

products with the funding provided under this program.

7. *Preaward activities.* If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of Commerce to cover preaward costs.

8. *False statements.* A false statement on the application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notification concerning grants, benefits, and contracts.

Furthermore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The collection of this information has been approved by OMB under control numbers 0348-0040, 0348-0043, 0348-0046, and 0648-0135.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

A solicitation for applications will also appear in the "Commerce Business Daily."

Dated: February 20, 1998.

Rolland A. Schmitt,

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

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.012798B]

Highly Migratory Species and Billfish Advisory Panels; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and Billfish Advisory Panels (APs) will hold a joint meeting to discuss issues in, and future management options for, the fisheries for Atlantic HMS.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 17, and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 18, 1998. A public comment period is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 1998, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the meeting location.

ADDRESSES: The APs will meet at the Radisson Bay Harbor Inn, 7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL. Written comments should be submitted to, and informational materials related to the AP meeting are available from, Jill Stevenson, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Stevenson, telephone: (301) 713-2347, fax: (301) 713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HMS and Billfish APs have been established under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* The APs will assist the Secretary of Commerce in collecting and evaluating information relevant to the development of a fishery management plan (FMP) for Atlantic tunas, swordfish and sharks and an amendment to the Billfish FMP. All AP meetings are open to the public and will be attended by members of the AP, including appointed members, representatives of the five Fishery Management Councils that work with HMS, and the Chair, or his representative, of the U.S. Advisory Committee to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. A public comment period is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 1998 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the meeting location. Comments are solicited on overfishing definitions and rebuilding analyses that will be

presented at the AP meeting on Tuesday. To request informational materials related to the AP discussion or to submit public comments on overfishing definitions and rebuilding analyses, see **ADDRESSES**. Agenda items for the joint AP meeting include discussion of:

1. Objectives for the HMS FMP and Billfish FMP amendment;
2. Rebuilding scenarios for overfished stocks of Atlantic HMS;
3. Development of overfishing criteria and definitions for Atlantic HMS;
4. Research and monitoring requirements in HMS fisheries;
5. Permitting and reporting requirements in HMS fisheries; and
6. Enforcement issues in HMS fisheries.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jill Stevenson, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone (301) 713-2347, at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-5182 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021798C]

New England Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Closed Meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a one-day closed meeting, with a session open to the public before and after the closed meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tara Ferncroft Conference Resort, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New