

Dated: July 11, 2003.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.,

Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071503A]

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS); Certification of New VMS Unit for Use in Northeast Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of VMS unit certification.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the approval and certification of the Boatracs FMCT (Fisheries Mobile Communications Transceiver) VMS unit for use in all fisheries in the northeastern United States in which VMS units are required.

DATES: The new FMCT VMS unit can be used effective July 21, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Northeast Office for Law Enforcement, VMS Program, telephone 978-281-9213.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations at 50 CFR 648.9 set forth VMS requirements for fisheries in the northeastern United States that require the use of VMS for fishery monitoring and/or reporting. Specifically, § 648.9(b) lists minimum VMS performance criteria that a VMS unit must meet in order to be certified for use.

NMFS has reviewed all components of the FMCT and other information provided by the vendor and has certified the following unit for use in all Northeast fisheries in which VMS units are required: Boatracs FMCT, available from Boatracs, 1935 Cordell Court, El Cajon, CA 92020-0911, Telephone: (619) 438-6000, 1-800-336-8722.

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

Dated: July 15, 2003.

Virginia M. Fay,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071503E]

Mid-Atlantic 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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), its Executive Committee, and its Demersal Species Committee meeting as a Council Committee of the Whole with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board, and Bluefish Board(s), will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Monday, August 4, to Thursday, August 7, 2002. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor, 101 W. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD; telephone: 410-752-1100.

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: *Monday, August 4, 2003, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.*—There will be a presentation by NMFS' Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Monday, August 4, 2003, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.—The Executive Committee will meet to review congressional correspondence and the status of Council's audits.

Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—The Council will convene to discuss options concerning Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Framework 4.

Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.—There will be a report of the 37th Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC).

Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 11 a.m. to noon—The Council will discuss Summer, Founder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Frameworks 3 and 4.

Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.—There will be a Council and Public Session on NMFS' Outreach Efforts.

Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.—The Council will meet jointly with the ASMFC's Bluefish Board regarding 2004 specifications for bluefish.

Tuesday, August 5, 2003 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.—There will be an additional Public Session on NMFS' Outreach Efforts.

Wednesday, August 6, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.—The Council will meet jointly with the ASMFC's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board regarding summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass specifications for 2004.

Thursday, August 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Council will meet to receive reports from its committees.

Agenda items for the Council meeting are: On Monday, a presentation by NMFS' regarding Amendment 1 to NMFS' Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) with particular emphasis on shark management. The Executive Committee will convene to review Congressman Gilchrest's July 8, 2003 letter regarding Individual Fishing Quotas (ITQ), and status of Council's audit (if available) for fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2001. On Tuesday, the Council will review and adopt Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Framework 4 regarding extending the *Illex* squid moratorium; receive the 37th SARC report on spiny dogfish, surfclams, and *Illex* squid; review and adopt Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Framework 3 regarding Winter 1 and Winter 2 rollover and April 15 summer period start date; review and adopt Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Framework 4 regarding transfer of scup at sea. The Council will then receive a report from NMFS' on its Outreach Efforts regarding current NMFS' programs and the agency's future directions and strategies for same. The Council and ASMFC's Bluefish Board will review Monitoring Committee recommendations regarding the 2004 harvest level and commercial management measures, and recommend the 2004 harvest level and commercial management measures for bluefish. On Wednesday, the Council and ASMFC's Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Board(s) will review Monitoring Committee recommendations regarding the 2004 harvest level and commercial management measures, and recommend the 2004 harvest level and commercial management measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The Council, on Thursday, will receive and discuss organizational and committee reports including tilefish actions, the New England Council's report, and the South Atlantic Council's report.