

convene a public meeting of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP).

**DATES:** This meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 20, and conclude by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The RFSAP will convene to review stock assessments on the status of the red snapper stock and the red grouper stock in the Gulf of Mexico prepared by NMFS. The RFSAP will also evaluate new information on gag biology that had been presented to the Council during its development of the revised Regulatory Amendment to Set 1999 Gag/Black Grouper Management Measures. This new information includes reports prepared by Dr. Chris Koenig (Florida State University, Dr. Robert Chapman (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) and other academic and state scientists, plus an evaluation and response to the analyses prepared for Southeastern Fisheries Association by Dr. Trevor Kenchington (Gadus Associates) and other independent scientists retained by Dr. Kenchington.

Based on its review of the red snapper and red grouper stock assessments, the RFSAP may recommend a range of allowable biological catch (ABC) for 2000, and may recommend management measures to achieve the ABC. In addition, the RFSAP will review the adequacy of recent biological information presented to the Council on gag that was used by the Council in its recent management decisions.

The RFSAP is composed of biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics. They advise the Council on the status of stocks and, when necessary, recommend a level of ABC needed to prevent overfishing or to effect a recovery of an overfished stock. They may also recommend catch restrictions needed to attain management goals.

The conclusions of the RFSAP will be reviewed by the Council's Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Red Snapper Advisory Panel (RSAP), and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (RFAP) at meetings to be held in late October, 1999. Red grouper is a component of the

shallow-water grouper complex (which consists of red grouper, gag, yellowfin grouper, black grouper, scamp, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, and red hind). The Council may set a year 2000 total allowable catch (TAC) for the red grouper component of the shallow-water grouper complex and red snapper. The Council may also consider other management measures at its meeting in Lake Buena Vista, FL on November 8-11, 1999.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the Panel 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 the agenda listed as available by this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by September 13, 1999.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-23223 Filed 9-3-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 083199C]

#### 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 Herring Advisory Panel in September, 1999. Recommendations from the advisors will be brought to the Herring Oversight Committee and full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate. This will be a joint meeting with the Herring Industry Advisory Panel of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

**DATES:** The meeting will held on Friday, September 17, 1999 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Sheraton South Portland Hotel, 363

Maine Mall Road, South Portland, ME 04106, telephone: (207) 775-6161.

**Council address:** New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The advisors will elect a chair and vice-chair. They will also discuss various options for developing a controlled access program for the Atlantic herring fishery. The advisors may discuss other herring management issues, including spawning area closures and gear interactions.

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

This meeting is 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: August 31, 1999.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-23224 Filed 9-3-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082599D]

#### Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Coral Reef Ecosystem Plan Team (Plan Team) and its Ecosystem and Habitat Advisory Panel (Advisory Panel) in Honolulu, HI. The meeting will also include a public hearing on the management alternatives being considered for implementation in the

Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and being analyzed in an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**DATES:** Both meetings will be held on September 15–17, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Written comments, on the range of alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, will be accepted on or before September 10, 1999, which marks the end of the public scoping period under the National Environmental Policy Act (as per previous notice). The public hearing on the management alternatives will be held on September 17, 1999, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Council office conference rooms, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, 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:** The Plan Team and Advisory Panel will discuss and make recommendations to the Council on the agenda items below. The order in which agenda items will be addressed can change.

*8:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

(Contractors and staff will present the following topics from the latest draft of the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP to both the Plan Team and Advisory Panel, meeting jointly on this day:)

1. Introduction to the FMP
  - A. Ecosystem management
  - B. Geographic context
  - C. Scope of management
2. Description of the fisheries
  - A. History of exploitation
  - B. Fishing methods and current use patterns
3. Description of threats/management issues
  - A. Inadequate resource base
  - B. Lack of effective enforcement
  - C. Lack of coordinated, comprehensive management
4. Management objectives and programs
  - A. Proposed (and rejected) management alternatives (and ecological/biological, social/economic, and cultural impacts)
    - (1) Fishing permit
    - (2) Marine protected areas
    - (3) Restrictions of gear and methods

- (4) Framework provisions
  - B. Proposed non-regulatory measures
5. Description of the resource ecosystem
  - A. Fishery management unit (FMU)
  - B. Biology
  - C. Present condition of components of the FMU
  - D. Probable condition of FMU components in the future
6. Proposed designations for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
  - A. Description of EFH and EFH designations for management unit species/taxa
  - B. Habitat areas of particular concern
  - C. Fishing and non-fishing impacts to EFH
  - D. Cumulative impacts and research needs
7. Sustainable Fisheries Act determinations
  - A. Description of commercial, recreational and charter fishing sectors
  - B. Impacts on fishing communities
  - C. Overfishing definitions and criteria
  - D. Bycatch

8. Relationship to existing laws and policies
  - A. Other fishery management plans
  - B. Treaties or international agreements
  - C. Federal laws and policies
  - D. State, local and other applicable laws and policies
9. Future needs
  - A. Research, monitoring and assessment
  - B. Development of fishery resources

*8:30 a.m. Thursday, September 16, 1999*

10. Plan Team and Advisory Panel meet separately to discuss and make recommendations on the topics presented on the first day

*8:30 a.m. Friday, September 17, 1999*

11. Plan Team and Advisory Panel continue to discuss and develop independent recommendations on the above topics

A. Summary of Plan Team recommendations to Council on draft FMP

B. Summary of Advisory Panel recommendations to Council on draft FMP

12. Other business

- A. Scheduling of next Plan Team meeting
- B. Scheduling of next Advisory Panel meeting

*2:00 p.m.*

13. Public hearing on management alternatives (Plan Team and Advisory Panel meeting jointly).

Although other issues not listed in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal discussion during these meeting. 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 Kitty M. Simonds, 808–522–8220 (voice) or 808–522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99–23225 Filed 9–3–99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082699F]

### Marine Mammals; Photography Permit (File No. 867–1525)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Moana Productions, Inc., 311 Portlock Road, Honolulu, HI 96825, has applied in due form for a permit to take several species of non-threatened, non-endangered small cetaceans for purposes of commercial photography.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before October 7, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713–2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213 (310/980–4001); and