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This order is published pursuant to section 736(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 353.21.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.072198A]

ICCAT Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), in conjunction with the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division of NMFS, announces the schedule of regional public meetings to be held this fall.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled from August to November 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times of the meetings.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in South Carolina, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific addresses of the meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathon Krieger (international issues) 301-713-2276 or Rachel Husted (domestic issues) 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, August 13, 1998, 7 pm to 10 pm - Marine Research Institute Auditorium, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, South Carolina 29412;

Friday, August 14, 1998, 7 pm to 10 pm - Best Western Bayside Inn, 711 West Beach Drive, Panama City, Florida 32401;

Thursday, September 3, 1998, 7 pm to 10 pm - Buccaneer Hotel, Estate Shoyes, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00824;

Tuesday, October 6, 1998, 7 pm to 10 pm - Holiday Inn, 2625 North Salisbury Boulevard, Salisbury, Maryland 21801;

Wednesday, October 7, 1998, 7 pm to 10 pm - Cape Ann Marina Resort, 75 Essex Avenue, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930.

Thursday, October 8, 1998, 7 pm to 10 pm - Crown Plaza La Guardia, 104-04 Ditmars Boulevard, East Elmhurst, New York 11369;

Additionally, the annual fall meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held in Silver Spring, Maryland, November 1-3, 1998. There will be an opportunity for public comment on international issues on Sunday, November 1, from 2-6 p.m.

The meeting location is the Holiday Inn Silver Spring, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Domestic issues will not be discussed at this meeting.

The following topics may be presented to the public for discussion at the regional meetings:

International Issues

1. Background on ICCAT
2. Information on the Advisory Committee and Commissioners
3. Status of Highly Migratory Species Managed by ICCAT
4. Topics for the 1998 ICCAT Annual Meeting

Domestic Issues

1. HMS Rulemaking Actions
2. HMS Activities Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
3. Regional Concerns/Issues

Representatives from the Advisory Committee to the U.S. section to ICCAT and NMFS will be in attendance at the regional meetings. There will be an opportunity for public comment on each issue. The length of the meetings may be adjusted based on the progress of the discussions.

Special Accommodation

The meeting locations are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jonathon Krieger at (301) 713-2276 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 24, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072398C]

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; Atlantic Coast Weakfish Fishery; Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Applications for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs); request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of four applications for EFPs. If granted, these EFPs would authorize a Flynet Characterization Study to be conducted by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries in a closed area south of Cape Hatteras. The four participating flynet vessels, each with its own EFP and observer aboard, would conduct up to 12 trips over a 4-month period for a total of up to 64 trips.

DATES: Written comments on the applications must be received on or before August 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Richard H. Schaefer, Chief, Staff Office for Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries (Fx2), NMFS, 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 425, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The applications, related documents and copies of the regulations under which EFPs are subject may also be requested from this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Meyer, 301-427-2014; FAX: 301-427-2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These EFPs are requested under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act), 16 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*, and regulations at 50 CFR 697.6 concerning the acquisition of information and data activities that are otherwise prohibited by the regulations in this part. Since regulations under the Atlantic Coastal Act must be consistent with the national standards set forth in section 301 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, EFPs requested under the Atlantic Coastal Act need to be addressed in the same manner as EFPs requested under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 concerning scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity.