

amendment for gag and black grouper must be received by January 4, 1999.

Public Hearing Times and Addresses

Public hearings will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at all of the following locations, except Panama City, FL, Orange Beach, AL, and Larose, LA; where the hearings on the draft regulatory amendment for gag and black grouper will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the hearings on the Draft SFA Amendment will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Monday, December 7, 1998—Pier House, One Duval Street, Key West, FL—Draft gag and black grouper regulatory amendment;

Monday, December 7, 1998—Holiday Inn-Fort Brown, 1900 E. Elizabeth Street, Brownsville, TX—Draft SFA Amendment;

Tuesday, December 8, 1998—Steinhatchee Elementary School, 1st Avenue South, Steinhatchee, FL—Draft gag and black grouper regulatory amendment;

Tuesday, December 8, 1998—Pier House, One Duval Street, Key West, FL—Draft SFA Amendment;

Tuesday, December 8, 1998—Port Aransas Civic Center Auditorium, 710 West Avenue A, Port Aransas, TX—Draft SFA Amendment;

Wednesday, December 9, 1998—City Hall Auditorium, 3001 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL—Draft gag and black grouper regulatory amendment;

Wednesday, December 9, 1998—Texas A&M Auditorium, 200 Seawolf Parkway, Galveston, TX—Draft SFA Amendment;

Thursday, December 10, 1998—Courtyard Marriott, 4455 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL—Draft gag and black grouper regulatory amendment;

Thursday, December 10, 1998—New Orleans Airport Hilton & Conference Center, 901 Airline Highway, Kenner, LA—Draft SFA Amendment;

Thursday, December 10, 1998—Ramada Airport Inn & Conference Center, 5303 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL—Draft SFA Amendment;

Monday, December 14, 1998—National Marine Fisheries Service Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL—both the Draft SFA Amendment and the draft gag and black grouper regulatory amendment;

Tuesday, December 15, 1998—Orange Beach Community Center, 27235 Canal Road, Orange Beach, AL—both the Draft SFA Amendment and the draft gag and black grouper regulatory amendment;

Wednesday, December 16, 1998—J. L. Scott Marine Education Center & Aquarium, 115 East Beach Boulevard, US Highway 90, Biloxi, MS—Draft SFA Amendment; and

Thursday, December 17, 1998—Larose Regional Park, 2001 East 5th Street, Larose, LA—both the Draft SFA Amendment and the draft gag and black grouper regulatory amendment.

Copies of the Draft SFA Amendment and the draft regulatory amendment on gag and black grouper may be obtained by calling the Council at 813-228-2815.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by December 7, 1998.

Dated: November 24, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-32038 Filed 12-1-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 112598B]

RIN 0648-AJ44

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies and Monkfish Fisheries; Monkfish Fishery Management Plan

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of a fishery management plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) have submitted the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Secretarial review and are requesting comments from the public.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Monkfish FMP should be sent to Jon C. Rittgers,

Acting Regional Administrator, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, "Comments on Monkfish FMP."

Copies of the Monkfish FMP, its regulatory impact review, initial regulatory flexibility analysis, the final environmental impact statement, and the supporting documents are available from Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. Martin Jaffe, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FMP proposes an overfishing definition and a 10-year rebuilding schedule to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and implementation of the following measures: Target total allowable catch levels for each of two management areas; limited access; effort limits through days-at-sea allocations; trip limits and incidental harvest allowances; minimum size and mesh limits; gear restrictions; spawning season closures; a framework adjustment process; permitting and reporting requirements, and other measures for administration and enforcement.

A proposed rule that would implement the Monkfish FMP may be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment, following NMFS' evaluation of the proposed rule under the procedures of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period on the Monkfish FMP to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the FMP. All comments received by February 1, 1999, whether specifically directed to the FMP or the proposed rule, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the Monkfish FMP. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the Monkfish FMP.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 27, 1998.

Bruce Morehead,

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