

(8) Demonstrate that any cooperative development activity is consistent with positive environmental stewardship.

Fiscal Year 1998 Preapplication Submission

Preapplications must include a clear statement of the goals and objectives of the project and a plan which describes the proposed project as required by the statute and 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. Each preapplication received in the State Office will be reviewed to determine if the preapplication is consistent with the eligible purposes outlined in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. Preapplications without supportive data to address selection criteria will not be considered. Copies of 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, will be provided to any interested applicant by making a request to the Rural Development State Office or RBS National Office.

Preapplications must be completed and submitted to the State Rural Development Office as soon as possible, but no later than June 15, 1998. Preapplications received after June 15 will not be considered.

For ease of locating information, each preapplication must contain a detailed Table of Contents containing page numbers for each component of the preapplication. The preapplication must also contain a project summary of 250 words or less on a separate page. This page must include the title of the project and the names of the primary project contacts and the applicant organization, followed by the summary. The summary should be self-contained and should describe the overall goals, relevance of the project, and a listing of all organizations involved in the project. The project summary should immediately follow the Table of Contents.

The National Office will score applicants based on the grant selection criteria contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, and will select awardees subject to the availability of funds and the awardee's satisfactory submission of a formal application and related materials in accordance with subpart F. Entities submitting preapplications that are selected for award will be invited by the State Office to submit a formal application prior to September 1. It is anticipated that grant awardees will be selected by September 1, 1998.

Dated: April 16, 1998.

Dayton Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041698A]

Notice of Workshop

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS will sponsor a workshop for the members of its Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Advisory Panels and of the National Research Council (NRC) Committee to Study IFQs. The workshop will be held in Boston, Massachusetts and will be open for public observation.

DATES: The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. on May 5, 1998, and will end at 2 p.m. on May 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the Harborside Hyatt Conference Center and Hotel, 101 Harborside Drive, Boston, MA; telephone: 800-233-1234.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Gautam, NMFS, Office of Science and Technology; telephone: (301) 713-2328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), Congress required the NRC to provide a report with recommendations on a national policy for implementing IFQs by October 1, 1998. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also required the formation of NMFS Advisory Panels to provide support to the NRC committee and to NMFS in their respective roles of preparing and evaluating the IFQ study. The workshop is intended to continue the dialogue between IFQ Advisory Panel and NRC committee members related to key questions the NRC has developed. Issues discussed will include initial allocation criteria, restrictions on transferability of quota shares, enforcement and monitoring requirements, and long-term implications of implementing IFQs relative to other management regimes. Members of the public are invited to observe the proceedings, but will not be allowed to participate.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Lamarr B. Trott,

Acting Director, Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041798D]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Council (Council) will hold its 96th meeting in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The full Council (some members by conference call) will meet on May 8, 1998, from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Honolulu time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

Council address: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808)-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the May 8 meeting, the Council will consider two regulatory amendments:

1. Fishing bank/area-specific harvest guidelines for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands lobster fishery (this will be the second meeting under the Crustaceans Fishery Management Plan framework procedure for a new measure [final action]); and
2. Prohibition of the taking of pelagic management unit species by domestic or foreign fishing vessels longer than 50 feet (length overall) from waters within 100 nautical miles of the islands of American Samoa.

Summary of Issue

1. Lobster bank/area guidelines: Using the Amendment 7 and 9 formula for determining the harvest guideline, the Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, has determined that the total 1998 guideline for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands fishery is 286,000 lobsters. At its November 1997 meeting, the Council requested NMFS to investigate bank or area specific guidelines for review by its advisory bodies. At its April 1998 meeting, the Council concurred with the recommendations of its advisory bodies (that met in March 1998) to limit the harvest of lobsters at specific banks/areas as follows: Maro Reef no more

than 80,000 lobsters, Necker Island no more than 70,000 lobsters, Gardner Pinnacles no more than 20,000 lobsters, and the remainder from all other banks/areas combined 116,000 lobsters. When the allocation for any bank/area is projected to be taken, the Regional Administrator will close that area or bank to prevent overfishing. When a total of 286,000 lobsters is projected to be taken, the Regional Administrator will close the fishery for the season. The fishery opens July 1, 1998.

The Council will meet on May 8, 1998 to take final action on this allocation of the harvest guidelines. At its April 1998 meeting, the Council also recommended that NMFS and industry work together to get data on the distribution and abundance of lobsters throughout the archipelago, and that observers should be placed on all vessels that volunteer for observer coverage during the 1998 season to provide the needed data. Documents describing the issue, alternative solutions, the preferred Council action and anticipated impacts, are being prepared and distributed for review/comment to lobster permit holders and interested parties prior to the meeting. Copies may be obtained from the Council (see ADDRESSES); and

2. American Samoa closed area: Fishermen in American Samoa who are members of the Council's advisory panels have expressed concern about the long-term sustainability of the local small-boat pelagics fishery. In particular, there is concern that large longline vessels will seek new fishing opportunities in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around American Samoa as fisheries in other areas of the U.S. EEZ become increasingly restricted. Such a rapid influx of large vessels occurred in Hawaii during the late 1980s and led to extensive gear conflicts. In addition, there is concern that the large vessels supplying fish to American Samoa's tuna canneries already occasionally fish in the EEZ. A widely held perception among small-scale trollers and longliners is that these larger vessels intercept fish migrating to local waters and reduce the supply of tuna and other pelagic species available for capture by artisanal and recreational fishermen.

The Council was asked at the 92nd meeting in April 1997 to assist in forming a fishermen's working group to consider various management options to ensure the long-term sustainability of the small-boat fishery. Various meetings of the working group and other fishermen were convened by the Council and the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources between June and October

1997. The consensus among fishermen was that the most effective management action would be to close an area around the islands of American Samoa to pelagic fishing vessels longer than 50 ft.

In anticipation of possibly creating such a closed area, the Council established a control date of November 13, 1997, after which vessels larger than 50 ft entering the fishery will not be assured of being allowed to use longline gear to fish for pelagic management unit species within 100 nautical miles of the islands of American Samoa. At its April 1998 meeting, the Council also considered prohibiting other US fishing vessels (e.g. purse seiners, trollers and pole-and-line bait boats) greater than 50 feet in length from fishing for pelagic management unit species within 100 nautical miles of the islands of American Samoa.

The Council will seek to identify all interested persons and organizations and solicit their involvement in discussion of this issue and the proposed actions. In addition, a document presenting the issue will be distributed to all pelagic advisory groups of the Council who have not yet received it, with request for comments. The document will also be distributed to the Council's mailing list associated with the Pelagics Fishery Management Plan, and to all parties who may be affected by the proposed action to solicit their input and to indicate that the Council will take action on this issue at the May 8th meeting. Copies may be obtained from the Council (see ADDRESSES).

The meeting is open to the public and public comments are encouraged.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda, may come before these groups for discussion, according to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Bruce C. 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. 041798A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research permits (1147, 1149) and a request for modification 2 to permit 1011; issuance of scientific research permits (1065, 1114, 1115, 1116)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at Portland, OR (CRITFC) has applied in due form for permits (1147, 1149) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at La Grande, OR (ODFW) has applied in due form for a modification to a permit (1101) that would authorize takes of anadromous fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act for the purpose of scientific research/enhancement.

Notice is also given that NMFS has issued scientific research permits that authorize takes of ESA-listed species for the purpose of scientific research and/or enhancement, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, to: Humboldt Fish Action Council (HFAC) (1065); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW) (1114); Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (PUDCC) (1115); and Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (PUDDC) (1116).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the applications must be received on or before May 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

For permits 1101, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1147, and 1149: Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

For permit 1065: Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 777 Sonoma Avenue Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 (707-575-6050).

All documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permits 1101, 1147, and 1149: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (503-230-5424).