

Location: Conference Room, Ponce Hilton Hotel, 1150 Ave. Caribe, Ponce, PR

Thursday, May 20, 1999 -- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room, Villa Parguera Hotel, 304 St., Km. 3.3, La Parguera, Lajas, PR

Thursday, May 20, 1999 -- 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room, Joyuda Beach Hotel, Rd. 102, Bo. Joyuda, Cabo Rojo, PR

Friday, May 21, 1999 -- 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Centro Comunal of Barrio Jarealito, Arecibo, PR

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold a series of fact finding meetings in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to obtain input from fishery and the general public on possible management measures proposed by, among others, Project Reef Keeper and some concerned citizens. The first of the proposed measures is the phasing out of fish traps in around ten years. The idea here is to avoid the damage to the reef and fish species when traps are deployed on top of reefs, and when these are lost continuing killing fish for a long time. The Council has not taken a position on this or any of the measures that are to be discussed at the meetings. The other two measures the Council need comments on are the banning of gill nets and the prohibition to use SCUBA gear to fish for queen conch, lobster and some reef fishes, the commercial and/or recreational fisheries. The proponents of these measures believe that the use of gill nets is jeopardizing the recovery of the already over-exploited resources. Furthermore, there is the notion that SCUBA is the main reason why the stocks of queen conch and lobster are so depleted. The Council wishes to find more information on these important and drastic measures before the preparation of an option paper that could initiate the process of development of amendments to the fishery management plans to ban any of these methods of fishing 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 Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, PR 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 22, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-10637 Filed 4-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042199E]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Oversight Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel in May, 1999 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 meeting will be held on May 11, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Peabody, MA. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agenda

Tuesday, May 11, 1999, 9:30 a.m.— Groundfish Oversight Committee and

Groundfish Advisory Panel Joint Meeting

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

The committee and panel will review draft proposals and analysis for Framework Adjustment 31 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and recommend a preferred alternative for consideration by the Council at its

May 26-27 meeting. Framework Adjustment 31 would modify the FMP regulations pertaining to the Georges Bank cod fishery, including: a proposal for vessels to take a 30-day block out of the multispecies fishery during each quarter; reductions in the allowable number of hooks used by hook vessels and gillnets used by Day Gillnet category vessels; increasing the minimum size of cod to 21 inches; and eliminating the "running clock" provision of the Gulf of Maine cod trip limit program. The committee and panel will also discuss and advise the Council on issues and measures to be included in a public hearing document for Amendment 13 to the FMP, including but not limited to: management of the recreational and party/charter fishery, management policy and strategy for the commercial fishery, action to rebuild all stocks in the fishery management unit as needed under new overfishing definitions; managing fleet fishing capacity, including possible implementation of a two-tier permit system to address latent fishing permits; proposals for industry support systems involving scientific research and conservation engineering programs; modification of the annual adjustment schedule and possible change to the fishing year; the use of electronic vessel monitoring systems (VMS); and other issues that may be identified during the scoping process.

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 sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least five days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: April 22, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-10636 Filed 4-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042199F]

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 May, 1999 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 May 13 and May 24, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: Meetings will be held in Peabody and E. Boston, MA. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Thursday, May 13, 1999, 10:00 a.m.—
Joint NEFMC/ASMFC Herring Advisors Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Route 1, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600; fax: (978) 535-8238

Development of advisory panel recommendations on limited entry, controlled access, and recommendations on the establishment of a control date for the Atlantic herring fishery; other business.

Monday, May 24, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—
Scallop Committee Meeting.

Location: Holiday Inn Boston Logan Airport, 225 McClellan Highway, East Boston, MA 02128, telephone: (617) 569-5250; fax: (617) 561-0971

The committee will identify problems and issues to be addressed by Amendment 10 and evaluate research proposals that would utilize the scallop TAC set-aside from Closed Area II.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, these issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: April 22, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-10638 Filed 4-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041699C]

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting to coordinate with state artificial reef program coordinators on the review and consideration of establishing artificial reefs as marine fishery reserves, or "artificial refugia" in the South Atlantic.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 13, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Florida Marine Research Institute, 100 8th Avenue, SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; telephone: 717-896-8626.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by May 6, 1999.

Dated: April 22, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-10640 Filed 4-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042199D]

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 Management Council's (Council) Pelagics Plan Team (PPT) members will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 12-14, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council office.

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: The PPT meeting will discuss and may make recommendations to the Council on the following agenda items:

1. Pelagic fisheries annual report modules;
2. 1st quarter 1999 Hawaii and American Samoa longline fishery report;
3. Shark incidental catch in the Hawaii longline fishery, and issues related to shark finning and commercial gears used to catch sharks;