

Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS
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301-713-2276

Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

Tens of thousands of seabirds are being killed incidental to various commercial longline fisheries in the world. Some of the seabirds are species of management concern and populations of several other seabird species may be declining because of longline bycatches. Seabird bycatch also has an adverse impact on catch rates and profitability of fishing operations. Governments, nongovernmental organizations, and commercial fishery associations are petitioning for regulatory measures to reduce the mortality of seabirds in the world's longline fisheries.

The goal for the Seabird TWG and the subsequent FAO Consultation is to produce an action plan to implement FAO guidelines on mitigating measures to reduce incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries. Japan and the U.S. will co-host the session, and the U.S. co-lead agencies are NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

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Juneau, AK 99802
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Migratory Bird Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Shark Conservation and Management

Global landings of sharks and related species have dramatically increased in recent years. Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation due to life history characteristics, particularly relatively low rates of reproduction. In addition, fishing mortality due to bycatch exceeds that due to directed fisheries. The expanding international market for shark fins, cartilage, meat, and skins is an important factor motivating recent increased mortality.

An international consensus is emerging on the need for improved control of fishing effort on sharks and related species by both directed and bycatch fleets. The goal for the upcoming Shark TWG and subsequent FAO Consultation is to develop a global strategy (action plan) and guidelines for sustainable international and regional management of elasmobranch species by national, regional, and highly migratory management groups.

The intent of the strategy is to provide an effective web of management regimes sufficient to arrest the declines of sharks, skates, and rays where they have occurred and to put the harvest of these species on a sustainable basis.

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Dated: August 4, 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. 072897E]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Scoping Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold an Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) public scoping meeting and a public scoping meeting on dolphin fish management. DATES: The meetings will be held from August 18-20, 1997, in conjunction with the Council meeting. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The scoping meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC; telephone: (803) 571-1000 or (800) 334-6660.

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; E-mail address: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ACCSP public scoping meeting will be held August 18, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. until all business is complete. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to provide members of the public an opportunity to express their views on ways to improve commercial and recreational fisheries data collection.

The public scoping meeting on dolphin management will be held August 20, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. until all business is complete. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to provide members of the public an opportunity to express their views on the need for and the type of management the Council should consider for the dolphin fish resource.

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 August 11, 1997.

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

Dated: August 4, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Intelligence Agency, Science and Technology Advisory Board; Closed Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of Subsection (d) of Section 10 of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Section 5 of Public Law 94-409, notice is hereby given that a closed meeting of the DIA Science and Technology Advisory board has been scheduled as follows:

DATES: 21 August 1997 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

ADDRESSES: The Defense Intelligence Agency, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC 20340-5100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maj. Michael W. Lamb, USAF, Executive Secretary, DIA Science and Technology Advisory Board, Washington, DC 20340-1328 (202) 231-4930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The entire meeting is devoted to the discussion of classified information as defined in Section 552b(c)(1), Title 5 of the U.S. Code and therefore will be closed to the public. The Board will receive briefings on and discuss several current critical intelligence issues and advise the Director, DIA, on related scientific and technical matters.