

3. April 4, 1995, 7 p.m., Little Washington, Department of Environmental, Health and Natural Resources, 1424 Carolina Avenue, Washington, NC; and

4. April 5, 1995, 5 p.m., Grand Hotel, Oceanfront and Philadelphia Avenue, Cape May, NJ.

Atlantic sea scallop stocks are over-exploited and at low levels of abundance. Amendment 4 to the FMP was implemented on March 1, 1994 (59 FR 12, January 19, 1994), and was intended to eliminate overfishing through an incremental effort reduction program, gear modifications such as ring and mesh size increases, and other measures. It was also expected that the number of limited access vessels would remain stable for the duration of the 7-year schedule.

Amendment 4 to the FMP states that vessels with a DAS allocation of 150 days per year will yield revenues that are insufficient, on average, to cover the fixed costs for vessels larger than 50 gross registered tons. A DAS allocation of 150 days is projected for year 4 or 5 of the 7-year schedule, depending on the initial fishing mortality rate. The amendment further states that if recruitment falls to what is considered to be average or below average levels, many vessel operations will become uneconomic, regardless of the management in place at that time. During 1994, the first year of effort reduction under Amendment 4, recruitment has been below average. The result has been a request by scallop advisors to redistribute DAS among the remaining vessels. The amendment will not do this until the pause in DAS reductions, which is scheduled for the third year. The consolidation of DAS is expected to allow the remaining vessels to remain economically viable.

The Council's Scallop Industry Advisory Committee believes that consolidation is needed as soon as possible to minimize financial failures caused by present and future reductions in DAS and poor scallop stock conditions.

The Council is in the process of identifying management alternatives to achieve these goals. The current range of options includes, but is not limited to, a private program to buy back vessels, a government buy-back program, limits on total allowable catch with individual transferrable quotas, transferrable DAS, a use-it-or-lose-it provision under which vessels that do not use their DAS or quota allocation will lose their scallop permits, and a prohibition on shellstocking.

The Council expects that proposed regulations implementing the

recommendations of the industry advisors may have significant economic and social effects. The Council recognizes that these effects will extend beyond the individuals, families and communities that principally depend on scallops to other fisheries in the region, due to the displacement of fishing effort caused by the scallop regulations. This displacement could also potentially affect the status of these other fishery stocks. For this reason the Council has determined that it will hold scoping meetings to determine whether or not an SEIS is appropriate.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 15, 1995.

David S. Crestin,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[I.D. 031595B]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Committee Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The industry implementation team for the Sablefish and Halibut Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program will hold a meeting, on April 5-6, 1995, at the NMFS Regional office, 709 W. 9th Street, Juneau, AK.

The agenda for the meeting will include the following subjects:

1. Amount of IFQ fish that can be retained onboard in a particular area,
2. Clarification of "prelanding written clearance" and "preclearance reports" requirements,
3. Coordination of the IFQ Program and Research Plan,
4. Vessel and use caps,
5. Certified mail requirement,
6. Sub-leasing of quota shares or IFQs,
7. Shipping report problems,
8. Clarification that vessel caps do not include Community Development Quota allocations,
9. Transshipment reports, and
10. Overage provision.

The Implementation Team will provide a written report of the meeting to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council at its meeting the week of April 17, 1995, in Anchorage.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane DiCosimo, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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: March 16, 1995.

David S. Crestin,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[I.D. 031595A]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold meetings, April 3-7, 1995, at the Red Lion Hotel Columbia River, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 283-2111.

Council Meetings

On April 4, the Council will meet in a closed session (not open to the public) to discuss personnel matters and litigation from 8:00-8:30 a.m. The open session will begin at 8:30 a.m. on April 4, and each day thereafter at 8:00 a.m., and may continue into the evening hours, if necessary, to complete business.

The following items are included on the Council's agenda:

A. Call To Order

1. Opening remarks, introductions, roll call; and
2. Approval of proposed agenda.

B. Salmon Management

1. Tentative adoption of 1995 ocean salmon management measures for Salmon Technical Team analysis;
2. Methodology reviews;
3. Clarification of tentative 1995 measures, if necessary;
4. Update of Council salmon management cycle; and
5. Final action on 1995 measures, including specification of a halibut to chinook ratio in the 1995 troll fishery.

C. Habitat Issues

Consider recommendation of the habitat steering group.