

Director, Office of Marine Insurance had discussions with the incoming chairman of the IUA and the chairman indicated that the new organization will not have the same eligibility criteria as the ILU or any internal oversight activities. In view of this, MARAD is seeking comments concerning how to deal with existing ILU member companies after the merger. Will it be necessary to qualify ILU member companies on an individual "ad hoc" basis after the merger is implemented? MARAD has a number of questions it would like to receive comment on:

(1) Should companies who were in the ILU and approved to write insurance on MARAD program vessels maintain their eligibility for some period, say a year after merger, while they are reviewed on an individual basis?

(2) Should ILU member companies (post merger) be subject to the same requirements of "Other Foreign Underwriters" under section 249.5(c) Eligibility criteria?

(3) If an ILU member company has been previously approved under 249.5(c), in the French or Scandinavian market for example, should that eligibility be governing?

(4) Should ILU member companies appearing on the Quarterly Listing of Alien Insurers compiled by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners be eligible for MARAD underwriting provided they remain in good standing and remain on this list?

(5) If an ILU member company is the subsidiary or affiliate of a company that is approved under Section 249.5(c), should it have the benefit of that approval if a satisfactory parent company or similar guarantee is provided?

(6) Any other aspect of this issue.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: September 1, 1998.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 082098G]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings; public hearing.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling several public meetings of its oversight committees and advisory panels in September, 1998 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on September 9 and September 17, 1998.

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

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Gloucester and Saugus, MA. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Wednesday, September 9, 1998, 9:00 a.m.—Joint Habitat Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting

Location: New England Fishery Management Council Office conference room; 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

Review and approval of the final Essential Fish Habitat Amendment document and environmental assessment prior to final consideration by the Council.

Thursday, September 17, 1998, 9:30 a.m.—Groundfish Committee Meeting

Location: The Tavern on the Harbor, 30 Western Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930; telephone: (978) 283-4200.

Review of draft regulatory language for Amendment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management Plan and development of guidance to the Council's Multispecies Monitoring Committee (MSMC). That group evaluates the effectiveness of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and recommends management options for Gulf of Maine cod and other species as part of an annual review and plan adjustment process. Further regulation of recreational catches, modification or addition of closed areas, or a bycatch-only designation for Gulf of Maine cod may be among the options considered by the MSMC.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

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

Dated: August 31, 1998.

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

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208298-8055-02; I.D. 082798B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Proposed reallocation; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Based on currently available information, NMFS has determined that the trawl catcher/processor sector will not be able to harvest its entire share of the Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI) and it proposes to make the projected unused amount of the trawl catcher/processor share of the Pacific cod TAC available to the trawl catcher vessel sector. NMFS also is proposing to reallocate the projected unused amount of Pacific cod from trawl catcher/processors to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI. NMFS invites public comments, particularly from the trawl catcher vessel sector, on NMFS's determination that the trawl catcher/processor sector will not be able to harvest its share of Pacific cod and NMFS's proposal to reallocate the unused amount of Pacific cod from the trawl catcher/processor sector to hook-and-line and pot gear. The proposed action is necessary to