

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee in December, 2003. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Peabody Marriott, 8A Centennial Drive, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 977-9700.

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 committee will discuss and continue work on a process to review and integrate the results of cooperative research into the management process. It will also work on developing research priorities for 2004 for consideration by the Council and the NMFS Regional Administrator.

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 date.

Dated: November 19, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E3-00369 Filed 11-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111703F]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat Committee in December, 2003 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 8, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Village Inn, One Beach Street, Narragansett, RI 02882; telephone: (401) 783-6767. Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Habitat Oversight Committee will discuss the upcoming Omnibus Habitat Amendment including, but not limited to, the review of the Draft Timeline, Draft Notice of Intent, Draft Request for Proposals for Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and Dedicated Habitat Research Areas, and inclusion of the Draft Habitat Advisory Panel Process.

The meeting will also include a recap of Council decisions in Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Amendment 13 to the Multispecies FMP. In addition, the Committee will be updated on the status of the American Oceans Campaign v. Daley lawsuit settlement agreement requirements and any NMFS Essential Fish Habitat Consultations of particular interest to the Council. The Committee will also be updated on recent Marine Protected Area (MPA) work by the formerly separate MPA Committee. The timeline for development of a Council policy on

MPAs will be developed. Possible closed session for the discussion and selection of habitat advisory panel.

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 date.

Dated: November 18, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E3-00385 Filed 11-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111703J]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Notice of Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Fur Sea Committee.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Fur Seal Committee will meet December 11, 2003 at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled December 11, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. King Salmon Room.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W3rd Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Wilson, Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

- (1) Review Committee's Charge.
- (2) Committee's working protocol.
- (3) NMFS approach and schedule for the draft Environmental Impact Statement on renewing Fur Seal Subsistence Harvest Regulations.
- (4) Presentation of Data on Status of the Bering Sea Fur Seal population.
- (5) Presentation on groundfish fishery harvest in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands relative to fur seal foraging areas.
- (6) Other items as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Committee 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 Committee'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 Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 18, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. E3-00386 Filed 11-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 111703J]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Notice of Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Joint Protocol Committee.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Joint Protocol Committee of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Council will meet in December 2003, in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 8, 2003, 1-5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Aspen/Spruce Room, Anchorage, AK.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane DiCosimo, Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Agenda**

- (1) Steering Committee recommendations for managing State groundfish fisheries if Federal groundfish fisheries are rationalized.
- (2) Review groundfish proposals submitted to the Board of Fisheries.
- (3) Update on Congressional action on pending Council action (if available).
- (4) Other business as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Committee 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 Committee'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 Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 18, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. E3-00387 Filed 11-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 111703HJ]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Notice of Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory committees.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings. December 8 through December 16, 2003.

DATES: The Council's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, December 8, 2003, and continue through Saturday, December 13, 2003.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 8, 2003, and continue through Wednesday, December 10, 2003.

The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2003 and continue through Tuesday December 16, 2003.

The Enforcement Committee will meet Tuesday, October 7, at 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:*Council Plenary Session*

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

- (a) Executive Director's Report
- (b) National Marine Fisheries Service Management Report
- (c) United States Coast Guard Report/NMFS Enforcement Report
- (d) Alaska Department Fish & Game Reports
- (e) United States Fish & Wildlife Report

2. Gulf of Alaska Rationalization

- (a) Receive report from Joint Protocol Committee
- (b) Receive Groundfish Development Authority (Council only)
- (c) Review and refine alternatives and options

3. Observer Program

- (a) Program overview (Alaska Fishery Science Center)
- (b) Preliminary review of Program Restructuring Analysis