

EFH descriptions for salmon and adverse effects on salmon EFH. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The technical team meeting is on November 18, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Scordino, NMFS, 206/526-6143.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS is in the process of developing recommendations on EFH for west coast salmon in accordance with recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH recommendations to be presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council for an amendment to the salmon fishery management plan include a description of EFH for coho salmon, chinook salmon, pink salmon and sockeye salmon; a description of adverse effects to EFH, including fishing and nonfishing threats; and a description of measures to ensure the conservation and enhancement of EFH.

NMFS has formed a technical team consisting of fishing industry, state, tribal, university, and Federal individuals to provide technical input and advice on the development of the NMFS recommendations. The technical team will meet 2 to 3 times between November and March to review draft EFH documents as they are prepared. The first meeting of the technical team is scheduled for November 18, 1997. The meetings will be open to the public, and the public will have an opportunity to comment. EFH documents will be available at the meeting. EFH background material can also be found on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission website at www.psmfc.org/efh.html.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be requested at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 12, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111097B]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held during the week of December 7, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: All meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of a Council executive session tentatively scheduled for noon on Wednesday, December 10, to discuss personnel, international issues, or litigation, as necessary.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ecosystems Committee will meet Sunday, December 7, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, continuing through Tuesday, December 9.

The Advisory Panel (AP) will begin meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 8, and continue through Thursday, December 11.

The Council's regular plenary session will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, and continue through Sunday, December 14.

Other workgroup or committee meetings may be held during the week. Notices of these meetings will be posted at the hotel.

The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports from NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the current status of the fisheries off Alaska, and NMFS and U.S. Coast Guard reports on enforcement;

2. Initial review of a draft analysis for a third-party arrangement (joint project agreement) for observer procurement services;

3. Receive report on the 1997 Halibut and Sablefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries;

4. Review proposals received for changes to the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ fisheries and give direction to staff for analyses;

5. Initial review of research priorities;

6. Review and consider releasing to public review draft environmental assessment/regulatory impact review for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pollock Community Development Quota program for 1999 and beyond;

7. Appointments to the SSC and AP for 1998, and to the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee through 1999;

8. Review and give final approval to Amendment 3 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 3 would delegate authority to the State of Alaska to manage the scallop fishery off Alaska;

9. The Council will receive and approve the final 1998 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation reports for Gulf of Alaska and BSAI groundfish and approve final 1998 harvest allocations, including vessel incentive program rate standards, bycatch allowances, and halibut discard mortality rates; and

10. Other groundfish issues to be addressed include:

a. Initial review of an amendment for stand-down and/or preregistration requirements in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska. Direction to staff to release for public review and/or revise;

b. Initial review of options to streamline the setting of total allowable catches; directions to staff to release for public review and/or revise;

c. Initial review of an amendment to allocate shorttraker/rougheye quota to fixed gear; directions to staff to release for public review and/or revise;

d. Discussion of limited processing for catcher vessels; direction to staff;

e. Discussion of overfishing amendments; direction to staff;

f. Discussion of catch reporting accuracy;

g. Discussion of gear storage and preemption issues in the BSAI; direction to staff;

h. Discussion of salmon retention revisions for the BSAI; direction to staff; and

i. Discussion of pollock "B" Season adjustments in the BSAI; direction to staff.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance