

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director;
telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

March 12

1:30 p.m.—Convene to receive public testimony.

1:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Receive final public testimony on Draft Reef Fish Amendment 13 extending the red snapper endorsement system, Red Snapper Regulatory Amendment and Draft Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 8. (NOTE: Testimony cards must be turned in to staff before the start of public testimony).

March 13

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.—Reconvene to continue public testimony.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Final Council Action on Draft Mackerel Amendment 8.

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.—Reconvene to continue Final Council Action on Draft Mackerel Amendment 8.

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Receive a report of the Personnel Committee (CLOSED SESSION).

March 14

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—Reconvene to receive a report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.—Receive a report of the Habitat Protection Management Committee.

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.—Receive a report of the Ad Hoc Communications Committee.

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.—Receive a report of the Red Drum Management Committee.

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.—Discuss issues related to the Bycatch Amendment.

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.—Receive report of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Working Groups.

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Receive South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Liaison Report.

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.—Receive Enforcement and Director's reports.

12:15 pm. - 12:30 p.m.—Other business to be discussed.

Committees

March 11

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Convene the Habitat Protection Management Committee.

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.—Convene the Ad Hoc Communications Committee.

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Hold a public workshop on fish traps.

March 12

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 March 4, 1996.

Dated: February 14, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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[I.D. 021396B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

DATES: The meeting will begin on Tuesday, February 27, 1996, at 10 a.m. and on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tara Ferncroft Conference Resort, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (617) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Douglas G. Marshall, Executive Director,
(617) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

February 27, 1996

The February 27, 1996, session will begin with a report on the 21st Stock Assessment Workshop presented by the staff of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Analyses will be reviewed for the following species/stocks: Long-finned squid (*Loligo*); short-finned squid (*Illex*), Atlantic herring, winter flounder, and the northeast multispecies complex. Reports will be presented by the Council Chairman; Executive Director; Director, Northeast Regional Office; Northeast Fisheries Science Center; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; U.S. Coast Guard; and the Mid-Atlantic Council Liaison. The Council's Scallop Oversight Committee

(Committee) will review and possibly recommend approval of a plan amendment to establish a temporary experimental use area 10 miles (18.52 km) south of Martha's Vineyard for sea scallop research, enhancement, and aquaculture. The Committee will also review a draft public hearing document on a proposed plan amendment to allow the consolidation of days-at-sea now allocated to individual scallop vessels. The day will conclude with a discussion of proposed legislation for highly migratory species management.

February 28, 1996

On February 28, 1996, the Monkfish Committee will present an update on management measures, including the overfishing definitions. The Groundfish Committee will discuss the proposed rule for Amendment 7 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) followed by a discussion of groundfish management priorities. Issues include:

1. Additional framework adjustments to the FMP: (a) Alternatives to the Amendment 7 default measures for effort reductions in the sink gillnet fishery and for the Gulf of Maine area closures, (b) a requirement that fishermen exempted from effort controls under Amendment 5 take a 20-day block of time off from harvesting groundfish during the March through May spawning period for 1996 only, (c) implementation of a square-mesh requirement for trawl gear, and (d) reconsideration of the measure to apply groundfish fleet days-at-sea to vessels using nets to harvest sea scallops.

2. A plan amendment to address management of the whiting fishery.

3. The consolidation of fishing effort in the groundfish fleet and the development of gear based management options. The Council will address any other outstanding business at the conclusion of the agenda items described above.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Request for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Douglas G. Marshall (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February, 15, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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