

U.S.C. 1539(a)(2)(A)). To issue a permit, NMFS must find that: (1) the taking will be incidental; (2) the applicant will minimize and mitigate impacts of the taking to the maximum extent practicable; (3) the applicant will ensure adequate funding for the HCP; (4) the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and (5) the applicant will meet other measures required by NMFS. Regulations governing issuance of NMFS-issued permits can be found at 50 CFR 222.301 through 307.

The applicant requested an ITP from NMFS for the SONCC coho salmon ESU. The Final PacifiCorp HCP for the Project includes a series of conservation measures to minimize and mitigate the effects of operation of the Project on potential incidental take of SONCC ESU coho salmon during the 10-year permit term. In general, the Covered Activities under the ITP and HCP include the following: (1) Operate and maintain the spill gates at Link River dam for regulation and releases of flows from Link River dam for purposes of hydroelectric generation, (2) Operate and maintain the East Side and West Side canals, penstocks, turbines, and powerhouse facilities, (3) Operate and maintain Keno dam, spill gates, and fish ladder, (4) Regulate the water level upstream of Keno dam in accordance with the agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) (per PacifiCorp's existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license) and for irrigation withdrawal activities, (5) Operate and maintain J.C. Boyle dam, fish bypass system, water conveyance system, (6) Maintain an instream flow release from the J.C. Boyle dam to the river of not less than 100 cfs (per PacifiCorp's existing FERC license), (7) Regulate flows from J.C. Boyle dam and powerhouse during normal operations such that ramping rates of flow in the river do not exceed 9 inches per hour (as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage located 0.5 mile downstream of the J.C. Boyle powerhouse) per PacifiCorp's existing FERC license, (8) Operate and maintain Copco No. 1 and Copco No. 2 dams, water conveyance systems, turbines, and powerhouse facilities, (9) Operate and maintain Iron Gate dam (and associated appurtenances), penstocks, turbines, and powerhouse facilities, (10) Regulate releases from Iron Gate dam in accordance with NMFS' biological opinion on Reclamation's Klamath Project operations which identifies instream flow and ramping rate requirements (as

measured at the USGS gage located 0.5 mile downstream of Iron Gate dam), and (11) Regulate water levels at Keno, J.C. Boyle, Copco, and Iron Gate reservoirs.

The stated biological goals of PacifiCorp's HCP are to: (1) Offset biological effects of blocked habitat upstream of Iron Gate dam by enhancing the viability of the Upper Klamath coho salmon population, (2) Enhance coho salmon spawning habitat downstream of Iron Gate dam, (3) Improve instream flow conditions for coho salmon downstream of Iron Gate dam, (4) Improve water quality for coho salmon downstream of Iron Gate dam, (5) Reduce disease incidence and mortality in juvenile coho salmon downstream of Iron Gate dam, (6) Enhance migratory and rearing habitat for coho salmon in the Klamath River mainstem corridor, and (7) Enhance and expand rearing habitat for coho salmon in key tributaries.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft environmental assessment, habitat conservation plan, implementing agreement, receipt of application for the ITP, and notice of a public meeting was published in the **Federal Register** on May 4, 2011 (76 FR 25307). The public review period occurred for 60 days, and no oral comments were received at a public meeting held in Redding, California on June 29, 2011. A total of eleven (11) individual comment letters were received by the July 5, 2011 public comment deadline. Two separate individual comment letters were received after the public comment deadline, and responses to concerns raised in these letters have been provided separately from the final environmental assessment. NMFS reviewed the comments received and identified 79 separate comments regarding either the Draft EA or the HCP. A response to each of the comments received during the public comment period is included in the Final EA.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

The proposed permit issuance triggered the need for compliance with NEPA and accordingly NMFS prepared a NEPA document. The Final EA analyzes the proposed action and one other alternative (No Action). Under the proposed action, NMFS would issue the ITP and PacifiCorp would implement its HCP within the Klamath River basin. Under the No Action Alternative, the requested ITP would not be issued, and PacifiCorp would not implement the HCP. NMFS is responsible for compliance under NEPA and is providing notice of the availability of the Final EA and is making available for

public review the responses to comments on the Draft EA.

Dated: March 6, 2012.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XB078**

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700.

*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:

##### Agenda

The Groundfish Committee will meet to continue development of two management actions. The Committee will continue development of an action to modify measures that apply to sectors. This discussion is expected to focus primarily on monitoring issues, including goals and objectives and possible funding mechanisms. The Committee may also discuss full retention of allocate groundfish species and other sector framework issues. The Committee will discuss an action to establish acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for fishing years 2013 and 2014. As part of this discussion the Committee will receive a preliminary report on recently updated assessments and may discuss further the Council's response to the

recent Gulf of Maine cod assessment. Setting ABCs/ACLs may also require modification of recreational fishing measures and the Committee may begin this discussion. The Committee may also discuss adopting additional sub-ACLs for the scallop fishery and pursuing the Mixed Stock Exception for SNE/MA windowpane flounder. The Committee will receive an update on Plan Development Team work related to possible modifications to groundfish closed areas. They will receive a report on the recent Endangered Species Act listing of Atlantic Sturgeon and will discuss ways to reduce sturgeon takes. The Committee will also discuss the rockhopper/roller gear restriction in the western Gulf of Maine and develop a recommended response to a request for clarification from the National Marine Fisheries Service. Other business may be discussed.

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 identified 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 (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 7, 2012.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2012-5949 Filed 3-12-12; 8:45 am]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XB079**

#### **Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Administrative Committee will hold meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on April 10–11, 2012. The Council will convene on Tuesday, April 10th, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Administrative Committee will meet from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Council will reconvene on Wednesday, April 11th, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Buccaneer Hotel, 5007 Estate Shoys, Lot 7, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S.V.I.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1920, telephone (787) 766–5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will hold its 142nd regular Council Meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

#### **April 10, 2012—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Consideration of the 141st Council Meeting Verbatim Transcriptions
- Executive Director's Report
- Litigation over CFMC Amendment and the Associated Biological Opinion
- ACLs AMs Seagrasses
- White Paper FMPs by Areas
- Regulatory Amendment on Parrotfish Trips, Size Limits, and Trap Escape Vents—Options Paper
- SSC Meeting Report
- Fishing Industry Advisory Panel Report

Public Comment Period—(5) Five-minutes Presentations

#### **April 10, 2012—5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

- Administrative Committee Meeting—SSC/AP Membership

#### **April 11, 2012—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

- Highly Migratory Species Presentation
- Trap Reduction Project Update
- Queen Conch—ESA Petition
- Outreach and Education Advisory Panel Report
- Catch Share Project Update
- Enforcement Reports

—Puerto Rico—DNER  
—U.S. Virgin Islands—DPNR  
—NOAA/NMFS  
—U.S. Coast Guard

- Administrative Committee Recommendations

- Meetings Attended by Council Members and Staff
- Public Comment Period (5–Minutes Presentations)
- Other Business

#### • Next Council Meeting

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. To further accommodate discussion and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Simultaneous Interpretation (English/Spanish) will be provided. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be subjects for formal action during these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### **Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1920, telephone (787) 766–5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 8, 2012.

**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-XB034**

#### **Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Pile Placement for Fishermen's Offshore Wind Farm**

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