

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082698C]

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 95th Council meeting.

DATES: The Council meeting will be held on September 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Best Western Pierre Hotel, 105 De Diego Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone: (787) 766-5926; fax: (787) 766-6239.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 95th regular public meeting to discuss the Draft Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment to the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) of the U.S. Caribbean, and will take final action on these items.

The Council will meet on Tuesday, September 29, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral and written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at the Council (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT for address) 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.

[FR Doc. 98-23936 Filed 9-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082698B]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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 will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on September 14-17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL; telephone: 334-438-4000.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

September 14

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.—Receive public testimony on Draft Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment, which identifies and describes essential fish habitat in the Gulf of Mexico for the seven fisheries managed by the Council.

The following is a summary of the Draft EFH Amendment: (1) EFH is identified and described based on areas where various life stages of 21 selected, managed species and the coral complex commonly occur. The selected species are shrimp, red drum, reef fish, coastal migratory pelagic species, stone crab, spiny lobster, and the coral complex; (2) The selected species represent about one-third of the species under management by the Council. Collectively, these species commonly occur throughout all of the marine and estuarine waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Consequently, EFH for the remaining managed species would be included

with that of the species discussed. EFH for the remaining managed species will be further addressed in future fishery management plan (FMP) amendments, as appropriate; (3) EFH is defined as everywhere that the above managed species commonly occur. Because these species collectively occur in all estuarine and marine habitats of the Gulf of Mexico, EFH is separated into estuarine and marine components. For the estuarine component, EFH includes all estuarine waters and substrates (mud, sand, shell, rock, and associated biological communities), including the sub-tidal vegetation (seagrasses and algae) and adjacent inter-tidal vegetation (marshes and mangroves). In the marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico, EFH includes virtually all marine waters and substrates (mud, sand, shell, rock, and associated biological communities) from the shoreline to the seaward limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); (4) Threats to EFH from fishing and nonfishing activities are identified; (5) Options to conserve and enhance EFH are provided and research needs are identified; (6) No management measures and, therefore, no regulations are proposed at this time. Fishing-related management measures to minimize any identified impacts are deferred to future amendments when the Council has the information necessary to decide if the measures are practicable.

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Take final action on the EFH Amendment.

10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Consider the SFA Amendment Options Paper.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.—Receive public testimony on TAC for Vermilion Snapper and Gag.

September 17

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.—Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee Report.

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.—Receive Budget Committee Report.

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Receive Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Committees' Report.

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.—Receive Shrimp Committee Report.

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.—Receive Marckerel Committee Report.

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.—Receive the Tortuga Sanctuary Enforcement Report.

4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.—Receive International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee Meeting Reports.

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.—Receive NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS)/Billfish Advisory Panels (AP) Meeting Report.

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.