

## 2. Improvement of Capital Availability and Accessibility Through Existing and New Programs

- Continue ongoing federal financing programs, such as the Small Business Administration 7(a), 504 and Community Express programs and the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund that have increased capital accessibility for minority businesses and other under-served communities.

- Implement a National Capital Access program, which allows banks and other financial institutions to make loans to higher-risk borrowers.

- Develop a national mezzanine-financing program.

## 3. Provision of Expanded Access to Management and Technical Assistance

- Tie existing and new financing vehicles to technical and management assistance appropriate for the type of firm receiving the financing.

- Focus provision of services to businesses with \$100,000 or more in annual revenues, as businesses of this size are responsible for approximately 95 percent of all employees retained by minority firms and nearly 92 percent of minority business revenues.

- Develop tiering mechanisms for provision of management and technical assistance services promoting increased efficiency and innovation within the minority business community.

- Create best practices and performance measurements for service providers.

## 4. Integration of the Investment Community, Minority Entrepreneurs, and the Federal Government

- Coordinate federal programs supporting minority business financing and increase minority business utilization of these programs.

- Support existing mechanisms for integrating entrepreneurs with financial institutions, especially with respect to venture capital.

- Promote increased collaborations between institutions with experience and expertise investing and lending to the minority business community and mainstream institutions.

For additional background on MBDA's proposals, please go to MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbda.gov>. In particular, the Agency would like to receive any suggestions on additional approaches or options that may be included in a final report. If respondents believe that the identified issues are impractical or present serious difficulties in implementation, please note this in the comments.

The comments received will be reviewed for applicability to the issues addressed. MBDA will consider only those comments that address (1) existing successful models that could be enhanced and replicated, and (2) where there is sufficient interest within MBDA to adopt the comments, or there exists the likelihood of creating such interest. If any comments received meet the criteria, they will be included within the final report.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

**Ronald N. Langston,**

*National Director, Minority Business Development Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091603D]

### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Joint Mid-Atlantic Council-New England Council Spiny Dogfish Committee, Research Set-Aside Committee, Demersal Committee, Tilefish Committee, and Executive Committee will hold public meetings. **DATES:** The meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 7, through Thursday, October 9, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Outer Banks Resort & Conference Center/Ramada Inn, 1701 Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills, NC; telephone: 252-441-1830.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On Tuesday, October 7, the Joint (Mid-Atlantic Council-New England Council) Spiny Dogfish Committee will meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Research Set-Aside (RSA) Committee will meet

concurrently from noon until 3 p.m. Council will meet from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be a NMFS Public Hearing on annual landing limits for blue and white marlin from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Wednesday, October 8, the Council will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Council will review and approve the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP); review and comment on the NMFS' Northeast Regional Office's Draft Regional Bycatch Implementation Plan; and, review and comment on the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) Groundfish Amendment 13 proposals regarding Essential Fishery Habitat (EFH) closures and effort management measures. The Council, together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board, will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to determine and prioritize management actions for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. On Thursday, October 9, the Tilefish Committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The Executive Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Council will meet from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Agenda items for the Council's committees and the Council itself are: The Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee will review the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee's recommendations regarding 2004/05 fishing year quota and associated management measures; develop and adopt recommended quota and management measures for 2004/05 fishing year. The RSA Committee will review, discuss and establish RSA priorities for 2005; review, discuss and establish project selection criteria for the 2005 RSA solicitation. The Council will convene its first meeting session with the swearing-in of new and re-appointed Council members, and by conducting an election of its officers. The Council will then review the Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee's recommendations regarding the 2004/05 fishing year quota and associated management measures; develop and adopt recommended quota and management measures for 2004/05; review and approve the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) Public Hearing document for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP; discuss and comment on NMFS' Northeast Regional Office's Draft Regional Bycatch Implementation Plan regarding how to address state waters fisheries, how to address recreational fisheries, and how to create incentives to encourage harvesters to

address National Standard 9; review, discuss and comment on the NEFMC's EFH proposed closures in MAFMC jurisdiction, and review, discuss and comment on effects of its proposed changes to Days-At-Sea (DAS) and general category permits contained in its Groundfish Amendment 13 options. The Council, acting on behalf of the Demersal Committee, together with the ASMFC's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board, will determine the management actions to be included in Amendment 14 and/or Framework 5 for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass; develop priorities for action items not included in Amendment 14 and/or Framework 5. The Tilefish Committee will review the most recent court order regarding the FMP's permit system and develop a plan of action to address same. The Executive Committee will review committee structure and committee assignment preferences for the new Council year; review the 2004 annual work plan. The Council will also receive and hear committee and organizational reports, and act on any new and/or continuing business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council 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 actions to address such emergencies.

### Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Council at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 03-24114 Filed 9-18-03; 12:01 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091703A]

#### South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting to address Snapper Grouper Amendments 13A and 13B. As part of this meeting, a public comment period will be held regarding Snapper Grouper Amendment 13A addressing the Oculina Experimental Closed Area. There will also be a full Council Session. This rescheduled Council meeting is being held in lieu of the regularly scheduled September Council meeting that was cancelled due to Hurricane Isabel.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held in October 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC, 29407. Telephone: 1-800-334-6660 or 843-571-1000.

Copies of documents are available from Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: 843-571-4366 or toll free at 866-SAFMC-10; fax: 843-769-4520; e-mail: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Meeting Dates

1. *Full Council: October 6, 2003, 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m.*

From 1:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., the Council will have a Call to Order, introductions and roll call, adoption of the agenda, and approval of the June 2003 meeting minutes.

From 1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m., the Council will conduct an election for Chairman and Vice-Chairman and have a presentation of awards.

From 2:15 p.m.-5 p.m., the Council will be discussing issues relevant to Amendment 13A to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Beginning at 2:20 p.m., the

Council will accept public comment on Snapper Grouper Amendment 13A. Following the public comment period, the Council will receive a summary report on recent changes and an overview of the final version of Amendment 13A, review the proposed rule and take action to approve Amendment 13A to the Snapper Grouper FMP for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

The full Council will also receive a report on the Southeastern Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process for yellowtail snapper and goliath grouper, and an update on the overall SEDAR process. The Council will take action to approve incorporating SEDAR into the Council's advisory panel process.

2. *Full Council: October 7, 2003, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.*

The Council will receive an overview of Amendment 13B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan and provide direction to staff regarding various options for the draft document. The schedule regarding the development of Amendment 13B will also be discussed.

3. *Full Council: October 8, 2003, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon*

From 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., the Council will continue its review and discussion of Amendment 13B to the Snapper Grouper FMP and provide direction to staff regarding the options for the Amendment. Further discussion will be held regarding scheduling for the document development.

From 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m., the Council will hear status reports from NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) regarding the Sargassum FMP final rule and the Dolphin Wahoo FMP.

From 11:30 a.m.-12 noon, the Council will discuss other business and upcoming meetings.

Documents regarding these issues are available from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

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