

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nathalie Ward, SAC Coordinator SBNMS, 175 Edward Foster Road, Scituate, MA 02066, 781-545-8026 extension 206, nathalie.ward@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in March 2001 to assure continued public participation in the management of the Sanctuary. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the Advisory Council's 21 voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public, plus seven local, State and Federal Government jurisdictions. Since its establishment, the Advisory Council has played a vital role in advising the Sanctuary and NOAA on critical issues and is currently focused on the sanctuary's development of a new 5-year management plan.

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 842 square miles of ocean, stretching between Cape Ann and Cape Code. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports a rich diversity of marine life including marine mammals, more than 30 species of seabirds, over 100 species of fishes, and hundreds of marine invertebrates and plants.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Section 1431, *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: October 20, 2005.

Daniel J. Basta

Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102105B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 3-day Council meeting on November 15-17, 2005, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 beginning

at 8:30 a.m. and on Wednesday and Thursday, November 16 and 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 35 Scudder Avenue, Hyannis, MA 02601; telephone: (508) 775-7775.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Following introductions, the Council will receive reports from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Council will receive a report from its Magnuson-Stevens Committee which is seeking approval of additional NEFMC positions on bills to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The afternoon session will consist of a report from the Groundfish Oversight Committee on the continued development of management measures for Framework Adjustment 42 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Council will refine development of alternatives to meet Amendment 13 mortality objectives based on committee advice. Also, measures for both commercial and recreational fishermen may be discussed, including among other measures, modifications to days-at-sea, gear and possession limits for commercial vessels and modifications to bag limits, seasons and closed areas for recreational vessels. Final approval of Framework 42 measures will not be made until the January 2006 meeting.

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

During the morning session, the Council will discuss and take action on a request to NMFS for reassignment of the Dogfish/Monkfish FMP responsibilities for dogfish and monkfish. The Spiny Dogfish Committee report will follow for consideration and approval of NEFMC recommendations for spiny dogfish fishery specifications for the 2006-07 fishing year and consideration of multi-year specifications (2006-08). Specifications will likely include

overall total allowable catch (TAC) levels and trip limits for spiny dogfish. Following a review of public and Advisory Panel comments and Herring Committee recommendations, the Herring Committee chairman will seek approval of a final management alternative and independent management measures for inclusion in Amendment 1 to the Herring FMP. Final management alternatives may include a limited access program for the herring fishery and a seasonal purse seine/fixed gear-only area in the inshore Gulf of Maine (GOM). Independent measures may include a proxy for maximum sustainable yield, adjustments to the herring fishery specification process, adjustments to herring management area boundaries, establishment of bycatch caps for groundfish stocks of concern, measures to address bycatch monitoring and reporting, changes to the regulatory definition of midwater trawl gear and other measures.

Thursday, November 17, 2005

The morning session will begin with the Habitat Committee's review of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Omnibus Amendment topics including a summary of the deliberations of the Habitat Committee and its Advisory Panel. Following a brief open comment period for the public to discuss items relevant to Council business, but not otherwise listed on the agenda, the Scallop Committee will seek final approval of Framework Adjustment 18 to the Sea Scallop FMP. Alternatives include area rotation measures, specifications for trip and days-at-sea (DAS) allocations in 2006 and 2007, a procedure to adjust the Elephant Trunk Area in 2007 and open area allocations based on surveys of scallop biomass, an increase in the crew limits for controlled access area trip exchanges, the broken trip limit exemption program and research set aside program. In the afternoon session, the Executive Director will seek approval of Council priorities of management actions for 2006. Any other outstanding business will be addressed at the end of the day.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council 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 that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 21, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E5-5959 Filed 10-26-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102105C]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Habitat/Marine Protected Area (MPA) Oversight Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, November 14, 2005, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508)339-2200.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978)465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

1. The Committee will continue work on elements of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Omnibus Amendment 2 including, but not limited to, consideration of Advisory Panel gear descriptions; review and refinement of EFH designations; consideration of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and review and consideration of comments received on modified notice of intent.

2. The Committee may review the Ecosystem Workshop results.

3. The Committee will be briefed on the proposed non-fishing projects that may adversely affect EFH.

4. The Committee may consider other topics at their discretion.

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 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 21, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E5-5960 Filed 10-26-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101905A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1518

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for modification of a scientific research permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Carlos Diez, Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales de Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 9066600, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00906-6600, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1518.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before November 28, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The modification request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room

13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309;

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular modification request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1518.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay or Kate Swails, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to Permit No. 1518, issued on August 15, 2005 (70 FR 47813), is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 1518 currently authorizes the permit holder to study green and hawksbill sea turtles. The purpose of the research is to identify marine habitat, determine distribution and abundance, determine sex ratios, evaluate the extent of ingestion of marine debris, determine growth rates and sexual maturity, and quantify threats. Mr. Diez will annually capture up to 320 hawksbill and 250 green sea turtles by hand or entanglement net. All turtles will be measured, weighed, tagged, and blood sampled. A subset of animals will be lavaged and have transmitters attached to them. One leatherback sea turtle could be incidentally captured during the course of the studies but would be released alive. The permit is issued for 5 years. The permit holder requests a modification to the permit that would allow skin biopsy of 190 green and hawksbill sea turtles. A subset of 10 green turtles would undergo