

There will be a joint meeting of representatives from the Council's Groundfish, Monkfish, Habitat, Sea Scallop, Skate, Whiting and Herring Advisory Panels to comment on and develop alternatives to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) area management currently proposed for the Scallop Amendment 10 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Wednesday, February 12, 2003, at 10 a.m. and Thursday, February 13, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. Monkfish Oversight Committee Meeting.

Location: Sheraton South Portland Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Road, South Portland, ME 04106; telephone: (207) 775-6161.

The Committee will discuss issues and options to be included in the Monkfish Amendment 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). Alternatives designed to achieve the approved goals and objectives 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, including 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 EFH; 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 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

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: January 16, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011003A]

NOAA Strategic Plan

AGENCY: Office of Strategic Planning (OSP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a new NOAA Strategic Plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the United States' premier agency for environmental assessment and prediction and management providing broad benefits to the Nation in the areas of economy, public safety and the environment. NOAA has recently begun the process of creating a new Strategic Plan for the agency responding to growing needs of the Nation for environmental information and management. One of the objectives of the new NOAA Strategic Plan is to directly address the President's Management Agenda including principles for a citizen-centered, results oriented, and market-based government. To that end, NOAA has conducted a series of stakeholder and employee workshops in Seattle, New Orleans, Boston, Washington, DC, Boulder, Cleveland and Puerto Rico over the past several months and has used this input to lay the foundation for drafting the new NOAA Strategic Plan. Important themes that emerged from these meetings were ecosystem approaches to coastal and ocean resource management, climate variability and change and weather and water information needs as well as agency-wide cross-cutting priorities that will enhance NOAA's mission and provide leadership in the environmental sciences to better serve America in the 21st century. When finalized in early 2003, after public and internal review, the new NOAA Strategic Plan will become the blueprint for the direction of NOAA's core and future missions and will become institutionalized in every aspect of

NOAA's resource planning and priority setting.

DATES: Public comments on this document must be received at the appropriate email address (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before 5 p.m., local time, February 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The NOAA Draft Strategic Plan is available at the OSP web site: <http://www.osp.noaa.gov>. Comments may be sent directly to the OSP email address strategic.planning@noaa.gov or visit the OSP website to submit comments. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via phone or fax.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Burgess, Office of Strategic Planning (OSP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB), Room 6121, 14th and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230, phone: 202-482-5181, fax: 202-501-3024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Status

NOAA encourages all stakeholders and users to review the draft Strategic Plan. All comments must be submitted by individual participants (persons, businesses, organizations, etc.). Group consensus comments will not be accepted. The discussion draft of the NOAA Strategic Plan and directions for submitting comments have been posted on the website. Comments, questions and suggestions are welcomed from both scientific and stakeholder communities. All comments received will be reviewed and considered in the final drafting of NOAA's new Strategic Plan.

Dated: January 16, 2003.

James P. Burgess, III

Acting Director, Office of Strategic Planning, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME): Proposed Amendments to the Weight Specifications, Speculative Position Limits, Delivery Locations, and Delivery Procedures for the Live Cattle Futures Contract

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of terms and conditions of proposed amendments to the CME's weight specifications, speculative position limits, delivery locations, and delivery