

definition of the foot was used. To minimize such ambiguity and prevent misunderstandings, NIST and NOAA recommend using the term “international foot” or specifically identifying the metric conversion of 1 foot = 0.3048 m exactly.

- *Always document the units used for quantitative work.* Complete and correct documentation of measurement units is an essential part of any quantitative work. It is particularly important for situations where confusion can occur, such as between the U.S. survey and international foot definitions.

- *Use consistent abbreviations for the types of foot.* Following deprecation, the standard lowercase abbreviation “ft” will refer to the international foot definition by default. Likewise, the abbreviations in Table 1 for all units derived from the foot will also be based on the international foot definition. Although absence of a prefix indicates an international foot definition, situations will occur where an abbreviation that clearly identifies the foot definition is necessary to avoid confusion, such as in surveying and mapping. In such cases, the abbreviation for the international foot definition should be preceded by a lower case “i” as “ift” to ensure clarity. The abbreviation for the U.S. survey foot should *always* be preceded by a lower case “s” as “sft” for all applications. For abbreviation of units derived from the U.S. survey foot, the “s” prefix should be used as needed to avoid confusion, for example “smi” for mile, “sch” for chain, and “sac” for acre. However, this may not be necessary if the type of foot is obvious from the context or is otherwise clearly documented.

- *Avoid use of the terms “Imperial” or “British” to describe the U.S. customary system.* In common parlance, the terms “Imperial” or “British” are often used to represent the traditional units used within the U.S; however, because there are significant differences between many of these traditional measurement systems, NIST recommends use of the term “U.S. customary system of measurement” to describe the collection of non-SI measurement units currently used in the U.S. This parlance is frequently incorrectly employed in software, on websites, and in publications. To further eliminate this common misunderstanding between U.S. customary measurement units and British and Imperial units, additional explanation of the differences are provided in NIST Handbook (HB) 44, “Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices,” Appendix B,

“Units and Systems of Measurement” (<https://www.nist.gov/pml/weights-and-measures/publications/nist-handbooks/other-nist-handbooks/other-nist-handbooks-2-2>).

Implementing these recommendations, together with other mitigating actions being taken by NIST and NOAA, will facilitate the smooth transition and nationwide adoption of the international foot with minimal disruption. Additional resources providing greater detail about the history of the foot, problems encountered by having two definitions of the foot, and the benefits of making this change are available on the NIST U.S. survey foot website (<https://www.nist.gov/pml/us-surveyfoot>).

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 272(b) & (c).

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA538]

#### Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

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

**ACTION:** Notice of open public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the proposed schedule and agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). The members will hear a presentation and consider approval of the final report of the Phase 2 work of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force and other topics including aquaculture and the Executive Order Promoting American Seafood competitiveness and Economic Growth, marine heatwaves, FY2021 budget, COVID–19 impacts on agency operations, and work of the Recreational Fisheries Subcommittee.

**DATES:** The meeting will be October 20 and 21, 2020 from 12:30–5 p.m., Eastern Time.

**ADDRESSES:** Meeting is by webinar and teleconference.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Heidi Lovett; NOAA Fisheries Office of Policy; (301) 427–8034; email: [Heidi.Lovett@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Lovett@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given of a meeting of MAFAC. The MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), and, since 1971, advises the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The MAFAC charter and summaries of prior MAFAC meetings are located online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/partners#marine-fisheries-advisory-committee>.

#### Matters To Be Considered

This meeting time and agenda are subject to change. The meeting is convened to hear presentations and consider approval of the final report of the Phase 2 work of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force. MAFAC members will also receive presentations and discuss work of the Recreational Fisheries Subcommittee on better identification of anglers in offshore waters; the FY2021 budget and impacts of COVID–19 on agency operations; Aquaculture Program updates and the Executive Order Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth; and marine heatwaves and science program activities. MAFAC will discuss various administrative and organizational matters, and meetings of subcommittees will convene.

#### Time and Date

The meeting is scheduled for October 20 and 21, 2020 from 12:30–5 p.m., Eastern Time by webinar and conference call. Access information for the public will be posted at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/marine-fisheries-advisory-committee-meeting-materials-and-summaries> by October 6, 2020.

(Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2)

Dated: September 30, 2020.

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*Federal Program Officer, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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