

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS will hold a public hearing in Hawaii on the island of Oahu to solicit comments on Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996. The hearing supplements those held by the National Research Council (NRC) and/or the NMFS in the other Council regions.

DATES: The public hearing will be held on March 25, 1998 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Ilima Conference Room, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu, HI, 96815, telephone: 808-955-4811.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Karnella, Administrator, Pacific Islands Area Office; telephone 808-973-2937.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Participants will be given five minutes each to provide a statement regarding any aspect of IFQ implementation identified in the study requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. All input will be provided to the NRC to be used in the preparation of its study of a national policy with respect to IFQs.

Dated: February 11, 1998.

William W. Fox, Jr.

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

[FR Doc. 98-3889 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 021098D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a number of public meetings of its oversight committees and advisory panels in March, 1998 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for

formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held between March 3 and March 31, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: Meetings will be held in Peabody and Danvers, MA and Warwick, RI. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Meeting Dates and Agendas**

Tuesday, March 3, 1998, 9:30 a.m.— Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Identification of issues and options, and a review of proposals to meet the stock rebuilding objectives necessary to bring the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) into compliance with the requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA); development of comments on alternative measures to address the overfished condition of Gulf of Maine cod; discussion of other tasks as assigned by the Groundfish Oversight Committee.

Tuesday, March 10, 1998, 9:30 a.m.— Joint Habitat Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting
Location: Peabody Marriott Hotel, 8A Centennial Drive, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 977-9700.

Review of progress on the development of essential fish habitat (EFH) designations for Council-managed species.

Wednesday, March 11, 1998 9:30 a.m.— Groundfish Committee Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Review of Groundfish Advisory Panel and Plan Development Team (PDT) reports, including comments on alternative measures to address the overfished condition of Gulf of Maine cod and the identification of management options requiring PDT analysis; initial identification of management measures to be included in an FMP amendment that meets the SFA requirements; further development of action restricting the use of "streetsweeper" gear.

Thursday, March 12, 1998, 9:30 a.m.— Aquaculture Committee Meeting
Location: Peabody Marriott Hotel, 8A Centennial Drive, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 977-9700.

Consideration of a request to extend the timing of the closure associated with the Westport Sea Scallop Project located south of Martha's Vineyard, MA; discussion of evaluation criteria for projects proposed for the EEZ; development of a framework adjustment process to facilitate Council project approval.

Monday, March 16, 1998, 10 a.m.— Joint Whiting Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting

Location: Tara Ferncroft Conference Resort, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

Discussion of comments received at scoping hearings on whiting, offshore hake and red hake management and the development of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS); consideration of spawning closures and management options for the Cultivator Shoal whiting fishery.

Tuesday, March 17, 1998, 8:30 a.m.— Whiting Committee Meeting

Location: Tara Ferncroft Conference Resort, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

Discussion of comments received at scoping hearings on whiting, offshore hake and red hake management; initial development of a preferred management alternative; identification of analyses necessary to develop a DSEIS.

Tuesday, March 24, 1998, 9:30 a.m.— Groundfish Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Development of final recommendations on management alternatives to address overfishing and bring the Multispecies FMP into compliance with the SFA; further discussions of alternative measures to address the overfished condition of Gulf of Maine cod.

Wednesday, March 25, 1998, 10 a.m.— Monkfish Committee Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Final review of the Monkfish FMP documents prior to Council approval at its next meeting.

Monday, March 30, 1998, 10 a.m. and Tuesday, March 31, 8:30 a.m.— Scallop Committee Meeting

Location: Radisson Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 739-3000.

Approval of management measures to address the requirements of the SFA concerning overfishing for purposes of public hearings; further development of an open/closed area management program, including access to the Georges Bank areas closed for groundfish conservation; further

development of days-at-sea leasing and industry-funded vessel buyout programs.

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

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: February 10, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020998A]

North 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) King and Tanner Crab Plan Team will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 5-6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Historic Federal Building, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Room 229, Anchorage, AK 99501.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell: telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The BSAI King and Tanner Crab fishery management plan team will meet to review an update of the plan and develop an analysis of overfishing definitions for BSAI king and Tanner crab.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 10, 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. 021098E]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Joint Habitat Committee and Habitat and Coral Advisory Panels; Habitat Committee; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Scoping Meeting; Joint Snapper Grouper Committee and Wreckfish Advisory Panel; Snapper Grouper Committee; and Marine Reserves Committee. A Council Session will also be held.

DATES: The meetings will be held from March 2-6, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Jekyll Island Club, 371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA; telephone: (912) 635-2600.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

March 2, 1998, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Mackerel Committee; The Committee will review public hearing and NMFS comments on Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Amendment 9), develop recommended action on measures in Amendment 9, hear the status of Amendment 8 to the FMP for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Amendment 8) and Mackerel Framework actions, and hear a status report on Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel quotas;

March 2, 1998, 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Joint Habitat Committee and Habitat and Coral Advisory Panels;

The Committee and Advisory Panels will review and provide comments on the draft Habitat FMP, hear a summary of the American Fisheries Society report on the impact of fishing gear on habitat, and review and provide comments on the draft Comprehensive Habitat Amendment;

March 3, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon; 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Habitat Committee;

The Committee will develop Committee recommendations on the draft Habitat FMP and Comprehensive Habitat Amendment;

March 3, 1998, 5:00 p.m. until all business is complete—Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Scoping Meeting; The purpose of this scoping meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to express their views on ways to improve commercial and recreational fisheries data collection;

March 4, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Joint Snapper Grouper Committee and Wreckfish Advisory Panel;

The Committee and Advisory Panel will review updated catch data and the Assessment Group report, develop Advisory Panel and Committee recommendations for setting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and other framework measures;

March 4, 1998, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Snapper Grouper Committee;

The Council will develop recommendations regarding approval or disapproval of the Special Management Zone (SMZ) requests; *March 4, 1998, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*—Snapper Grouper Committee;

The Committee will hear the scamp stock assessment report, hear the updated trends and spawning potential ratio analysis, review and take action on the Assessment Group report, and review the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary request; A closed session will also be held to develop recommendations for membership on