
  - h. Protected Species Report (seabird report, Steller Sea Lion (SSL) compendium, SSL recovery plan, Right whale Critical Habitat, Fishery Management Plan Biological Opinion.
2. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU): Final action on Amendment 80; Review proposed data collection programs, and take action as necessary. Initial review of Maximum Retainable Amount (MRA) adjustments.
3. Community Development Communities: Status report on legislation and implication for Amendment 71.
4. Trawl Catcher Vessel (CV) eligibility: Progress report on analysis.
5. Halibut Charter: Review and refine moratorium alternatives, Receive stakeholder, committee report and determine direction: NMFS report on enforcement of Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) preferred alternative (5-fish annual limit).
6. Observer Program: Final action on Observer Program analysis; Review discussion paper on video monitoring.
7. Halibut/Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program: Final action on IFQ Omnibus 5 amendments.
8. Groundfish Management: Review Experimental Fishery Permit to test halibut excluder for Gulf of Alaska cod trawl fishery; Receive progress report on trawl excluder research.
9. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): Review discussion paper on Bering Sea habitat conservation alternatives, and take action as necessary; Receive discussion paper on Bering Sea crab habitat and fishery interactions, and take action as necessary.
10. Crab Management: Preliminary review of Crab Overfishing definition (SSC only): Receive report from Crab Plan Team; Receive State/Federal Action Plan.
11. Ecosystem Based Management: Receive Committee report and take action as necessary.
12. Staff Tasking: Review Committees and tasking and take action as necessary.
13. Other Business The SSC agenda will include the following issues:
1. Protected Species Report
  2. IR/IU MRA data

## 3. AI CV Eligibility

4. Observer Program
5. Groundfish Management
6. EFH
7. Crab Management
8. Ecosystem Management

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, 2006.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-7767 Filed 5-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent And Trademark Office****Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program**

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the new information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 21, 2006.

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

*E-mail:* [Susan.Brown@uspto.gov](mailto:Susan.Brown@uspto.gov).

Include "0651-00XX PPH Pilot Program comment" in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan Brown.

*Mail:* Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information should be directed to Robert J. Spar, Director, Office of Patent Legal

Administration, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-7700; or by e-mail at [Bob.Spar@uspto.gov](mailto:Bob.Spar@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program is being established between the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO). This program will allow applicants whose claims are determined to be patentable in the office of first filing to have the corresponding application that is filed in the office of second filing be advanced out of turn for examination. At the same time, this program will allow the office of second filing to exploit the search and examination results of the office of first filing. The one-year pilot program will begin on July 3, 2006.

In order to participate in this program, applicants must meet certain requirements. Some of the requirements are: (1) The U.S. application must validly claim foreign priority to the JPO application; (2) the JPO application must have at least one claim that was determined to be patentable; (3) all the claims in the U.S. application must be amended to sufficiently correspond to the patentable claims in the JPO application; (4) examination of the U.S. application has not begun; (5) applicant must submit copies of the JPO office actions and English translations thereof; and (6) applicant must file a petition to make special along with the required petition fee.

This information collection includes one proposed form, Request for Participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program Between the JPO and the USPTO (PTO/SB/20), which may be used by applicants to request participation in the pilot program and to ensure that they meet the program requirements.

**II. Method of Collection**

Requests to participate in the PPH pilot program must be submitted by fax to the Office of the Commissioner for Patents (571-273-0125) to ensure that the request is processed in a timely manner. The USPTO will consider alternative methods of submission under this program after the one-year pilot period is concluded.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-00XX.

*Form Number(s):* PTO/SB/20.

*Type of Review:* New collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-