

Oregon Street, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Business hours are noted above.

Fax: 503-230-5435. Please identify the fax comment as regarding the "Proposed Listing Determinations."

The public hearing will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Portland-Columbia River, 1401 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217. You may obtain information updates on the public hearing on the Internet at the following web address: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/AlseaResponse/20040528/meetings.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Garth Griffin, NMFS, Northwest Region, (503) 231-2005. Copies of the **Federal Register** notices cited herein and additional salmon-related materials are available on the Internet at [http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1srd/Prop\\_Determins/](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1srd/Prop_Determins/). For information regarding public hearings on the proposed listing determinations held in California, please contact Craig Wingert, NMFS, Southwest Region, (562) 980-4021. Information on public hearings in California is also available on the Internet at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/news/SalmonidHearings.NR.pdf>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On June 14, 2004, NMFS published proposed ESA listing determinations for 27 salmon and *O. mykiss* ESUs, including 18 ESUs that occur in Oregon, Washington and Idaho (69 FR 33101). The 27 proposed listing determinations include 162 total hatchery programs as part of 4 ESUs being proposed for endangered status and 23 ESUs being proposed for threatened status. In addition, NMFS proposed amendments to the existing ESA 4(d) protective regulations for the proposed threatened ESUs.

With the publication of the proposed listing determinations NMFS announced a 90-day public comment period extending through September 13, 2004. In **Federal Register** notices published on August 31, 2004 (69 FR 53031) and September 9, 2004 (69 FR 54620), NMFS extended the public comment period for the proposed policy through October 20, 2004. Additionally, NMFS announced that it would hold public hearings at eight locations in the Pacific Northwest and six locations in California to provide additional opportunities and formats to receive public input. To date NMFS has held seven of these public hearings in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and all six public hearings in California.

**Extension of Public Comment Period**

NMFS has received a request from a U.S. congressional representative to extend the public comment period and postpone any remaining public meetings to provide additional opportunity for the public to consider the proposed listing determinations and to provide comment. In this notice NMFS is extending the public comment period through November 12, 2004.

**Rescheduling of Public Hearing**

In addition to extending the public comment period, NMFS is rescheduling a public hearing in Portland, Oregon (originally to be held on October 13, 2004) to be held on November 9, 2004 (see **ADDRESSES** for hearing location).

**Public Hearing Format**

Joint Commerce-Interior ESA implementing regulations state that the Secretary shall promptly hold at least one public hearing if any person requests one within 45 days of publication of a proposed regulation to list a species or to designate critical habitat (see 50 CFR 424.16(c)(3)). In past ESA rule-making, NMFS has conducted traditional public hearings, consisting of recorded oral testimony from interested individuals. This format, although providing an alternative means of public input, is time consuming for the attendees and does not provide opportunities for dialogue and information exchange. In the **Federal Register** notice published on August 31, 2004 (69 FR 53039), NMFS described an alternative "open-house" format aimed at providing all hearing participants with the opportunity to obtain information on and discuss the proposed listing determinations. NMFS has held seven of these "open-house" style public hearings, and believes that the new format improves the ability of the public to engage effectively in the rulemaking process.

*Afternoon Practitioners' Session*

An afternoon session (1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., November 9, 2004) in Portland (Oregon) will be provided for local practitioners and stakeholders involved with managing the ESA on a regular basis, including: tribal governments; forestry and agricultural interests; home builders and developers; the sport and commercial fishing community; the environmental community; the business community; utility and special districts; local government elected officials and their staff; other locally based Federal and state agencies; and public interest groups. Attendance at the afternoon sessions in Portland (Oregon) will be on

a pre-registration basis. Information on attending the practitioners' afternoon session in Portland is available from NMFS upon request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above) as well as on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/AlseaResponse/20040528/PortlandMeeting.html>.

*Evening Open House and Public Testimony*

An evening "open house" session, designed for broader public participation, will be conducted in Portland (Oregon) on the same day as the afternoon practitioners' session (November 9, 2004) from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The "open house" format will provide the general public with an opportunity to meet with NMFS staff in small groups on specific topics. This evening meeting will also provide opportunities for the public to make formal recorded comments on the proposal. There is no need to register; just drop in anytime during the course of the evening event.

**Special Accommodations**

This hearing is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language or other aids should be directed to Garth Griffin (see **ADDRESSES**) 7 days before the meeting date.

**References**

Copies of the **Federal Register** notices and related materials cited in this document are available on the Internet at <http://nwr.noaa.gov>, or upon request (see **ADDRESSES** section above).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: October 12, 2004.

**Laurie K. Allen,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 100804C]

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 7 Assessment Workshop for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR process for the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper consists of a series of three workshops: a data workshop, an assessment workshop, and a review workshop. A second Assessment Workshop is being held to continue the assessment work that could not be completed during the first Assessment Workshop for red snapper. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 7 Assessment Workshop II for red snapper will take place December 14–17, 2004. The workshop will be held December 14-16, 2004, 8:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. and December 17, 2004, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The Assessment Workshop will be held at the Wyndham Grand Bay Hotel, 2669 South Bayshore Drive, Coconut Grove, FL 33133; telephone: (305)858–9600.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Carmichael, SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR/SAFMC, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571–4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, have implemented the SEDAR process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR typically includes three workshops: (1) Data workshop, (2) assessment workshop, and (3) review workshop. The product of the data workshop and the assessment workshop is a stock assessment report, which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment report is independently peer reviewed at the review workshop. The products of the review workshop are a Consensus Summary Report, which reports Panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data, and an Advisory Report, which summarizes the status of the stock. Participants for SEDAR workshops are appointed by the Regional Fishery Management Councils. Participants include data collectors, database managers, stock assessment scientists, biologists, fisheries researchers, fishermen, environmentalists, Council members, international experts, and staff of Regional Councils, Interstate Commissions, and state and Federal agencies.

The Assessment Workshop conducts stock assessments, prepares stock rebuilding analyses, and estimates population benchmarks. Workshop Panelists analyze the available data and document their opinions on various stock assessment models. Panelists are responsible for drafting section III of the SEDAR Stock Assessment Report.

During the first SEDAR 7 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Assessment Workshop a number of data and modeling issues were identified that could not be adequately addressed in the time allotted. Therefore a second Assessment Workshop will be held to complete the stock assessment of red snapper.

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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council office at the address listed above at least 5 business days prior to the workshop.

Dated: October 12, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101204A]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

**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) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee in

November, 2004. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will held on Monday, November 1, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Colonial, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245–9300.

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

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Research Steering Committee will address issues related to the use of days-at-sea for vessels participating in cooperative research projects, the experimental fishery permit process and its interface with cooperative research, and Council research priorities for 2005.

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 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

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 dates.

Dated: October 13, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. E4–2691 Filed 10–15–04; 8:45 am]

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