

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XK64

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) will hold a three-day Council meeting, on October 7–9, 2008, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7 beginning at 9 a.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, October 8 and 9, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355; telephone: (860) 572–0731.

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:**Tuesday, October 7, 2008**

Following introductions and any announcements, the Council will receive a series of brief reports from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel, NOAA Enforcement and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Following these reports, there will be an open comment period during which any interested party may address the Council about fishery management related issues that are otherwise not listed on the agenda. NMFS staff from Silver Spring, MD will hold a scoping session on Amendment 3 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, an action that will focus on small coastal shark issues. Prior to a lunch break the Council will discuss the most recent International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Advisory Panel meeting and consider recommendations for bluefin tuna

management. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will review its priority and workload issues, discuss its comments on the scientific basis for Amendment 3 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan (FMP), provide comments on the new scallop overfishing definition under consideration for use in Framework Adjustment 15 to the Scallop FMP and provide feedback on the utility of a report on NEFMC documents used in sea scallop management. As the final agenda item of the day, the Sea Scallop Committee will review its discussions about updated biomass estimates provided by the Scallop Plan Development Team for the Elephant Trunk and Delmarva access areas. It is not necessary for the Council to take action at the meeting, however, given that if biomass estimates fall below defined thresholds, NMFS already has the authority to reduce the number of allowed trips in the areas. That authority was provided by the Council in Framework Adjustment 19 to the Scallop FMP. If appropriate, the Council also may discuss and approve a response to the most recent NMFS Biological Opinion for the Scallop FMP. The agency is requesting that the Council further develop one of several management measures outlined in the Opinion to minimize the impacts of sea turtle incidental takes in the fishery and include the action in an upcoming adjustment to the Scallop FMP.

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

The Council will review the progress of its Herring Committee to develop management alternatives for Amendment 4 to the Herring FMP. Committee recommendations include but are not limited to a catch monitoring program for the fishery, management measures to address herring bycatch concerns in the Atlantic mackerel fishery, annual catch limits, accountability measures and individual as well as group quota allocation programs. The Council also will approve recommendations for cooperative research priorities for the 2010 herring research set-aside program. Following a lunch break the NEFMC will take initial action on Framework Adjustment 2 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP. The action will allow consideration of alternatives to adjust stock status determination criteria. The Council also will briefly review any experimental fishery permits requests published since the last Council meeting and possibly offer comments.

NMFS will then review the final Marine Protected Area Framework and proposed nomination process. This item

will be followed by discussion and approval of Council comments on the August 26, 2008 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning consultations pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuary Act. As the last item of the day, the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee will ask the Council to review and approve its recommendations for total allowable catches for eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for the 2009 fishing year.

Thursday, October 9, 2008

The Council will continue development of Northeast Multispecies FMP Amendment 16 measures, receive reports from its Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels, review projections for newly overfished stocks, identify rebuilding strategies and approve a revised timeline for development of the amendment. This agenda item will be discussed until the Council addresses any other outstanding business and adjourns.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council 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 Act, provided that 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 (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 18, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8–22163 Filed 9–22–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XK65

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The GAC will meet Wednesday, October 8, 2008, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed, and reconvene on Thursday, October 9, at 8 a.m. and continue until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The GAC meeting will be held at the Residence Inn Portland Downtown at Riverplace, Broadway Room, 2115 SW River Parkway, Portland, OR 97201; telephone: (503) 552-9500.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jim Seger, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to develop recommendations to the Council for a preferred trawl rationalization alternative, on which the Council is scheduled to take its final action at the November 2008 Council meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal GAC action during this meeting. GAC 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 Committee'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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 18, 2008.

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

RIN 0648-XK70

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 143rd meeting to consider and take actions on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

DATES: The 143rd Council meeting and public hearings will be held on October 14-17, 2008 in Honolulu, Hawaii. For specific times and the agenda, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The 143rd Council meeting and public hearings will be held at the Pagoda Hotel, 1525 Rycroft Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814; telephone: 808-941-6611.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In addition to the agenda items listed here, the Council will hear recommendations from other Council advisory groups. Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The Council will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for Council Standing Committee Meetings

Tuesday October 14, 2008

Standing Committee Meetings

1. 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Executive and Budget Standing Committee
2. 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon Program Planning Standing Committee
3. 1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Fishery Rights of Indigenous People Standing Committee
4. 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Pelagics Ecosystem and International Fisheries Standing Committee
5. 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Hawaii Archipelago/Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA) Standing Committee

The agenda during the full Council meeting will include the items listed here.

Schedule and Agenda for Council Meeting

9:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday October 15, 2008

1. Introductions
2. New Council Members Oath of Office
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 142nd Meeting Minutes
5. Agency Reports
 - A. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 1. Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO)
 2. Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)
 - B. NOAA General Counsel
 - C. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - D. Enforcement
 1. U.S. Coast Guard
 2. NOAA Office for Law Enforcement
 3. Status of Violations
 6. Program Planning
 - A. Program Planning and Research
 1. Annual Catch Limits
 2. Small-scale and Traditional Fisheries
 3. Council's Five-Year Research Plan
 - B. Update on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and National Saltwater Angler Registry
 - C. National Eco-labeling Initiative
 - D. Update on Legislation
 - E. Update on Status of Fishery Management Plan (FMP) actions
 - F. Community Development Program Amendment Status
 - G. Coral Reefs
 1. Report on U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
 2. Coral Reef Program Review
 - H. Marine Education and Training Program Selection Process
 - I. Update on Blue Legacy
 - J. Social Science Research Planning Committee Report
 - K. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Recommendations
 - L. Standing Committee Recommendations
 - M. Public Hearing
 - N. Council Discussion and Action
 7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Wednesday October 15, 2008

Fishers Forum

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Richard Shiroma Award Presentation
- III. Assessing Historical Changes in the Hawaii Bottomfish Fishery and their Effect on Calculating Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)
- IV. 2008 Hawaii Bottomfish Stock Assessment