

total for all three vessels would increase the total number of traps in the fishery by 240 traps, a negligible number when compared to the current number of lobster traps deployed in the fishery.

Modifications to a conventional lobster trap would include a closed escape vent, a smaller mesh size, and a smaller entrance head. All lobsters retrieved from standard and modified traps would remain onboard for a short period of time to allow for sampling, after which they would be returned to the water.

Biological information would be collected on all lobsters, including: Carapace length; sexual determination; cull status; and presence of eggs, v-notches, and shell disease. Bycatch species would also be kept onboard for enumeration, weight collection, and measurement.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: July 30, 2013.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-18656 Filed 8-1-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Charter Renewal.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce's Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration has renewed the charter for the National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC) for a period of time that is either 90 days after the government's Third National Climate Assessment is released to the public or two years from the date of the

filing of the charter with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees, which ever date is earlier. The NCADAC is a federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463).

DATES: The NCADAC Charter is renewed for a period of time that is either 90 days after the government's Third National Climate Assessment is released to the public or two years from the date of the filing of the charter with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees, which ever date is earlier.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Cynthia J. Decker, Designated Federal Officer, National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee, NOAA, Rm. 11230, R/SAB, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-734-1156, Email: Cynthia.decker@noaa.gov); or visit the NOAA NCADAC Web site at <http://www.ncadac.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The renewal of the charter for this time period is critical to the success of the National Climate Assessment.

No amendments were made to the Charter.

Dated: July 29, 2013.

Jason Donaldson,

Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2013-18652 Filed 8-1-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Charter Renewal.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce's Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration has renewed the charter for the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) for a period of two years from the date of the filing of the charter with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees. The NOAA SAB is a federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463).

DATES: The SAB Charter is renewed for two years from the date of the filing of the charter with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Cynthia J. Decker, Executive Director and Designated Federal Officer, NOAA Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Rm. 11230, R/SAB, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-734-1156, Email: Cynthia.decker@noaa.gov); or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The renewal of the charter for this time period is critical to the success of NOAA.

Only one amendment was made to the charter.

Under Section 9, Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings, language has been revised to state "The SAB will meet approximately three times each year in person if possible." This reflects the need for the Board members to regularly gather together for their meetings but also allows room for those meetings to be fewer than three per year and virtual, if necessary. The SAB will continue to have ad hoc virtual meetings in between the in-person meetings as necessary.

Dated: July 29, 2013.

Jason Donaldson,

Chief Financial Officer/Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2013-18653 Filed 8-1-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-BA53

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery off the South Atlantic States; Amendment 22

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

ACTION: Supplemental Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS); request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS, Southeast Region, in collaboration with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), is publishing this supplemental NOI to

provide notice to the public of the broadened scope of Amendment 22 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery in the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 22) and to solicit public comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the DEIS. The Council modified Amendment 22 to include all snapper-grouper species with low annual catch limits (ACLs), not just red snapper, in a harvest tag program. The intent of Amendment 22 is to closely control recreational harvest of snapper-grouper species with low ACLs.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the DEIS will be accepted until September 3, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2010-0264", by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0264, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Kate Michie, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Michie, Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305, or email: kate.michie@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

An NOI to prepare a DEIS for Amendment 22 was published on January 3, 2011 (76 FR 101). The NOI listed several options the Council could consider when addressing long-term

management for red snapper, including trip limits, bag limits, a catch share program, temporal and spatial closures including those to protect spawning stocks, a tag program, and gear prohibitions. Subsequent to the publication of the 2011 NOI, the Council modified the amendment to remove all species-specific options and create a harvest tag program that could be applied to any snapper-grouper species with small recreational ACLs. Based on these modifications, NMFS is publishing this supplemental NOI to provide notice to the public of the broadened scope of Amendment 22 and to solicit public comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the DEIS.

In Amendment 22, the Council is considering actions to establish a framework for a recreational harvest tag program that could be applied to any snapper-grouper species that have low ACLs, for example snowy grouper, golden tilefish, and wreckfish. The Council is also considering development of a recreational data collection program that would be linked to the use of harvest tags.

Recreational Harvest Tag Program Framework

Under the Council's purview are several snapper-grouper species with very low recreational ACLs, which are difficult to monitor to prevent the ACLs from being exceeded and triggering accountability measures (AMs). AMs that would reduce the following season's ACL, or shorten the length of the recreational season following an ACL overage, could have adverse economic and social impacts on fishery participants. Additionally, exceeding recreational ACLs could have negative biological effects for the affected species, because the ACLs implemented are intended to prevent overfishing.

Therefore, the Council is considering establishing a framework for a recreational harvest tag program that could be applied to any snapper-grouper species with low recreational ACLs. The intent of such a program is to control recreational harvest by issuing a specific number of harvest tags to individuals or entities that wish to fish for those snapper-grouper species. Each tag would allow its holder to harvest a pre-determined number of a particular species. Only tag holders would be allowed to harvest species included in the tag program.

Harvest Tag Issuance Criteria

The Council is also considering how tags should be distributed and what the process of tag issuance would entail. Amendment 22 contains several options

that could be applied to a tag issuance process.

Data Collection

In addition to the use of harvest tags, the Council is considering adding a data collection component that could be tied to the tag program. Amendment 22 contains options for voluntary and required data collection methods that would apply to tag holders.

NMFS, in collaboration with the Council, will develop a DEIS to describe and analyze alternatives to address the management needs described above. Those alternatives will include a "no action" alternative for each action. In accordance with NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6, Section 5.02(c), Scoping Process, NMFS, in collaboration with the Council, has identified preliminary environmental issues as a means to initiate discussion for scoping purposes only. These preliminary issues may not represent the full range of issues that eventually will be evaluated in the DEIS.

After the DEIS associated with Amendment 22 is completed, it will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After filing, the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the DEIS for public comment in the **Federal Register**. The DEIS will have a 45-day comment period. This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and to NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6 regarding NOAA's compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations.

The Council and NMFS will consider public comments received on the DEIS in developing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and before voting to submit the final amendment to NMFS for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation. NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register** the availability of the final amendment and FEIS for public review during the Secretarial review period, and will consider all public comments prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the final amendment.

NMFS will announce, through a document published in the **Federal Register**, all public comment periods on the final amendment, its proposed implementing regulations, and the availability of its associated FEIS. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the Secretarial review period, whether they are on the final

amendment, the proposed regulations, or the FEIS, prior to final agency action.

Public Hearings, Times, and Locations
The Council will hold public hearings to discuss the actions included in Amendment 22. Exact dates, times, and locations will be announced by the Council. The public will be informed, via a notification in the **Federal Register**, of the exact times, dates, and locations of future scoping meetings and public hearings for Amendment 22.

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

Dated: July 29, 2013.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-18676 Filed 8-1-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-BD07

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery off the South Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 14

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

ACTION: Notice announcing the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA).

SUMMARY: NMFS, in cooperation with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), is preparing an EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Regulatory Amendment 14 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 14). This notice is intended to inform the public of the change from the preparation of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to an EA for Regulatory Amendment 14.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nikhil Mehta, Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305, or email: nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 17, 2013, NMFS and the Council published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 22846), to prepare a draft EIS for Regulatory Amendment 14. Regulatory Amendment 14 was being developed to address management measures to modify the fishing year for greater amberjack; revise the minimum size limit measurement

for gray triggerfish; increase the minimum size limit for hogfish; adjust the commercial fishing season for vermilion snapper; modify the aggregate grouper bag limit; and revise the accountability measures (AMs) for gag and vermilion snapper. Regulatory Amendment 14 was also being developed to modify the commercial and recreational fishing years for black sea bass, and the alternatives considered could have resulted in black sea bass pots being fished during large whale migration and the right whale calving season.

Subsequent to the publication of the NOI, the Council modified the amendment by removing actions regarding gray triggerfish, hogfish, and grouper aggregate recreational bag limits, due to on-going and anticipated stock assessments for these species. Furthermore, on May 13, 2013, the Council approved Regulatory Amendment 19 to the FMP. In this amendment, the Council approved an action to implement a seasonal closure (November 1 through April 30) for the commercial black sea bass pot component of the snapper-grouper fishery. The seasonal closure would address potential gear interactions with large whale migration and right whales during calving season. If NMFS decides to publish a final rule to implement Regulatory Amendment 19, that final rule would likely become effective in 2013. It is anticipated that rulemaking to implement Regulatory Amendment 14 would occur in 2014, and therefore, alternatives in Regulatory Amendment 14 that would modify the commercial fishing year for black sea bass would no longer be a concern for protected species.

Actions in the EA for Regulatory Amendment 14 would now modify the commercial and recreational fishing year for greater amberjack; modify the commercial and recreational fishing years for black sea bass; change the commercial fishing season for vermilion snapper; modify trip limits for gag; and revise the recreational AMs for black sea bass and vermilion snapper. These actions would ensure fishing opportunities are extended during optimal times of the year, while ensuring that overfishing does not occur, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Consequently, NMFS and the Council are initially preparing an EA rather than proceeding with the development of a draft EIS. If the EA results in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the EA and FONSI will be the final environmental documents required by

NEPA. If the EA reveals that significant environmental impacts may be reasonably expected to result from the proposed actions, NMFS and the Council will develop a draft EIS to further evaluate those impacts.

The Council will hold public hearings to discuss the actions included in Regulatory Amendment 14. Exact dates, times, and locations will be announced by the Council. The public will be informed, via a notification in the **Federal Register**, of the exact times, dates, and locations of future public hearings for Regulatory Amendment 14.

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

Dated: July 29, 2013.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-18673 Filed 8-1-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC790

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.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene meetings of the Northern Mariana Islands Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (REAC) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATES: The REAC meeting will be held Thursday, August 22, 2013. For the specific dates, times, and agendas for the meetings see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meetings of the CNMI REAC will be held at the Multipurpose Center, Susupe, CNMI.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Schedule and Agenda for CNMI REAC Meeting

9 a.m.–3 p.m. Thursday, August 22, 2013

1. Welcome and Introduction