

inspection during normal business hours at the following office: United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, Air Program, 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

Copies of the State documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection at the following office: Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, 150 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4820.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Russ, Air Program (8P2-A), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202-2466; Telephone number: (303) 312-6479.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** See the information provided in the Direct Final action which is located in the Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

**Jack McGraw,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region VIII.*

[FR Doc. 98-9677 Filed 4-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 697

[I.D. 040698B]

#### Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold public hearings to receive comments on NMFS' proposals for management of American lobster in Federal waters. NMFS proposes to transfer the Federal legislative authority for American lobster from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) to the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA). NMFS is seeking public comment on proposed management options to regulate American lobster in Federal waters. Also, the existing moratorium on new entrants in the EEZ lobster fishery may be extended through December 31, 2003, for Federal lobster permit holders.

**DATES:** Written comments on the lobster management proposals contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be accepted through May 19, 1998. Testimony may be presented at the public hearings, which are scheduled to be held from April 27, 1998, through May 19, 1998, in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and North Carolina. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for times and locations of the hearings and special accommodations.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct requests for copies of the lobster public hearing document should be sent to the State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Ross, NMFS, Northeast Region, 978/281-9234.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS proposes several changes to management of the American lobster resource in waters under Federal authority. The proposed changes include a transferral of Federal legislative authority for American lobster from the MSA to the ACFCMA. Since the majority of the American lobster fishery takes place in state waters (approximately 80 percent), Federal action under the ACFCMA is the best approach for a comprehensive management plan for lobster throughout its range. This approach will facilitate partnership management in Federal and state jurisdictional waters in a time frame to minimize the potential for a stock collapse of the resource.

NMFS is seeking public comment on proposed management options to regulate American lobster in Federal waters. Alternatives being considered range from a continuation of existing management measures to a maximum protection of American lobster in Federal waters by a complete removal of all trap gear from the water and a prohibition against retention, sale, barter or trade of American lobster taken from Federal waters. Other alternatives include a limit on current trap effort and implementation of a gradual reduction in the maximum number of traps allowed to be fished by Federal lobster permit holders, while limiting the non-trap sector to a maximum number of lobsters allowed per trip, regardless of trip length.

Also, the existing moratorium on new entrants to the EEZ lobster fishery may be extended until December 31, 2003, for Federal lobster permit holders.

By this action NMFS is announcing 13 public hearings concerning the proposed lobster management measures. The dates, time, and locations of the hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Monday, April 27, 1998, 3 p.m.—Fuller School Auditorium, 4 School House Road, Gloucester, MA.

2. Tuesday, April 28, 1998, 3 p.m.—Emmanuel Baptist Church Assembly Hall, 156 High Street, Portland, ME.

3. Wednesday, April 29, 1998, 3 p.m.—Rockland District High School Auditorium, 400 Broadway, Rockland, ME.

4. Thursday, April 30, 1998, 3 p.m.—Downeast Convention Center at the Holiday Inn, 215 High Street (U.S. Routes 1 and 3), Ellsworth, ME.

5. Friday, May 1, 1998, 3 p.m.—University of Maine at Machias, Reynolds Center Gym, 9 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, ME.

6. Tuesday, May 5, 1998, 3 p.m.—Urban Forestry Center, 35 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, NH.

7. Wednesday, May 6, 1998, 3 p.m.—Narragansett Town Hall Assembly Room, 25 Fifth Street, Narragansett, RI.

8. Thursday, May 7, 1998, 3 p.m.—Howard Johnson Hotel, Dickens Room, 1052 Boston Post Road, Milford, CT.

9. Friday, May 8, 1998, 1 p.m.—Quality Inn of Tom's River, 815 Route 37 West, Tom's River, NJ.

10. Monday, May 11, 1998, 6 p.m.—Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Admirals Hall, Harrington Building, 101 Academy Dr., Buzzards Bay, MA.

11. Thursday, May 14, 1998, 3 p.m.—Ramada Inn, Exit 72, Long Island Expressway and Route 25, Riverhead, NY.

12. Monday, May 18, 1998, 5 p.m.—North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, Airport Road, Manteo, NC.

13. Tuesday, May 19, 1998, 5 p.m.—Sheraton Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Bob Ross (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1851 et. seq.

Dated: April 8, 1998.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-9823 Filed 4-9-98; 2:38 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F