

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

[I.D. 033103G]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat and Monkfish Oversight Committees in April, 2003 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on April 22, 2003 and April 24, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Portsmouth, NH and Warwick, RI. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

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; (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Meeting Dates and Agendas**

*Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at 9 a.m.—*Habitat Oversight Committee Meeting.

Location: Courtyard Marriott, 1000 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 436-2121.

The committee will review recommendations from the Habitat Technical Team related to Essential Fish Habitat requirements for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Amendment 1 to the Herring FMP. They will also review the recommendations from the Joint Advisory Panel and Habitat Technical Team meeting, scheduled for April 10, 2003. The purpose of this Joint Advisors meeting is to develop one habitat closed area alternative to be incorporated into both Amendment 10 to the Scallop FMP and Amendment 13 to the Multispecies FMP. The Committee will review this recommendation and preliminary analysis of this alternative.

*Thursday, April 24, 2003 at 9 a.m.—*Monkfish Oversight Committee Meeting.

Location: Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, RI; telephone: (401) 738-4000.

The Committee will discuss issues and options to be included in the Amendment 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). The Committee will also consider the recommendations of the Habitat Committee, and the enforcement analysis prepared by the Enforcement Committee. Amendment 2 alternatives being considered include, but are not limited to; permit qualification criteria for vessels fishing south of 38°N; management program for a deepwater directed fishery in the SFMA; separation of monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) from multispecies and sea scallop DAS programs; counting of monkfish DAS as 24-hour days; measures to minimize impacts of the fishery on endangered sea turtles; measures to minimize bycatch in directed and non-directed fisheries; an exemption program for vessels fishing for monkfish outside of the EEZ (in the NAFO Regulated Area); alternative measures to minimize impacts of the fishery on essential fish habitat; measures to improve data collection and research on monkfish, including mechanisms for funding cooperative research programs; and, timing of the annual review and adjustment process. The Committee may develop and recommend other management alternatives not included in the list above.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups 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.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 dates.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

Theophilus R. Brainerd,

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

[FR Doc. 03-8557 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 033103F]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement Oversight Committee (EIS Oversight Committee) will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public, on the draft Groundfish Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

DATES: The EIS Oversight Committee working meeting will occur Tuesday, April 22, 2003, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, April 23, 2003, 8 a.m. to close of business on that day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the West Conference Room at the Pacific Fishery Management Council office, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384, telephone: (503) 820-2280.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kit Dahl, NEPA Specialist, (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the EIS Oversight Committee meeting is to review the status of the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), which will analyze five comprehensive alternatives to the current groundfish management program. These alternatives were developed by the EIS Oversight Committee in 2002 and adopted by the Council in October 2002. The EIS Oversight Committee will review the alternatives, descriptions of the affected environment, bycatch management requirements, proposed analytical methodologies, and other relevant information and documents. The EIS Oversight Committee will advise the drafters and analysts regarding resource indicators, important issues for analysis, schedules for review of draft sections as they are prepared, and other matters relating to preparation of the draft document. The EIS Oversight Committee will report to the Council at its June 2003 meeting.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the EIS Oversight Committee meeting agenda may come before the committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal EIS Oversight Committee action during these meetings. EIS Oversight Committee action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and to any issues arising after publication of this document requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the EIS Oversight Committee's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

Theophilus R. Brainerd

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

[FR Doc. 03-8556 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040203A]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will hold a working meeting which is open to the public.

DATES: The GMT working meeting will begin Monday, May 5, 2003 at 1 p.m. and may go into the evening until business for the day is completed. The meeting will reconvene from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 6 through Friday, May 9.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz Laboratory, 110 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; telephone: (831) 420-3900.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE

Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John DeVore, Groundfish Staff Officer, (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the GMT working meeting is to plan strategies to effectively aid the Council in managing 2003 West Coast groundfish fisheries and Council initiatives expected to arise in 2003. Additionally, the GMT will discuss groundfish management measures in place for the spring and summer months, review new groundfish stock assessments and survey results, discuss recommended management measures for 2004 fisheries, respond to assignments relating to implementation of the Council's groundfish strategic plan, review and consider technical aspects of draft stock rebuilding plans and analyses, consider criteria for recommending mid-course corrections to harvest levels under biennial management, consider standards and criteria for Council approval of Exempted Fishing Permits, and address other assignments relating to groundfish management.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the GMT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal GMT action during this meeting. GMT 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the GMT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 2, 2003.

Theophilus R. Brainerd,

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

[FR Doc. 03-8559 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 033103H]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Sub-Committee in Charleston, SC.

DATES: The meeting will take place April 23-25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Town & Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571-1000; fax: (843) 766-9444.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: 866-SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC Sub-Committee will meet from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. on April 23, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on April 24, 2003, and from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon on April 25, 2003. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the SSC is the body responsible for reviewing the Council's scientific materials, including stock assessments. Therefore, the purpose of this SSC Sub-Committee meeting is to prepare recommendations for presentation to the full Scientific and Statistical Committee during the June, 2003 meeting in Cocoa Beach, FL, addressing red porgy, vermilion snapper and black sea bass assessments. The SSC Sub-Committee will provide their determinations on the stock assessments, including the following: certify the assessments are based upon best available data/science and are adequate for management, develop advice on the magnitude and direction of action(s) required, interpret the assessment results and provide clearly understood conclusions, develop guidelines for the Council on assessment needs and resources to complete recommendations, and review the current Southeastern Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) Process and offer recommendations.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come