

- (1) Gear modifications; and
- (2) Area closures.
- G. Recommendations for future research
 - (1) Natural mortality (current estimates assume an 18 percent natural mortality rate for herring, including predation by other species); and
 - (2) Other recommendations.
- H. Fishing community considerations
 - (1) Protection of traditional uses of inshore stocks; and
 - (2) Description and analysis of impacts on fishing communities.
- I. An analysis of the impacts of proposed measures on safety at sea
- J. Administrative provisions
 - (1) A requirement for vessel fishing permits;
 - (2) A requirement for fishing vessel operator permits;
 - (3) Dealer permits; and
 - (4) Requirement to provide end-use information on IWP permits.
- K. Data needs
 - (1) Reporting of landings from stock components;
 - (2) Mandatory observer coverage; and
 - (3) Data on end-products and uses.
- L. The Commission/Council process for allocating herring among JV and IWP operations

Scoping Process

All persons affected by or otherwise interested in herring fisheries management are invited to participate in determining the scope and significance of issues to be analyzed by submitting written comments (see ADDRESSES) or attending one of the scoping hearings. Scope consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered. Alternatives include not developing a management plan (taking no action), developing amendments to existing plans or other reasonable courses of action. Impacts may be direct, indirect, individual or cumulative. The scoping process also will identify and eliminate from detailed study issues that are not significant. Once a draft management plan and an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment is developed, the Council and Commission will hold public hearings to receive comments.

Public Meeting Schedule

The Council will discuss and take scoping comment at public meetings as follows:

- (1) September 2, 1:00 p.m., Gloucester House Restaurant, Seven Seas Wharf, Gloucester, MA, (508) 283-1812;
- (2) September 3, 1:00 p.m., Maine Dept. of Marine Resources Fisheries Laboratory, 194 McKown Point Road, Boothbay Harbor, ME, (207) 633-9500;
- (3) September 9, 1:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, Route 1, South Kingston, RI, (401) 789-1051; and
- (4) September 11, 7:00 p.m., Rutgers Marine Advisory Service, Cape May County Extension Office, Dennisville Road, Rt. 657, Cape May Courthouse, NJ, (609) 465-5115.

Additional scoping meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Special Accommodations

The meetings are 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: August 21, 1997.

George H. Darcy,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 97-22838 Filed 8-26-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[I.D. 081997A]

License Limitation Program; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces two meetings to discuss the proposed rule

that would implement Amendments 39, 41, and 5 to the fishery management plans for groundfish off Alaska and crab in and off Alaska (License Limitation Program). The purpose of these meetings is to explain provisions of the proposed rule and to answer questions presented at the meetings by members of the affected fishing industry and other interested parties.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- 1. September 5, 1997, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., PDT, Seattle, WA.
- 2. September 12, 1997, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., ADT, Anchorage, AK.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the following locations:

- 1. Seattle—7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Building 4 (Room 1055, Observer Training Room), Seattle, WA 98115.
- 2. Anchorage—707 "A" Street (Suite 210), Anchorage, AK 99501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Lepore, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These meetings are scheduled by NMFS in response to requests by the affected fishing industry to discuss particular aspects of the License Limitation Program as found in the proposed rule published on August 15, 1997 (62 FR 43866). These meetings will be held while the public comment period for the proposed rule is open; however, these meetings are informative only and will not be used to obtain public comment on the proposed rule. For comments to be considered in the development of the final rule, they must be in writing and received prior to September 29, 1997. Written comments on the proposed rule must be sent to Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, 709 W. 9th Street, Room 453, Juneau, AK 99801, or P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attention: Lori J. Gravel.

Dated: August 20, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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