

APPENDIX D: NOAA Press Releases announcing the start of the
scoping period and individual scoping meetings



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Susan Buchanan
301-257-4515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 14, 2007

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE BEGINS PROCESS TO END OVERFISHING BY 2010 *New Magnuson-Stevens Act First Step to Implementation / Comments Sought*

NOAA Fisheries Service has begun the process of developing new guidance to assist regional fishery management councils in developing measures to end overfishing in all U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries by 2010. This deadline is a new requirement under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2006. NOAA provides guidelines to facilitate consistent application of the law's 10 national standards among the nation's fishery managers. This action would modify the guidelines for National Standard 1 of the Act, also known as the "overfishing standard."

Overfishing still occurs at various levels in 48 fisheries in U.S. waters, although NOAA has significantly improved the situation in recent years. The highest priority in the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization was to strengthen the Act to ensure an end to overfishing. The U.S. Ocean Action Plan also called for expansion of market-based management systems, improved recreational data, and the use of peer-reviewed science in resource management decisions. Initial funding for these activities is included in the 2008 budget request for NOAA Fisheries Service.

"The President is determined to stop overfishing and rebuild the nation's marine fisheries to sustainable levels to maximize their economic and environmental benefit to the nation," said Bill Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries Service. "We are pleased that Congress gave us new tools to end all overfishing and we look forward to continued support in the 2008 budget process."

To end overfishing and prevent it from occurring in the future, the new law requires all fisheries to be regulated under annual catch limits, with accountability measures to ensure that catches do not exceed the limit. The new law also elevates the importance of following scientific advice in fishery management decisions, so the new guidelines for National Standard 1 will address the role of science in establishing annual harvest caps.

The public is offered this opportunity to discuss these issues and provide comment on how the nation can meet the law's new mandates.

Upon consideration of public input that NOAA receives during this scoping period, the agency will develop a proposal for specific regulations, and then will hold another public comment period. The agency aims to finalize the modified National Standard 1 guidelines by the end of 2007.

- more -

An initial public scoping meeting will be held March 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1315 East-West Highway, Room 4527, Silver Spring, Md. Additional public scoping meetings will be set in the near future. Written comments may be emailed to: annual.catch.limitDEIS@noaa.gov; faxed to: 301-713-1193; or mailed to: Mark Millikin, NOAA/NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway; Silver Spring, MD 20910. The deadline for comments is April 2, 2007.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

###

Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorized Act of 2006: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007>
NOAA Fisheries Service: www.nmfs.noaa.gov
NOAA: www.noaa.gov



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Susan Buchanan
301-713-2370

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2007

NOAA REQUESTS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANS TO END OVERFISHING *Suggestions Will Be Taken at Meeting on Jekyll Island, Ga.*

The U.S. Congress and President Bush recently directed the nation's fishery managers to end overfishing by 2010. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will host an open meeting in Georgia to give citizens in the southeastern United States an opportunity to comment on how this marine stewardship responsibility may be accomplished.

WHAT: Public Scoping Meeting to Receive Input on:

- Developing an environmental impact statement for this action
- Establishing annual catch limits in U.S. fisheries to end overfishing
- Establishing accountability measures associated with catch limits
- The role of science (the councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees) in establishing annual catch limits

WHEN: March 6, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Jekyll Island Club Hotel, 371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

WHO: Interested members of the public and news media

BACKGROUND

The United States is overfishing 48 species or species complexes, including 11 in the South Atlantic and nine coast-wide highly migratory stocks. Continued overfishing has slowed the rebuilding of overfished stocks.

The newly reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act requires annual catch limits by 2010, which will end overfishing. Annual catch limits must be coupled with accountability measures to ensure that catches do not exceed the limit or potentially mitigate the effect of exceeding the limits, and the law elevates the importance of following scientific advice in fishery management decisions.

With assistance from the public, NOAA will develop guidelines to help the eight regional fishery management councils and NOAA Fisheries Service modify fishery management plans to meet these requirements.

The guidelines should be finalized by the end of 2007. Written comments may be emailed to: annual.catch.limitDEIS@noaa.gov; faxed to: 301-713-1193; or mailed to: Mark Millikin, NOAA/NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The deadline for comments is April 17, 2007.

###

Public meetings have been scheduled in other regions of the country. To see the entire list of dates and locations, go to: Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorized Act of 2006: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007>



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Susan Buchanan
301-713-2370

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2007

NOAA REQUESTS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANS TO END OVERFISHING *Suggestions Will Be Taken at Fishers Forum in Honolulu*

The U.S. Congress and President Bush recently directed the nation's fishery managers to end overfishing by 2010. As part of the Fishers Forum, being held in conjunction with the 137th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will give citizens in the Pacific Islands an opportunity to comment on how this marine stewardship responsibility may be accomplished.

WHAT: Public Scoping Meeting to Receive Input on:

- Developing an environmental impact statement for this action
- Establishing annual catch limits in U.S. fisheries to end overfishing
- Establishing accountability measures associated with catch limits
- The role of science (the councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees) in establishing annual catch limits

WHEN: March 14, 2007, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Fishers Forum 6 to 9 p.m.)

WHERE: Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

WHO: Interested members of the public and news media

BACKGROUND

The United States is overfishing 48 species or species complexes, including three in the Pacific Islands. Continued overfishing has slowed the rebuilding of overfished stocks.

The newly reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act requires annual catch limits by 2010, which will end overfishing. Annual catch limits must be coupled with accountability measures to ensure that catches do not exceed the limit or potentially mitigate the effect of exceeding the limits, and the law elevates the importance of following scientific advice in fishery management decisions.

With assistance from the public, NOAA will develop guidelines to help the eight regional fishery management councils and NOAA Fisheries Service modify fishery management plans to meet these requirements.

The guidelines should be finalized by the end of 2007. Written comments may be emailed to: annual.catch.limitDEIS@noaa.gov; faxed to: 301-713-1193; or mailed to: Mark Millikin, NOAA/NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The deadline for comments is April 17, 2007.

###

Public meetings have been scheduled in other regions of the country. To see the entire list of dates and locations, go to: Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorized Act of 2006: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007>



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Susan Buchanan
301-713-2370

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 28, 2007

NOAA REQUESTS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANS TO END OVERFISHING *Suggestions Will Be Taken at Meeting in Ponce, Puerto Rico*

The U.S. Congress and President Bush recently directed the nation's fishery managers to end overfishing by 2010. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will host an open meeting in Puerto Rico to give citizens in the Caribbean an opportunity to comment on how this marine stewardship responsibility may be accomplished.

WHAT: Public Scoping Meeting to Receive Input on:

- Developing an environmental impact statement for this action
- Establishing annual catch limits in U.S. fisheries to end overfishing
- Establishing accountability measures associated with catch limits
- The role of science (the councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees) in establishing annual catch limits

WHEN: March 20, 2007, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Ponce Hilton Hotel, Ponce, Puerto Rico 00716

WHO: Interested members of the public and news media

BACKGROUND

The United States is overfishing 48 species or species complexes, including five in the Caribbean. Continued overfishing has slowed the rebuilding of overfished stocks.

The newly reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act requires annual catch limits by 2010, which will end overfishing. Annual catch limits must be coupled with accountability measures to ensure that catches do not exceed the limit or potentially mitigate the effect of exceeding the limits, and the law elevates the importance of following scientific advice in fishery management decisions.

With assistance from the public, NOAA will develop guidelines to help the eight regional fishery management councils and NOAA Fisheries Service modify fishery management plans to meet these requirements.

The guidelines should be finalized by the end of 2007. Written comments may be emailed to: annual.catch.limitDEIS@noaa.gov; faxed to: 301-713-1193; or mailed to: Mark Millikin, NOAA/NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The deadline for comments is April 17, 2007.

###

Public meetings have been scheduled in other regions of the country. To see the entire list of dates and locations, go to: Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorized Act of 2006: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007>



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Susan Buchanan
301-713-2370

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2007

NOAA REQUESTS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANS TO END OVERFISHING *Suggestions Will Be Taken at Meeting in Destin, Fla.*

The U.S. Congress and President Bush recently directed the nation's fishery managers to end overfishing by 2010. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will host an open meeting on the West Coast of Florida to give citizens in the Gulf of Mexico an opportunity to comment on how this marine stewardship responsibility may be accomplished.

WHAT: Public Scoping Meeting to Receive Input on:

- Developing an environmental impact statement for this action
- Establishing annual catch limits in U.S. fisheries to end overfishing
- Establishing accountability measures associated with catch limits
- The role of science (the councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees) in establishing annual catch limits

WHEN: March 27, 2007, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Embassy Suites Hotel, Destin, Fla. 32550 (Coast Ballroom)

WHO: Interested members of the public and news media

BACKGROUND

The United States is overfishing 48 species or species complexes, including five in the Gulf of Mexico and nine Atlantic highly migratory stocks. Continued overfishing has slowed the rebuilding of overfished stocks.

The newly reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act requires annual catch limits by 2010, which will end overfishing. Annual catch limits must be coupled with accountability measures to ensure that catches do not exceed the limit or potentially mitigate the effect of exceeding the limits, and the law elevates the importance of following scientific advice in fishery management decisions.

With assistance from the public, NOAA will develop guidelines to help the eight regional fishery management councils and NOAA Fisheries Service modify fishery management plans to meet these requirements.

The guidelines should be finalized by the end of 2007. Written comments may be emailed to: annual.catch.limitDEIS@noaa.gov; faxed to: 301-713-1193; or mailed to: Mark Millikin, NOAA/NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The deadline for comments is April 17, 2007.

###

Public meetings have been scheduled in other regions of the country. To see the entire list of dates and locations, go to: Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorized Act of 2006: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007>