

organizations, academia, and the general public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Services Coastal Services Center is a coastal resource advisory center that draws on the expertise of NOAA and its partners to address critical coastal resource issues. Established in 1994, in Charlestown, South Carolina, the Center's mission is to identify, develop, and facilitate the use of technologies and information that support sustainable use and management of coastal resources. The Coastal Services Center bridges the gap between coastal scientists and resource managers by bringing Center staff, technologies, and outside partner expertise to bear on national problems related to coastal ecosystems and economies. The Center focuses primarily on issues of resource management, land use impacts, and habitat loss as well as coastal hazards and cumulative secondary impacts of coastal development. Clients of the Coastal Services Center include coastal resource managers, policy makers, scientists, environmental organizations, coastal and marine science educators, and private business people. The Center delivers information to the coastal resource community through advisory services, Internet World Wide Web service, information bases, summary reports, training workshops, short courses, conferences, seminars, fact sheets and publications.

The Graduate School of Oceanography of the University of Rhode Island is one of the largest and most widely known graduate schools of oceanography in the United States. It has joined with NOAA as a partner in establishing a national coastal data network because it has particular strengths in coastal oceanography and in distributed ocean data systems, has one of the largest marine science libraries in the world, and is the location of the Sea Grant Depository. The University has been a national Sea Grant College since 1971, and in 1989 it was designated a NOAA Center of Excellence in coastal marine science.

Dated: January 9, 1997.

Ronald L. Fauquet,

*Deputy Director, National Oceanographic Data Center.*

[FR Doc. 97-891 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

[I.D. 010797C]

### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Committee Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Halibut Subsistence Committee will hold a meeting in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 22, 1997, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the University of Alaska, Observer Training Center, 707 A Street, Room 205, Anchorage, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jane DiCosimo; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Halibut Subsistence Committee was appointed by the Council to review existing halibut regulations as they pertain to subsistence users and provide the Council with advice and direction on regulation of halibut subsistence fisheries. This first meeting will include discussions of:

1. Eligible users;
2. Eligible communities;
3. Qualifying gear; and
4. Minimum size of halibut.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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: January 9, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-1008 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 010797B]

### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Committee Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Joint Committee of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and North

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 19, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the University of Alaska, Observer Training Center, 707 A Street, Room 205, Anchorage, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jane DiCosimo, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Joint Committee of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Council was appointed to develop a protocol for future groundfish management off Alaska. This meeting will include discussions of:

1. October 1996 Board action to develop a state water Pacific cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska;
2. December 1996 Council discussion of Board action;
3. Other groundfish fisheries under joint management; and
4. Development of recommendations to the Board and Council for a protocol for joint review of future groundfish management proposals.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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: January 9, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-1009 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 010797E]

### 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Salmon Technical Team will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 1997, and will continue from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day through January 24, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Council office in Portland, OR.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. John Coon, Salmon Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is a work session of the Salmon Technical Team to draft the 1997 stock status report, "Preseason I: Stock abundance Analysis for 1996 Ocean Salmon Fisheries." The final report will be distributed to the public and reviewed by the Council at its March meeting in Portland, OR.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric W. Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 9, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-1006 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 010797D]

#### South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Teleconference

**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 of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (Committee) and the ad hoc Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) Advisory Panel (AP) via conference call. The Committee and AP will provide additional technical recommendations on the development of a BRD testing protocol. This protocol will specify minimum data requirements, outline a basic experimental design, and recommend a statistical technique for testing and analyzing new or modified BRDs.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 27, 1997, at 2:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The following two listening locations will be provided to allow the public to hear the Committee and Advisory Panels' deliberations on the BRD testing protocol:

1. Charleston, SC—South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One

Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; telephone: (803) 571-4366.

2. St. Petersburg, FL—NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702; telephone: (813) 570-4301.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520; email: susan\_buchanan@safmc.nmfs.gov

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is 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 January 20, 1997.

Dated: January 9, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-1007 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

#### Final Certification for the Consolidation of 70 Weather Service Offices (WSOs)

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On January 2, 1997 the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere approved and transmitted 70 consolidation certifications to Congress.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 15, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the final consolidation certification packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 70 consolidation certifications were comprised of three groups as described and listed below. The first group, consisting of 42 consolidations, were proposed and the 60-day public comment period commenced upon publication of three Federal Register notices between December 1995 and February 1996. There were no public comments received. The Modernization Transition Committee (MTC) considered and endorsed these 42 consolidation certifications at its April 24, 1996 meeting, concluding that these certifications would not result in any degradation of service.

- (1) Akron, OH
- (2) Atlantic City, NJ
- (3) Apalachicola, FL
- (4) Baltimore, MD
- (5) Bristol, TN
- (6) Cape Hatteras, NC
- (7) Columbus, OH
- (8) Concord, NH
- (9) Colorado Springs, CO
- (10) Concordia, KS
- (11) Dayton, OH
- (12) Daytona Beach, FL
- (13) Del Rio, TX
- (14) Detroit, MI
- (15) Grand Island, NE
- (16) Harrisburg, PA
- (17) Hartford, CT
- (18) Havre, MT
- (19) Helena, MT
- (20) Kansas City, MO
- (21) Knoxville, TN
- (22) Lynchburg, VA
- (23) Mansfield, OH
- (24) Moline, IL
- (25) New York City, NY
- (26) Norfolk, VA
- (27) Pensacola, FL
- (28) Port Arthur, TX
- (29) Portland, ME
- (30) Providence, RI
- (31) Raleigh, NC
- (32) Richmond, VA
- (33) Roanoke, VA
- (34) Rockford, IL
- (35) Toledo, OH
- (36) Tupelo, MS
- (37) Waco, TX
- (38) West Palm Beach, FL
- (39) Williamsport, PA
- (40) Wilmington, DE
- (41) Worcester, MA
- (42) Youngstown, OH

The second group, consisting of 18 consolidations, were proposed and the 60-day public comment period commenced upon publication of two Federal Register notices in between March and April 1996. Two public comments were received; one with regard to WSO Bakersfield, CA and one with regard to WSO Indianapolis, IN. These comments and responses are set forth here for reference.

*Comment:* A comment from Sean Boyd, KSEE 24 Television, Fresno, California questioned the WSR-88D precipitation algorithm. He stated, "Initially, I have concerns, which were unfounded, about the potential health hazards for those in close proximity to the WSR-88D. Those concerns have long been put to rest now. There is no question that the WSR-88D is the finest tool to date for the detection of severe weather, and for precipitation estimates. Regarding the former: severe weather in central California is rare; however the rules for such episodes are different