

display, translocated animals (non-shrimp), and natural spread (e.g., migratory birds, large scale currents, flooding).

In 1995, Taura Syndrome Virus (TVS) was documented in shrimp culture ponds in Texas. After the Texas outbreak, ponds were restocked with shrimp seed native to the Gulf of Mexico. However, some of the shrimp in the second stocking were later found infected with other pathogenic viruses (e.g., White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and Yellow Head virus (YHV), only previously identified in shrimp imported from the far east. In 1996, a repeat outbreak of TSV was documented. In 1997, YHV and WSSV were identified (based on very limited data) in South Carolina. These outbreaks have raised concerns that viruses could be spread from aquaculture facilities to the wild shrimp stocks in U.S. coastal waters, with potentially serious implications.

To determine the likelihood and the potential impacts of exotic shrimp viruses on wild shrimp populations in the Gulf of Mexico and Southeastern U.S. Atlantic Coastal Waters and on cultured shrimp in aquaculture in these areas, the JSA has decided to conduct an ecological risk assessment. (The JSA consists of representatives from several Federal organizations, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). In support of information exchange and education, and to determine any necessary course of action to avert the introduction of pathogenic viruses, the JSA tasked a Federal interagency work group (Shrimp Virus Work Group; SVWG) with identifying research on shrimp viruses, the mode of virus transmission, and the potential for the introduction of these viruses into the Gulf of Mexico and Southeastern U.S. Atlantic Coastal Waters. The SVWG helped to organize and participated in a shrimp virus workshop in New Orleans, LA, in June 1996. Recently, the SVWG prepared a shrimp virus report that summarizes readily-available risk-relevant information on shrimp viruses. This report has been approved by the JSA and is available to the public for comment.

Comments on the shrimp virus report received from the public (whether in writing or at the public meetings) will be used as input to a workshop that will help finalize plans for conducting a shrimp virus ecological risk assessment.

Meeting Locations and Times : July 15, in Charleston, South Carolina; July 21, in Mobile, Alabama; and July 23, in

Brownsville, Texas. There is no charge for attending the public meetings listed above; however, seats are limited, so it is advisable to register as soon as possible. Participants wishing to make comments or address issues can register with ERG prior to the workshop, or on site. Each participant will be assigned a time slot on a first-come, first-served basis. Individual comments should be limited to 3 to 5 minutes; additional or lengthy comments may be submitted in writing to the address provided above.

Dated: June 5, 1997.

Rolland Schmitt,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060497A]

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Stone Crab Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: This meeting will be held on July 7, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Monroe County Regional Service Center, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL; telephone: 305-743-6727.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting will be to review effort and landing trends in the fishery and continue development of recommendations for a limited access system and the structure of such a system.

The AP is comprised of fishermen and other user groups who advise the Council on fishery issues.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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 June 30, 1997.

Dated: June 5, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060497B]

Mid-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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 25, 1997, the Council will meet from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 5:00 p.m. On June 26, 1997, the Council will meet from 8:00 a.m. until approximately noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779; telephone: 516-585-9500.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to review proposed Federal regulations to implement the Magnuson-Stevens Act, discuss and possibly adopt for Secretarial approval the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan, and other fishery management matters.

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary; other items may be added. This meeting may also be closed at any time to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters.