DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622
[I.D. 082096D]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of a fishery management plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted the Fishery Management Plan for Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (FMP) for review, approval, and implementation by NMFS. Written comments are requested from the public.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Georgi A. Cranmore, 813-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) requires that each regional fishery management council submit any fishery management plan or amendment it prepares to NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce for review. The Magnuson Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving the plan or amendment for review, immediately make a preliminary evaluation of whether the amendment is sufficient to warrant continued review and publish a notice that the plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the plan or amendment.

Amendment 5, if approved, would: (1) Close a 9 mi² (23.31 km²) site to mobile fishing gear and partially close the site to non-mobile gear for an 18-month period, and (2) temporarily exempt certain vessels from fishing regulations.

Day 1 of Amendment 5 is August 22, 1996. Proposed regulations to implement this amendment are scheduled to be published in the Federal Register within 15 days of this date.

Dated: August 23, 1996.


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50 CFR Part 648
[I.D. 082296B]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery (FMP) for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public. Amendment 5 would temporally close a 9 mi² (23.31 km²) site to support a scallop aquaculture research project. The intended effect of the closure would be to prevent conflicts between fishing gear and project equipment for the limited duration of the research project.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 21, 1996.

Dated: August 23, 1996.


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