

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 23, 2015.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2015-32716 Filed 12-28-15; 8:45 am]

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

RIN 0648-XE308

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Scoping Process; Request for Comments; Extension of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and initiate scoping process; request for comments; extension of comment period and announcement of additional public hearing.

SUMMARY: In the Notice of Intent (NOI) that published on Monday, November 23, 2015, the Council and NMFS announced the intention to prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. This notice is to alert the interested public of an additional public hearing and to extend the written comment period from January 7, 2016, to January 20, 2016, to ensure adequate time for the public to comment on the NOI.

DATES: The deadline for written and electronic scoping comments on the NOI published on November 23, 2015 (80 FR 72951) is extended to January 20, 2016, by 5 p.m., local time.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments on Amendment 22 may be sent by any of the following methods:

- Email to the following address: comments@nefmc.org;
- Mail to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery

Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; or

- Fax to (978) 465-3116.

Requests for copies of the Amendment 22 scoping document and other information should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, telephone (978) 465-0492. The scoping document is accessible electronically via the Internet at <http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/a-22-whiting-Scoping-document-4.pdf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Extension of Comment Period**

On November 23, 2015, NMFS published an NOI (80 FR 72951) with a comment period ending on January 7, 2016. The comment period is being extended to January 20, 2016, to allow the public additional time to comment.

Additional Public Hearing

The Council will take and discuss scoping comments on this amendment at an additional public meeting:

1. Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. Hampton Inn, 2100 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; (401) 739-8888.

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

Dated: December 22, 2015.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 2015-32668 Filed 12-28-15; 8:45 am]

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

RIN 0648-XE363

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate. **DATES:** This meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01950; phone: (978) 777-2500; fax: (978) 750-7911.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Agenda**

The Committee plans to receive a Herring Advisory Panel report. The committee will also review Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. They will also review information and analyses which addresses concerns related to the Acceptable Biological Catch control rule, and localized depletion in inshore waters. The committee plans to discuss the potential for using state port-side monitoring data to monitor the River herring/Shad catch caps. The committee will also discuss 5-year research priorities for Atlantic herring (2017-22). They also will discuss a future action to consider revising the haddock catch cap accountability measure. Other business will be discussed 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 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 the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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