

Plan for American lobster. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 4, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this notice may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "Comments on CFRF Lobster EFP."

Written comments should be sent to: John K. Bullard, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on CFRF Lobster EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Jacob, Environmental Technician, 978-281-9180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) submitted a complete application for a 1-year renewal to an existing Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on May 15, 2014. To conduct its research on the abundance and distribution of juvenile American lobster in Lobster Management Areas (LMAs) 2 and 3, the CFRF is requesting exemptions from the following Federal lobster regulations: (1) Gear specifications to allow for closed escape vents, as prohibited in § 697.21(c); (2) trap limits to be exceeded by 3 additional traps per fishing vessel, for a total of 36 additional traps, as prohibited in § 697.19(a)(2) for LMA 2, and § 697.19(b)(5) for LMA 3; and (3) trap tag requirements, as specified in § 697.19(f). This study would utilize 12 Federal commercial fishing vessels; 6 vessels in each of the 2 management areas. One additional vessel would operate as an alternate vessel, so there would only be 12 active vessels at any given time. Sampling would take place in the following statistical areas: 464 (Area 3 region); 512 (Area 3 region); 515; 525; 526; 537; 538; 539; 561; 562; and 616.

Funding for this study will be provided through NOAA grant NA09NMF4720414, as part of the Southern New England Collaborative Research Initiative Program (SNECRI). One of the main objectives of the SNECRI is to improve collection and management of fishery-dependent data. This study would attempt to achieve this goal.

The study would take place during regular fishing activity, and sampling would take place on each vessel in Area 2 once per week during scheduled fishing trips, and once every 10 days in Area 3 during scheduled fishing trips. If an EFP is granted, there would be an additional 36 modified traps in the water during any given time, for a period of one year. Each participating vessel would have up to three modified traps attached to a regular trap trawl, to be hauled every 6 to 9 days. The addition of 36 modified traps would increase the total number of traps in the fishery by 0.003 percent.

Modifications to a conventional lobster trap would include a closed escape vent, single parlor, smaller mesh size, and smaller entrance head. These modified traps would be attached to one, two, or three randomly selected trap trawl(s) during regular fishing operations. Lobsters retrieved from these 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 will be collected on both kept and discarded lobsters, including: Carapace length; sexual determination; and presence of eggs, v-notches, and shell disease. For every trap trawl hauled during a designated sampling trip, commercial fishermen would be expected to sample 100 lobsters, or 20 traps if there are less than 100 lobsters to sample in a randomly chosen trap trawl. This study would use several recording devices, including onboard electronic calipers for length measurements, video cameras, and waterproof tablets. Data will be recorded using waterproof tablets, and the information will be uploaded using wireless internet connection once the vessel returns to port.

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 15, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-16993 Filed 7-17-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD381

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Advisory Panel (AP) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, De Diego Avenue, 105, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00911.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Panel will meet to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

August 6, 2014, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- Call to order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Control Rule Public Hearing Results
- Scoping Meeting Report
- New Aps for Island Based FMPs
- Other business

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 meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English. 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 this meeting. 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

The meeting is 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, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918, telephone (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 15, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-16906 Filed 7-17-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD391

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold meetings.

DATES: The SSC meetings will be held on August 5-7, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Caribbean Fishery Management Council Headquarters, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC will meet to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

August 5, 2014

1. Abrir La Sierra, Bajo de Sico and Tourmaline Compatibility
 - a. Results from Public Hearings.
 - b. Recommendations to CFMC
2. Evaluating criteria for inclusion of species into Island based FMPs.
 - a. Continue developing criteria

August 6, 2014

3. Evaluating criteria for inclusion/exclusions of species into Island based FMPs (continued).
 - a. Finalize Criteria
4. SEFSC Update
5. ACL Control Rule.
 - a. Results from scoping meetings.
 - b. Recommendations to the CFMC

August 7, 2014

Other Business

6. Ecosystem Issues—Walter Ingram
7. Five-year research plan
8. Guidelines for peer-review of external stock assessments

Other Business

Adjourn

The SSC will convene on August 5, 2014, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., on August 6, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on August 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English.

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 these meetings. 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 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, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918, telephone (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 15, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-16907 Filed 7-17-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Sea Grant Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Board). Board members will discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program evaluation, strategic planning, education and extension, science and technology programs, and other matters as described in the Agenda below.

DATES: The announced meeting is scheduled for: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via conference call. Public access is available at SSMC Bldg 3, Room # 11817, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD. Seating capacity may be limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth Ban, Designated Federal Officer, National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11853, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, Elizabeth.Ban@NOAA.gov or (301)734-1082.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by Section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (Public Law 94-461, 33 U.S.C. 1128). The Board advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the Act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to them for review and advice. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Tuesday, August 19, 2014—11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EDT.

Agenda

- 11:00 Welcome and roll call.
- 11:10 Discussion and approval of draft Advisory Board report to Congress on the state of Sea Grant.
- 12:45 Public Comments.
- 1:00 Adjourn.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute