

wetland type wildlife habitat will be preserved. Fishery habitats will also be maintained.

No endangered or threatened plant or animal species will be impacted by the project.

There are no wilderness areas in the watershed.

There are no planned mitigation requirements for the project.

No significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the dam rehabilitation measures except for minor inconveniences to local residents during construction.

#### Alternatives

Six alternative plans of action were considered in project planning. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated from installation of the selected alternative. Also, the planned action is the most practical, complete, and acceptable means of protecting life and property of downstream residents.

#### Consultation and Public Participation

Original sponsoring organizations include the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, the City of Waynesboro, and the Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District. At the initiation of the planning process, meetings were held with representatives of the original sponsoring organizations to ascertain their interest and concerns regarding the South River Watershed. The Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District agreed to serve as "lead sponsor" being responsible for leading the planning process with assistance from NRCS. As lead sponsor they also agreed to provide non-federal cost-share, property rights, operation and maintenance, and public participation during, and beyond, the planning process. Meetings with the project sponsors were held throughout the planning process.

An Interdisciplinary Planning Team provided planning assistance for this project. Planning guidelines included the NRCS nine-step planning process and planning procedures outlined in the NRCS National Watershed Manual. Examples of tasks completed by the Planning Team include, but are not limited to, preliminary investigations, hydrologic analyses, reservoir sedimentation surveys, economic analyses, formulating and evaluating alternatives, and writing the Supplemental Watershed Plan—Environmental Assessment. Data collected from partner agencies, databases, landowners, and others throughout the entire planning process were evaluated at Planning Team meetings. Informal discussions amongst

Planning Team members, partner agencies, and landowners were conducted throughout the entire planning period.

A scoping meeting was held on February 13, 2004 to identify issues of economic, environmental, cultural, and social concerns in the watershed. Representatives from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, the City of Waynesboro, the Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service participated in the meeting.

A public meeting was held on October 30, 2003 to explain the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program and to scope resource problems, issues, and concerns of local residents associated with the South River Watershed. Potential alternative solutions to bring the South River Watershed Dams into compliance with current dam design and safety criteria were also presented. Meeting participants provided input on issues and concerns to be considered in the planning process. A fact sheet was distributed which addressed frequently asked questions regarding the South River Watershed Dams.

A second public meeting was held on March 9, 2004 to discuss the need for landowner permission to access the property during the planning process.

A third public meeting was held on April 12, 2005 to summarize planning accomplishments, convey results of the reservoir sedimentation surveys, and present various structural alternatives. The selected alternative was identified as the most complete, acceptable, efficient, and effective plan for the watershed.

#### Conclusion

The Environmental Assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant adverse local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement for the recommended plan of action on South River Watershed

Dams Numbers 23, 25 and 26 is not required.

**M. Denise Doetzer,**  
State Conservationist.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081705D]

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Meeting of Atlantic Highly Migratory Species and Billfish Advisory Panels; Nominations for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species and Billfish Advisory Panels

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

**ACTION:** Notice; advisory panel meetings; request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold a joint three day Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel (HMS AP) and Billfish Advisory Panel (Billfish AP) meeting in October 2005. Additionally, NMFS solicits nominations for the HMS AP and the Billfish AP. The intent of these joint Advisory Panels meetings is to consider alternatives for the conservation and management of HMS as presented in the Draft Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and proposed rule.

**DATES:** The joint HMS-Billfish AP meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2005; from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2005; and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2005.

Nominations must be submitted on or before October 27, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97), Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone: 301-589-0800.

You may submit nominations and requests for the AP Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures by any of the following methods:

- Email: [SF1.081705D@noaa.gov](mailto:SF1.081705D@noaa.gov).

Include in the subject line the following identifier: I.D. 081705D.

- Mail: Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- Fax: 301-713-1917.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Othel Freeman or Heather Stirratt at 301 713-2347.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Introduction**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, provided for the establishment of Advisory Panels (AP) to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any FMP or FMP amendment. NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of an HMS AP when preparing and implementing FMPs or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and sharks, and consults with a Billfish AP for Atlantic billfish plans and amendments. These APs have previously consulted with NMFS on the HMS FMP (April 1999), Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2004), and Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999).

Nominations are being sought to fill one-third of the posts on the HMS AP for a 3-year appointment and one-half of the posts on the Billfish AP for a 2-year appointment. The nomination process, and appointments are set forth in the Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures for each AP.

Additionally, a specific nomination request is being solicited for a vacant seat on the HMS AP. Nominations for this seat should have definable interests and commercial expertise for the Caribbean region.

**Procedures and Guidelines***A. Nomination Procedures for Appointments to the Advisory Panels*

Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, governmental entities, and non-governmental organizations will be considered for membership in each AP.

Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups. Nominations should include:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of their interest in HMS or one species in particular from among sharks, swordfish, tunas, and billfish;
2. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
3. The AP to which the applicant seeks appointment;
4. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the AP; and
5. Outreach resources.

**Tenure for the HMS AP**

Member tenure will be for 3 years (36 months), with one-third of the members= terms expiring on the last day of each calendar year. However, the tenure of the individual filling the vacant seat will be for 3 years and 3 months (39 months).

**Tenure for the Billfish AP**

Member tenure will be for 2 years (24 months), with one-half of the terms expiring on the last day of each calendar year.

*B. Participants*

Nominations for each AP will be accepted to allow representation from recreational and commercial fishing interests, the conservation community, and the scientific community. The HMS AP consists of not less than 23 members who are knowledgeable about the fisheries for Atlantic HMS species. The Billfish AP consists of not less than nine members who are knowledgeable about the fisheries for Atlantic billfish species.

NMFS does not believe that each potentially affected organization or individual must necessarily have its own representative, but each area of interest must be adequately represented. The intent is to have a group that, as a whole, reflects an appropriate and equitable balance and mix of interests given the responsibilities of each AP. Criteria for membership include one or more of the following: (1) experience in the recreational fishing industry involved in catching swordfish, tunas, billfish, or sharks; (2) experience in the commercial fishing industry for HMS; (3) experience in fishery-related industries (marinas, bait and tackle shops); (4) experience in the scientific community working with HMS; and/or (5) representation of a private, non-governmental, regional, (non-Federal) state, national, or international organization representing marine fisheries, environmental, governmental or academic interests dealing with HMS.

Five additional members in each AP include one voting member representing each of the following Councils: New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. The AP also includes 22 *ex officio* participants: 20 representatives of the constituent states and two representatives of the constituent interstate commissions (the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission).

NMFS will provide the necessary administrative support, including technical assistance, for each AP. However, NMFS will not compensate participants with monetary support of any kind. Depending on availability of funds, members may be reimbursed for travel costs related to the AP meetings.

*C. Meeting Schedule*

Meetings of each AP will be held as frequently as necessary but are routinely held once each year in the spring. Often the meetings are held jointly, and may be held in conjunction with other advisory panel meetings or public hearings.

The October 2005 joint HMS-Billfish AP meeting will focus on management alternatives for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish. The proposed rule and draft HMS FMP describe a range of management measures that could impact fishermen and dealers for all HMS fisheries. These management measures include those to: establish mandatory workshops for fishermen and dealers; consider methods of modifying and establishing time/area closures; address rebuilding and/or overfishing of northern albacore tuna, finetooth sharks, and Atlantic billfish; simplify the management process of bluefin tuna; change the fishing year for tunas, swordfish, and billfish back to a calendar year; authorize additional fishing gears; and clarify existing regulations. In addition to these management measures, NMFS also announces its decision: to not include the no sale provision for the artisanal handline fishery in Puerto Rico, as outlined in the 1988 Atlantic Billfish FMP in the HMS FMP; to formally withdraw the proposed rule to establish an annual domestic recreational landing limit of 250 Atlantic blue and white marlin, combined (September 17, 2003, 68 FR 54410); and to consider a Petition for Rulemaking regarding a closure of bluefin tuna spawning grounds within the draft HMS FMP.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Othel Freeman or Heather Stirratt (**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 6, 2005.

**Emily Menashes,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**External Advisory Panel for NOAA's Oceans and Human Health Initiative**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation of members for an external advisory panel for the NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative.

**SUMMARY:** The Oceans and Human Health Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-447) created a national, interagency research program to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health. Section 903(a) of this Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish an Oceans and Human Health Initiative (OHHI) to coordinate and implement research and activities of NOAA related to the role of the oceans, the coasts, and the Great Lakes in human health. The OHHI is further authorized to provide support for (1) Centralized program and research coordination, (2) an advisory panel, (3) one or more NOAA national centers of excellence, (4) research grants, and (5) distinguished scholars and traineeships. Section 903(b) of the OHHI Act further authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish an oceans and human health advisory panel to assist in the development and implementation of the NOAA OHHI. This advisory panel is to provide for balanced representation of individuals with multi-disciplinary expertise in the marine and biomedical sciences and is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

Nominations to the OHHI advisory panel are being solicited herein. The intent is to select from the nominees. However, NOAA retains the prerogative to name people to the advisory panel who were not nominated if it deems it necessary to achieve the desired balance. Once selected, NOAA will post the review panel, with abridged resumes, at <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/aaoffice/OHHI/>.

**DATES:** Nominations should be sent to the address specified and must be received within 30 days following the

date of publication of this announcement.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations should be submitted electronically to Dr. Paul Sandifer ([Paul.Sandifer@noaa.gov](mailto:Paul.Sandifer@noaa.gov)) or mailed to Dr. Paul Sandifer, c/o Hollings Marine Laboratory, 331 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, South Carolina 29412.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Paul Sandifer (843) 762-8814.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Panel members shall not be employed by NOAA. Nominations should describe the nominees's contact information and qualifications relative to the criteria given below, or include a resume. Anyone is eligible to nominate, and nominations from organizations and self-nominations are encouraged. The advisory panel is expected to have up to a maximum of 15 members, with a variety of backgrounds (recognizing that it will not be practical to have all backgrounds represented), with respect to:

1. Particularly relevant areas of marine and biomedical sciences, such as:
  - a. Conservation medicine, diseases of humans, diseases of marine organisms;
  - b. Epidemiology and human health sciences;
  - c. Harmful algal bloom (HAB) impacts on public health;
  - d. Source tracking and environmental microbiology;
  - e. Marine pharmaceuticals and other natural products;
  - f. Marine organisms and habitats as models for biomedical research and/or indicators of environmental condition;
  - g. Pollutants, contaminants, and ecological chemistry;
  - h. Seafood safety;
  - i. Remote sensing, observing systems; and predictive models;
  - j. Ecosystem science and services;
  - k. Climate change and variability;
  - l. Genomics and proteomics;
  - m. Biomaterials, bioengineering, and other techniques for producing marine products, including chemical, aquaculture, and recombinant DNA;
  - n. Outreach and education; and
  - o. Social sciences relevant to human health.
2. Experience in academia, within mission-oriented government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector;
3. Familiarity with NOAA's mandates; and
4. Being a science provider to key generic groups of stakeholders, science interpreter to groups of stakeholders, or stakeholder with a history of interaction with science providers.

The advisory panel members should have the following qualifications:

1. National and international recognition within their profession;
2. Knowledge of the scientific, technical, and biomedical information needed to support NOAA's Oceans and Human Health Initiative, coupled with broad familiarity with NOAA's mission;
3. Knowledge of, and experience with, the organization and management of complex, mission-oriented scientific and/or public health programs; and
4. Ability to represent views of academia, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, or the private business sector.

The qualifications of individuals are expected to be outstanding with respect to one or more, but not necessarily all, of the criteria. Because of the limited size of the advisory panel, management organization expertise must include expertise directly related to ecosystem condition or human health or the very special features of science applied to government decision-making.

The purpose of the OHHI advisory panel is to advise NOAA with regard to:

1. Development of overall vision, mission and goals for its OHHI;
2. Preparation and periodic updating of a NOAA OHHI Research Plan;
3. Communication, coordination and integration of OHHI activities with other programs and partners, including but not limited to the NSF/NIEHS Centers of Oceans and Human Health, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia, human health academic and medical communities, and state environmental, health and natural resource agencies;
4. OHHI performance and progress;
5. Effectiveness of NOAA's education and outreach efforts; and
6. Such other matters as may be identified.

Initial appointments to the advisory panel will be for three-year terms, and the panel is expected to meet twice yearly.

Dated: August 30, 2005.

**John L. Hayes,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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