

significantly. Abundance estimates from the more recent years are variable, and a significant statistical trend, either increasing or decreasing, could not be detected.

Current Management Measures

NMFS recently implemented regulations to reduce commercial quotas and recreational bag limits to address the overfished status of large coastal sharks and to prevent overfishing of the fully fished pelagic and small coastal sharks (62 FR 16648). NMFS is currently considering a limited access program to address overcapacity in the shark fishery fleet (61 FR 68202).

Management Measures Under Consideration

NMFS will consider additional measures for 1998 and beyond for managing the Atlantic shark fishery. These measures may include minimum size restrictions, time/area closures to protect nursery areas, regional quotas, consistency between state and federal regulations, species-specific management, authorized gear restrictions, and a long-term rebuilding program. Consistent with the recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is establishing an advisory panel to assist in the development of the amendment to the FMP.

NMFS has determined that an SEIS is appropriate, due to the potentially significant impact of upcoming regulations on the human environment and because changes have occurred in the fishery since the last EIS was prepared in 1993. Participants in the fishery, including processors, may be required to operate under alternative management measures that will redistribute fishing effort and/or mortality in order to facilitate recovery of shark resources.

Timing of the Analysis and Tentative Decisionmaking Schedule

Written comments on the intent to prepare the EIS will be accepted until July 21, 1997. Comments will be considered in the preparation of a draft SEIS (DSEIS) as part of a FMP amendment addressing a long-term rebuilding program and other measures.

Dated: March 21, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 97-13159 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051297D]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of committee meetings.

SUMMARY: Two committees of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet June 4-6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, in the Observer Training Room, Building 4, Seattle, WA 98115.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Oliver, telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Insurance Technical Committee (relative to observer insurance coverage) will meet on June 4, 1997, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to discuss a recent Federal Employees Compensation Act designation for observers contained within the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other related insurance considerations.

The Observer Oversight Committee will meet on June 5, 1997, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will continue through June 6, 1997, as necessary. Agenda subjects for the meeting include:

1. An update on the current interim observer program, including a rollover of that program for at least another year, with minor revisions.
2. Discussions of potential alternatives to the existing program.

Special Accommodations

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: May 14, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 97-13164 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051297C]

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel (Habitat AP).

DATES: The meeting will be held from May 28-29, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: 803-571-1000.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

May 28, 1997, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Habitat AP will meet to discuss previous advisory panel recommendations; to review the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) mandate in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and formulate AP recommendations for how the Council can meet these mandates; to review and make AP recommendations on the major provisions in the EFH Proposed Rule and the Technical Assistance Manual; to discuss marine biodiversity and how the Council may address it.

May 29, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Habitat AP will meet to discuss and specify major habitat types for the Council Habitat Plan and Policy Statement development, including coral, coral reefs and live/hard bottom habitat; mangrove, seagrass, and wetland habitats; oyster/shell habitat; and sargassum habitat. The AP will discuss other business before adjourning.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 May 21, 1997.

Dated: May 14, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 97-13165 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

Notice of Public Meeting on the Proposed Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT)

SUMMARY: The Technology Administration will hold an open meeting on June 16, 1997 to solicit input on the proposed Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) from representatives of state and local government, universities, and the private- and non-profit sectors, who are involved with technology development, diffusion, commercialization, and using technology to promote economic growth. The purpose of the meeting is to determine what activities are currently being conducted in the states to foster technology-based economic growth and how a new competitive, cost-shared federal grant program with the mission of fostering the development of indigenous technology assets in states that are traditionally under represented in Federal R&D funding could be structured. The following states would currently be eligible to participate in the EPSCoT: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 16, 1997 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Billings Hotel in Billings, Montana. Individuals wishing to attend the meeting should contact Maureen Wood, Office of the Under Secretary for Technology, at (202) 482-1091 by close of business June 12, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marc Cummings, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce at (202) 482-8323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Technology Administration (TA) is

proposing a new, competitive, matching grant program called the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) to foster the development of indigenous technology assets in states that traditionally have been under represented in the distribution of Federal R&D expenditures.

Technology is the engine of economic growth and, as such, its development, deployment, and diffusion are critical to U.S. competitiveness. Although it is often said that nations do not compete, companies do, it is apparent that sub-national units—regions within states and clusters of states—do compete, not simply with one another, but also internationally. This is because in a global economy, capital, labor, and technology are increasingly mobile and they are attracted to regions with the most promising opportunities. To this end, regional policies and infrastructures play a large role in determining both where companies locate and their ability to be competitive in a global marketplace.

Commerce Department research shows that firms that adopt advanced technologies create more jobs at higher wages than those that do not. Furthermore, regions that boast concentrations of high-tech industries enjoy high growth rates and standards of living. Regions thus compete to attract federal research facilities, private investment, and skilled labor. Recent research suggests that a region's technological infrastructure is among the most important factors that businesses consider when making location decisions. Accordingly, regions are searching for strategies to attract and retain high-tech firms and the jobs that they bring. These strategies may involve building on existing strengths at research universities, providing extension services to local businesses, or integrating existing business assistance resources, but ultimately their success is contingent upon an institutional capacity to support technology-based economic development.

In the Federal government's efforts to foster competitiveness, it must ensure that all regions of the nation develop the necessary infrastructure to support indigenous technology development. Most less populated states, whose manufacturers tend to be small- and medium-sized, are at a competitive disadvantage because there is generally no research base on which local businesses can build. The EPSCoT seeks to remedy this disadvantage.

The EPSCoT seeks to build on the NSF's successful Experimental Program

to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) which was established in 1979 to stimulate sustainable improvements in the quality of the academic science and technology infrastructure of states that traditionally have been under represented in receiving federal R&D funds. Within these states, the EPSCoR's primary emphasis is on improving the competitive performance of major research universities. By focusing on building the science base of these regions, primarily in universities, the EPSCoR has successfully strengthened the research capacity of universities in these states; yet, there remains a technology "gap."

Improving the competitive performance of universities, which is an essential component of a successful technology-based economy, is often not sufficient to establish new companies, develop new job opportunities or raise the standard of living.

This why the Department of Commerce proposes to create an EPSCoT—the technology counterpart to the EPSCoR. EPSCoT would help to bridge the gap between university research and the local economy. It would develop essential economic development tools to foster regional technology-based economic growth. The program would stimulate the development of indigenous technological infrastructure and institutional capabilities of states through a variety of means, including outreach activities, technology development and deployment, technology transfer, education and training, and better linking universities, firms, and state and local governments.

Dated: May 14, 1997.

Mary Good,

Under Secretary for Technology.

[FR Doc. 97-13094 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China

May 15, 1997.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).