

Council by developing a comprehensive EFH Management Plan. A complete description of the background and need for the Omnibus Amendment and a list of scoping hearings can be found in the original February 24, 2004, NOI and are not repeated here.

Due largely to public clarity and issues of complexity, the Council intends to complete the EFH Omnibus Amendment 2 action in two phases or volumes with one accompanying EIS and Magnuson-Stevens Act document. Separation of this large action into two phases (volumes) will allow for the continued sequential development of the Omnibus Amendment but avoids the creation of an extremely large and complex action that may not be decipherable from the public's perspective. Further, in order to meet the Sustainable Fisheries Act intention of the EFH mandate, it is prudent to take a step-wise approach. For instance, it is necessary to determine what is EFH prior to conducting an evaluation of the potential effects of fishing gear on EFH and to develop a range of alternatives to minimize, mitigate or avoid any impacts that are more than minimal and less than temporary in nature. As such, the Council would complete the Omnibus Amendment 2 in two phases. Phase 1 (Volume 1 of the EIS) would include a review and update of EFH designations and consideration of HAPCs (not including consideration of management measures or restrictions), an update of prey species list, an update of non-fishing impacts, and an update of research and information needs. Phase 2 (Volume 2 of the EIS) would include reviewing and updating a gear effects evaluation and optimizing management measures for minimizing the adverse effects of fishing on EFH across all FMPs, including the potential consideration of management measures for HAPCs designated in Phase 1. The proposed sequence of events is described in Table 1.

TABLE 1. EVENTS OR MILESTONES OF PHASED APPROACH.

Step	Event/Milestone
1	Council files modified Notice of Intent to clearly explain to the public the new course of action.
2	Council considers topics outlined in Phase 1 and develops a range of alternatives.

TABLE 1. EVENTS OR MILESTONES OF PHASED APPROACH.—Continued

Step	Event/Milestone
3	Council prepares Draft Volume 1 of preliminary EIS to include components in Step 2.
4	Public Hearings/Public Comment Period on Volume 1.
5	Council considers public comments and makes final decisions on Phase 1 topics.
6	Council completes Final Volume 1 containing analysis of Phase 1 topics.
7	Council considers topics outlined in Phase 2 and develops a range of alternatives.
8	Council prepares Draft Volume 2 of EIS to include components in Step 7.
9	Public Hearings / Public Comment Period on combined Volume 1 and Volume 2.
10	Council considers public comments and makes final decisions on Phase 2 topics.
11	Council completes Final Volume 2 containing analysis of Phase 2 topics.
12	Council prepares and submits merged Volume 1 and Volume 2 to NMFS as complete EIS/Magnuson-Stevens Act FMP Amendment documents.
13	NMFS reviews EIS and issues a record of decision.

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

Dated: September 2, 2005.

**Emily Menashes**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 082305D]

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings; Correction**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of cancellation of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) has cancelled the public meetings that were scheduled for September 12-16, 2005, in New Orleans, LA.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The initial notice was published in the **Federal Register** on August 30, 2005, in FR Doc. E5-4719, beginning on page 51347. The meetings will be rescheduled at a later date and announced in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 6, 2005.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting (via conference call).

**SUMMARY:** The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) was established by the Secretary of Commerce to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, its amendments, and such other appropriate matters that the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice. The purpose of the conference call is to allow Panel members to vote on final recommendations initiated during a public meeting in Durham, New Hampshire, on August 18-19, 2005. Written public comments should be