

implement the broad management goals of the MMPA, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act.

*Alternative 3: Modified Plan, with Marine Mammal Bycatch Limit for the Drift Gillnet Fishery*

This alternative would modify the Team's draft plan to include a marine mammal bycatch limit for the drift gillnet fishery. Under this alternative, the following combination of measures are proposed for the drift gillnet fishery: (1) Limited entry to the drift gillnet fishery, (2) prohibition of drift gillnet gear south of Hudson Canyon year-round, (3) prohibition on the use of drift gillnet gear from November 1 through July 31, (4) 100 percent marine mammal observer coverage, (5) mandatory education workshops for all vessel operators, and (6) a per-vessel marine mammal bycatch limit. The longline fishery would be subject to the same regulations specified in Alternative 2, with the following exceptions: (1) The areas subject to regulation would be expanded to include the Northeast Coastal area and (2) educational workshops would be mandatory for all vessel operators.

*Alternative 4: Modified Plan, with Prohibition of Drift Gillnet Gear*

This alternative would modify the team's draft plan to include a ban on the use of drift gillnet gear to target swordfish, tuna, and shark, except where otherwise authorized (i.e., the southeast U.S. shark gillnet fishery). This alternative would adopt the longline fishery take reduction strategies outlined in Alternative 3.

Dated: October 29, 1997.

**Patricia A. Montanio,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 102797C]

**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 Florida/

Alabama Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 1997, and is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the at the Radisson Bay Harbor Inn, 7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL 33609; telephone: 813-281-8900.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Rester, Habitat Specialist, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; telephone: 601-875-5912.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At this meeting, the AP will discuss an update on the Fenholloway River, and the expansion of U.S. 1 in Monroe County. The AP will also hear reports on the status of completion of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) guidelines being developed by NMFS; and of completion of a generic amendment by the Council which describes EFH as required by the Sustainable Fisheries Act. An overview of the Florida Marine Research Institute's mapping of fisheries habitat, and an update of the status of artificial reefs in Florida will also be presented.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815. Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal AP action during this meeting. AP action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by 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 Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by November 13, 1997.

Dated: October 29, 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. 102497D]

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public 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 a meeting of its Habitat Committee and Habitat Research and Monitoring Subgroup, Joint Habitat Committee and Habitat Advisory Panel chairmen and agency representatives to the Habitat Advisory Panel, Marine Reserves Committee, Information and Education (I & E) Committee, Mackerel Committee, Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee (CLOSED SESSION), Advisory Panel Selection Committee (CLOSED SESSION), Personnel Committee (CLOSED SESSION), Snapper Grouper Committee, and a Scoping Meeting of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. A Council Session will also be held.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held from November 17-21, 1997. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment Marine Laboratory, 135 Duke Marine Lab Road, Beaufort, NC 28516; telephone: (919) 504-7504.

*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@noaa.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Meeting Dates**

*November 17, 1997, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Habitat Committee/Habitat Research and Monitoring Subgroup;*

The Committee will observe the Subgroup workshop. The Subgroup will review present research efforts to identify and describe essential fish habitat and determine fishery and non-fishery impacts on these habitats and discuss the structure of the research section of the Habitat Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

*November 17, 1997, 5:00 p.m. until all business is complete —Atlantic Coastal*