

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

[I.D. 082698C]

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 95th Council meeting.

DATES: The Council meeting will be held on September 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Best Western Pierre Hotel, 105 De Diego Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone: (787) 766-5926; fax: (787) 766-6239.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 95th regular public meeting to discuss the Draft Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment to the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) of the U.S. Caribbean, and will take final action on these items.

The Council will meet on Tuesday, September 29, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral and written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at the Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for address) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: August 31, 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. 082698B]

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on September 14-17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL; telephone: 334-438-4000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Council**

September 14

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.—Receive public testimony on Draft Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment, which identifies and describes essential fish habitat in the Gulf of Mexico for the seven fisheries managed by the Council.

The following is a summary of the Draft EFH Amendment: (1) EFH is identified and described based on areas where various life stages of 21 selected, managed species and the coral complex commonly occur. The selected species are shrimp, red drum, reef fish, coastal migratory pelagic species, stone crab, spiny lobster, and the coral complex; (2) The selected species represent about one-third of the species under management by the Council. Collectively, these species commonly occur throughout all of the marine and estuarine waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Consequently, EFH for the remaining managed species would be included

with that of the species discussed. EFH for the remaining managed species will be further addressed in future fishery management plan (FMP) amendments, as appropriate; (3) EFH is defined as everywhere that the above managed species commonly occur. Because these species collectively occur in all estuarine and marine habitats of the Gulf of Mexico, EFH is separated into estuarine and marine components. For the estuarine component, EFH includes all estuarine waters and substrates (mud, sand, shell, rock, and associated biological communities), including the sub-tidal vegetation (seagrasses and algae) and adjacent inter-tidal vegetation (marshes and mangroves). In the marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico, EFH includes virtually all marine waters and substrates (mud, sand, shell, rock, and associated biological communities) from the shoreline to the seaward limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); (4) Threats to EFH from fishing and nonfishing activities are identified; (5) Options to conserve and enhance EFH are provided and research needs are identified; (6) No management measures and, therefore, no regulations are proposed at this time. Fishing-related management measures to minimize any identified impacts are deferred to future amendments when the Council has the information necessary to decide if the measures are practicable.

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Take final action on the EFH Amendment.

10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Consider the SFA Amendment Options Paper.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.—Receive public testimony on TAC for Vermilion Snapper and Gag.

September 17

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.—Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee Report.

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.—Receive Budget Committee Report.

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Receive Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Committees' Report.

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.—Receive Shrimp Committee Report.

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.—Receive Marckerel Committee Report.

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.—Receive the Tortuga Sanctuary Enforcement Report.

4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.—Receive International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee Meeting Reports.

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.—Receive NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS)/Billfish Advisory Panels (AP) Meeting Report.

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Select a member for the Red Snapper and Reef Fish APs.

5:30 p.m.—Elect a Council chair and vice chair.

September 14

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—Convene the Budget Committee to develop the 1999 Council budget.

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to review and approve changes to the EFH Amendment for consideration by the Council on Wednesday.

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Mackerel/Reef Fish/Red Drum Management Committees to review and approve changes to the EFH Amendment for consideration by the Council on Wednesday.

September 15

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to consider the stock assessment information on vermilion snapper and gag, as well as the recommendations of the Council's scientific advisory groups and advisory panel. The recommendations of the Reef Fish Committee will be considered by the Council on Thursday.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.—Convene a joint meeting of the Reef Fish and Shrimp Committees to review analyses by NMFS on the effectiveness of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in reducing bycatch of juvenile red snapper.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.—Convene a meeting of the Shrimp Committee to review a request by NMFS that the Council begin development of Shrimp Amendment 10. Proposed provisions would include requirements for shrimp vessel permits, logbook reporting, observers, and vessel monitoring systems (VMS). If the Council concurs with this request, the amendment would be developed in 1999.

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Mackerel Management Committee to consider a control date for dolphin (fish) and adding wahoo as a stock for management under the fishery management plan (FMP).

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language

interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jenny Biggs at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by September 4, 1998.

Dated: August 31, 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. 082798D]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory bodies.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet in Seattle, WA, the week of October 5, 1998.

DATES: 1. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 5, continuing through at least Wednesday, October 7, 1998.

2. The Advisory Panel (AP) will begin meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 5, and continue through a portion of Friday, October 9, 1998.

3. The Council will meet jointly with the International Pacific Halibut Commission, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, and begin their regular plenary session at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7, continuing through a portion of Monday, October 12, 1998.

Other workgroup or committee meetings may be held during the week. Notices of these meetings will be posted at the hotel. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council executive sessions, which may be held during the noon hour during the meeting week, if necessary, to discuss personnel, international issues, or litigation.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Doubletree Hotel-Seattle Airport, 18740 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA 98188.

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: The agenda for the Council's joint meeting with the International Pacific Halibut Commission will include reports and discussion of the following subjects: bycatch mortality reduction in groundfish fisheries; halibut community development quota (CDQ) program, halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) program, halibut charterboat management, halibut subsistence, Gulf of Alaska (GOA) coastal community development, and multi-agency ecosystem research.

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 the NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on the current status of the fisheries off Alaska, and enforcement reports from the U.S. Coast Guard and NMFS Enforcement, and a status report on the formation of a social and economic data committee.

2. Final action on proposed amendments to the license limitation program for groundfish and crab.

3. Review of program elements and options for further development of a vessel buyback program for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) crab fisheries.

4. Review of a discussion paper of proposed management measures for the Alaska halibut charterboat fleet, and review of proposals received by the Alaska Board of Fisheries for halibut local area management plans.

5. The Council will review the following issues relating to CDQs:

a. Status report on the multi-species CDQ program.

b. Receive report from the multi-species CDQ Implementation Committee.

c. Receive recommendations for pollock CDQs for 1999-2000 from the State of Alaska.

d. Review and discuss a proposed rule to designate the proper agency to administer the halibut CDQ fisheries.

6. Review current Observer Program and provide direction for development of fee-based program.

7. Status report on Council compliance with the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

8. Final action on proposed amendments to the Sablefish and Halibut IFQ program and receive progress reports on a weighmaster program and the cost recovery fee program.