

modify the Accountability Measure (AM) for gag that prohibits the harvest of shallow water groupers species when the gag ACL is met; and Amendment 27, which would address management measures for blue runner. Amendment 27 would also transfer management responsibility of yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and Nassau grouper from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and make revisions to the framework process to minimize regulatory delay when adjustments to the ABC, ACLs, and ACTs are needed. The AP will provide recommendations to the Council on visioning and long-term strategic planning for the snapper grouper fishery and address other business as needed.

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

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: October 16, 2012.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-25822 Filed 10-18-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC297

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice; public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Herring Advisory Panel and Herring Oversight Committee will hold meetings to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: These meetings will be held November 6-7, 2012. For specific dates and times, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Route 1, Peabody, MA 01960; Telephone: (978) 535-4600; Fax: (978) 535-8238. The meeting will also be available via webinar. Details on webinar registration are available at www.nefmc.org. For specific locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

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 panel and committee's schedule and agenda for the following two meetings are as follows:

1. *Tuesday, November 6, 2012 beginning at 10 a.m.—Herring Advisory Panel Meeting;* The panel will discuss the development of the 2013-15 Atlantic herring fishery specifications and develop related recommendations for the Herring Committee and Council to consider.

2. *Wednesday, November 7, 2012 beginning at 9:30 a.m.—Herring Oversight Committee Meeting;* The Committee will continue development of alternatives for consideration in the 2013-15 Atlantic herring fishery specifications; 2013-15 herring fishery specifications include alternatives for 2013-15 overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC) and ABC control rule, management uncertainty and a total annual catch limit (ACL), domestic annual harvesting (DAH), domestic annual processing (DAP), Border Transfer (BT), options for sub-ACLs (annual quotas) for four herring management areas, and set-asides for research and fixed gear fisheries. They will address other business as necessary.

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

These meetings are 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 working days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 15, 2012.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-25724 Filed 10-18-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC292

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Advisory Panel

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

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of nominations.

SUMMARY: NMFS solicits nominations for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP). NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of the HMS AP when preparing and implementing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish. Nominations are being sought to fill approximately one-third (10) of the seats on the HMS AP for a 3-year appointment. Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, and non-governmental organizations are considered for membership in the HMS AP (note that there are no Environmental/NGO terms expiring, so no nominations for that sector will be considered at this time).

DATES: Nominations must be received on or before November 19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit nominations and requests for the Advisory Panel Statement of

Organization, Practices, and Procedures by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* HMSAP.Nominations@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following identifier: "HMS AP Nominations."
- *Mail:* Jenni Wallace, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- *Fax:* 301-713-1917.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenni Wallace at (301) 427-8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, provided that the Secretary may establish Advisory Panels to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or FMP amendment for any highly migratory species fishery that is under the Secretary's authority. NMFS has consulted with the HMS AP on: Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999); the HMS FMP (April 1999); Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2003); the Consolidated HMS FMP (October 2006); Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 to the Consolidated HMS FMP (April and October 2008, February and September 2009, May and September 2010, April and September 2011, and March 2012); among other relevant fishery management issues.

Procedures and Guidelines

A. Nomination Procedures for Appointments to the Advisory Panel

Nomination packages should include:

1. The name of the nominee and a description of his/her interest in HMS or in particular species of sharks, swordfish, tunas, or billfish;
2. Contact information, including mailing address, phone, and email of the nominee;
3. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
4. A written commitment that the nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the meetings and tasks of the HMS AP; and
5. A list of outreach resources that the nominee has at his/her disposal to communicate HMS issues to various interest groups.

Qualifications for HMS AP Membership

Qualification for membership includes one or more of the following: (1) Experience in HMS recreational fisheries; (2) experience in HMS commercial fisheries; (3) experience in fishery-related industries (*e.g.*, marinas, bait and tackle shops); (4) experience in the scientific community working with HMS; and/or (5) representation of a private, non-governmental, regional, national, or international organization representing marine fisheries; or environmental, governmental, or academic interests dealing with HMS.

Tenure for the HMS AP

Member tenure will be for 3 years (36 months), with approximately one-third of the members' terms expiring on December 31 of each year. Nominations

are sought for terms beginning January 2013 and expiring December 2015.

B. Participants

Nominations for the HMS AP will be accepted to allow representation from commercial and recreational fishing interests, and the scientific community, who are knowledgeable about Atlantic HMS and/or Atlantic HMS fisheries. Current representation on the HMS AP, as shown in Table 1, consists of 12 members representing commercial interests, 12 members representing recreational interests, 4 members representing environmental interests, 4 academic representatives, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee Chairperson. Each HMS AP member serves a 3-year term with approximately one-third of the total number of seats (33) expiring on December 31 of each year. NMFS seeks to fill 2 commercial, 5 recreational, and 3 academic vacancies by December 31, 2012. NMFS will seek to fill vacancies based primarily on maintaining the current representation from each of the sectors. NMFS also considers species expertise and representation from the fishing regions (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean) to ensure the diversity and balance of the AP. Table 1 includes the current representation on the HMS AP by sector, region and species with terms that are expiring identified in bold. It is not meant to indicate that NMFS will only consider persons who have expertise in the species or fishing regions that are listed. Rather, NMFS will aim toward having as diverse and balanced an AP as possible.

TABLE 1—CURRENT REPRESENTATION ON THE HMS AP BY SECTOR, REGION, AND SPECIES

[Terms that are expiring are in **bold**. NMFS tries to maintain diversity and balance in representation among fishing regions and species; the AP SOPPs only dictate representation by Sector.]

| Sector | Fishing Region | Species | Date appointed | Date term expires |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Academic | All | Swordfish/Tuna | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Academic | All | Tuna | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Academic | Southeast/Gulf of Mexico | Shark | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Academic | Southeast | Swordfish/HMS | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Commercial | Northeast | HMS | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Commercial | Northeast | Tuna | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Commercial | Gulf of Mexico | Tuna/Swordfish | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Commercial | Northeast | Tuna | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Commercial | Northeast | Tuna | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Commercial | Southeast | Shark | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Commercial | Southeast | Swordfish/Tuna | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Commercial | Northeast | Tuna | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Commercial | Mid-Atlantic | HMS/Shark | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Commercial | Southeast | Swordfish | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Commercial | Gulf of Mexico | Shark | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Commercial | Gulf of Mexico | Shark | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Environmental | All | Shark | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Environmental | Gulf of Mexico | HMS | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Environmental | All | Tuna | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |

TABLE 1—CURRENT REPRESENTATION ON THE HMS AP BY SECTOR, REGION, AND SPECIES—Continued

[Terms that are expiring are in **bold**. NMFS tries to maintain diversity and balance in representation among fishing regions and species; the AP SOPPs only dictate representation by Sector.]

| Sector | Fishing Region | Species | Date appointed | Date term expires |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Environmental | All | Tuna | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Recreational | Gulf of Mexico/Southeast | Billfish/Tuna | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Recreational | Mid-Atlantic | HMS | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Recreational | Mid-Atlantic | Tuna | 1/1/2012 | 12/31/2014 |
| Recreational | Northeast | Tuna/Shark | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Recreational | Southeast | Swordfish | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Recreational | Northeast | Tuna | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Recreational | Southeast | HMS | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Recreational | Northeast | HMS | 1/1/2010 | 12/31/2012 |
| Recreational | Southeast | HMS | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Recreational | Mid-Atlantic | HMS | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Recreational | Southeast | Billfish | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |
| Recreational | Gulf of Mexico | HMS | 1/1/2011 | 12/31/2013 |

Our intent is to have a group that, as a whole, reflects an appropriate and equitable balance and mix of interests given the responsibilities of the HMS AP.

Five additional members on the HMS AP include one member representing each of the following Councils: New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. The HMS AP also includes 22 ex-officio participants: 20 representatives of the coastal states and two representatives of the interstate commissions (the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission).

NMFS will provide the necessary administrative support, including technical assistance, for the HMS AP. However, NMFS will not compensate participants with monetary support of any kind. Depending on availability of funds, members may be reimbursed for travel costs related to the HMS AP meetings.

C. Meeting Schedule

Meetings of the HMS AP will be held as frequently as necessary but are routinely held twice each year—once in the spring, and once in the fall. The meetings may be held in conjunction with public hearings.

Dated: October 12, 2012.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–25708 Filed 10–18–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC283

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Rocky Intertidal Monitoring Surveys Along the Oregon and California Coasts

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received an application from the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Study of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) at the University of California (UC) Santa Cruz for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to rocky intertidal monitoring surveys. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to PISCO to incidentally take, by Level B harassment only, marine mammals during the specified activity.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than November 19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Michael Payne, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *ITP.Nachman@noaa.gov*. NMFS is not responsible for email

comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm* without change. All Personal Identifying Information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

An electronic copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document may be obtained by writing to the address specified above, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the Internet at: *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm*. NMFS is also preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the regulations published by the Council on Environmental Quality. This notice provides relevant environmental issues and concerns related to the proposed IHA. NMFS will consider comments submitted in response to this notice as it prepares and finalizes the EA and decides whether or not to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. The EA will be posted at the foregoing internet site once it is finalized. Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Candace Nachman, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: