

Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, "Comments on twine-top EFP." Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl McGarrity, Fishery Management Specialist, phone: 978-281-9174, fax: 978-281-9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In response to the 2008 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set Aside (RSA) Program request for proposals, NMFS received a proposal from GMRI entitled, "An evaluation of hanging ratio and mesh orientation of twine-tops on selectivity and bycatch in the general category scallop dredge fishery in scallop limited access areas." The grant was approved by NOAA Grants on July 27, 2008, as NOAA Award No. NA08NMF4540667. GMRI proposes to determine if changes to the dredge twine-top configuration on a 10.5-ft (3.2 m) general category scallop dredge will affect species selectivity and reduce finfish bycatch.

Comparisons of catches will be made between panels with twine-top configurations of 2:1 hanging ratio, 3:1 hanging ratio with meshes elongated in the fore/aft direction, and 3:1 hanging ratio with meshes elongated laterally (perpendicular to the fore/aft direction). Research is to be conducted within the Elephant Trunk Access Areas (March/April 2009) and the Great South Channel Scallop Dredge Exemption Area (GSCDEA) (May/June 2009). Three general category scallop vessels using New Bedford style scallop dredges will be given a set of the three twine-top configurations, and will use one configuration per day for 12 days. It is expected that three tows per day will be completed, and vessels will spend 12 days in each of the two scallop access areas. The grant authorizes GMRI to land 14,400 lb (6,531.73 kg) of scallops each from the Elephant Trunk Access Area and GSCDEA (total of 28,800 lb (13,063.46 kg)), with the proceeds from landed scallops compensating participating vessel owners and defraying research costs. Vessels will stay within the daily landing limit of 400 lb (181.4 kg).

This EFP would exempt participating vessels from Scallop gear restrictions specified at 50 CFR 648.51(b)(2), possession restrictions found throughout part 648, Great South Channel (GSC) Southern New England (SNE)/Georges Bank (GB) Yellowtail Flounder Peak Spawning Closure restrictions at § 648.80(a)(18)(ii)(C), and GSC Cape Cod (CC)/Gulf of Maine

(GOM) Yellowtail Flounder Peak Spawning Closure restrictions at § 648.80(a)(18)(ii)(D).

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs. The applicant may place requests for minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and minimal so as not to change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request.

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

Dated: January 26, 2009.

Emily H. Menashes

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XM97

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Scallop Plan Team.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Scallop Plan Team will meet February 20-21, 2009, in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 20, 2009, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 21, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Fireweed Room, Anchorage, AK.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Stram, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda: Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) description plan for revisions; Final Rule on Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) discussion of plans

to revise Scallop FMP for ACL compliance; Review current regulations on VMS requirements; Review update on Scallop Observer Program; Review any pending BOF actions or regulatory changes; Status of Statewide Scallop Stocks and preparation of the SAFE report; Review ageing techniques and protocol issues and update; Review and revise research priorities.

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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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 Gail Bendixen, at (907) 271-2809, at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 27, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Docket No. 0812021556-9052-02

Public Telecommunications Facilities Program: Closing Date

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Amended Solicitation of Applications.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announces that it is extending the solicitation period for applications for the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) replacement digital television translator projects. NTIA will accept applications for these projects until Monday, May 18, 2009.

DATES: Applications for replacement digital television translator projects