

recordkeeping requirements,  
Transportation.

Dated: January 14, 1997

H. Dale Hall,

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish  
and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 011397B]

#### 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 be held on  
Wednesday, January 29, 1997, at 10  
a.m., and on Thursday, January 30,  
1997, at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at  
the King's Grant Inn, Route 128 and  
Trask Lane, 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:** Paul  
J. Howard, Executive Director, New

England Fishery Management Council,  
(617) 231-0422.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

January 29, 1997

After introductions, the January 29  
session will begin with a report on the  
23rd Stock Assessment Workshop  
presented by the staff of the Northeast  
Fisheries Science Center. Analyses will  
be reviewed for the following species/  
stocks: Atlantic sea scallops, monkfish,  
and bluefish.

At the afternoon session and on the  
following day, the Council will consider  
action on framework adjustments to the  
Fishery Management Plan for the  
Northeast Multispecies Fishery (FMP)  
under the framework for abbreviated  
rulemaking procedure contained in 50  
CFR 648.90. This will be the final  
meeting to discuss and vote on  
Framework Adjustment 20 to the FMP  
(stock rebuilding measures for 1997).  
The range of options under  
consideration include area closures,  
gear modifications, and possible  
reductions in days-at-sea allocations. As  
part of this action, the Council will  
discuss effort reduction measures for  
gillnet vessels and alternatives to the  
current haddock trip limit. Measures to  
protect the 1992 year class of winter  
flounder also will be discussed and  
included in this action. Other  
adjustments included in Framework  
Adjustment 20 would allow operation of  
mussel dredges in Southern New  
England and would modify the bycatch  
allowances in the northern shrimp  
fishery.

January 30, 1997

The January 30 session will begin  
with reports from the Council  
Chairman, Executive Director, NMFS

Northeast Regional Administrator  
(Regional Administrator), Northeast  
Fisheries Science Center, Mid-Atlantic  
Council Liaisons, representatives of the  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries  
Commission and the U.S. Coast Guard.  
NMFS will follow with a briefing on the  
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
Conservation and Management Act  
requirements concerning essential fish  
habitat.

In the afternoon, the Council will  
hold the final meeting on a framework  
adjustment to consider measures that  
would restrict fixed gear in the Great  
South Channel area to protect right  
whales in critical habitat during high  
use periods.

There will be a review of the  
Monkfish Committee's discussions on  
the Draft Environmental Impact  
Statement and the Draft FMP  
Amendment dealing with monkfish.

The day will conclude with a  
discussion on the use of negotiated  
rulemaking to resolve gear conflicts in  
the highly migratory species fisheries.  
Any other outstanding business will  
also be discussed.

#### 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 date.

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

Dated: January 16, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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