

following is a summary of the survey for 1996. Management measures that severely restricted the harvest of striped bass by commercial and recreational fisheries were further relaxed in 1996, as the stocks continued to rebuild.

The 1996 commercial harvest of striped bass was 5,400,000 lb (2,449 mt), an increase of 42 percent above the landings of 3,811,000 lb (1,729 mt) in 1995. The Chesapeake Bay area (Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac River) accounted for 65 percent of the 1996 commercial landings, while Massachusetts and North Carolina accounted for 13 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

The recreational catch in 1996 was an estimated 14 million striped bass, of which 1.3 million were harvested; the remaining 12.7 million were released. The estimated weight of the recreational harvest was 14.7 million lb (6,668 mt).

Juvenile production varied among the producer areas, in 1996. In New York, the 1996 was lower than in 1995 but near the long term average. In Maryland and Virginia, the 1996 indices were the highest of their respective time-series, while the Delaware Bay index was the third highest on record. The North Carolina juvenile index increased in 1996, from a relative low in 1995, to near record levels, as seen in 1993 and 1994.

Information from sampling the population of striped bass shows an increased relative abundance from recent year classes. Copies of the survey are available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: August 28, 1997.

David L. Evans,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082997B]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee will meet in Seattle, WA.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Leif Erikson Lodge Hall, 2245 NW 57th Street, Seattle, WA.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garry Loncon, Committee Chairman; telephone: 206-283-6605.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the meeting will include the following subjects:

1. Annual report to industry by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).
2. Update on the ADF&G-managed crab observer program.
3. Review results of the St. Matthew and Pribilof king crab fisheries.
4. Review actions of the Alaska Board of Fisheries regarding management of the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery.
5. Discussion of the crab license limitation program.
6. Discussion of any other crab issues of importance to the committee.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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: August 29, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082997A]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Staff of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting to discuss eligibility criteria for communities under a Western Pacific Community Development Program.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 22, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI; telephone: 808-522-8220.

Council address: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Council staff will hold a meeting to discuss eligibility criteria for communities seeking to participate in a Western Pacific Community Development Program. The authority to establish a Community Development Program was provided by the 1996 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The intent of the program is to increase the benefits that the indigenous peoples of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands receive from fisheries within the jurisdiction of the Council.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: August 29, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-23562 Filed 9-4-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Public Comment Period on the Elimination of the Paper Visa Requirement With the Governments of Korea and Singapore

August 29, 1997.

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