

Under the section on overfishing criteria and rebuilding period for stocks for the crustacean fisheries, the Council has proposed that MSY, OY, and the overfishing thresholds be set as follows:

For penaeid shrimp - as the parent stock numbers (as indexed from current virtual population analysis [VPA] procedures) for the 3 penaeid species of shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico at or above the following levels:

Brown Shrimp - 125 million individuals, age 7+ months during the November through February period;

White shrimp - 330 million individuals, age 7+ months during the May through August period;

Pink shrimp - 100 million individuals, age 5+ months during the July through June year.

For royal red shrimp - as 650,000 pounds

For spiny lobster - as 20 percent transitional SPR or SSBR (spawning stock biomass per recruit), except OY is set at 30 percent SPR.

For stone crab - as the harvest that results from a realized egg production per recruit at or above 70 percent of potential production. This harvest capacity is currently estimated at between 3.0 and 3.5 million pounds (MP) of claws (minimum 70mm propodus length).

Overfished thresholds are specified as one-half of MSY or slightly higher for the crustacean stocks, none of which are overfished.

The effect of specifying overfishing criteria at a higher level for the finfish stocks is that additional stocks may be classified as overfished when NMFS approves the SFA amendment in 1999. The amendment also identified Gulf fishing communities dependent on fishing so that eventually the impact of fishery management measures on these communities can be assessed.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the AP and SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during the meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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 29, 1998.

Dated: December 16, 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

[I.D. 121598E]

##### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Demersal Committee and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 1999 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Old-Town, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA; telephone: 703-683-6000.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this meeting is to discuss possible changes in the commercial and recreational management systems for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass and make recommendations on the development of amendments to the plan.

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

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Council (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 16, 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

[I.D. 121598A]

##### 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.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling public meetings of its Large Pelagics Oversight and Social Sciences Advisory Committees in January, 1999 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:** See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific locations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, Massachusetts 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Meeting Dates and Agendas

*Monday, January 4, 1999 10:00 a.m.—* Large Pelagics Committee Meeting  
Location: Council Office conference room; 5 Broadway (Route 1 South); Saugus, MA 01906; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

The committee will develop Council comments on the Draft Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks.

*Friday, January 22, 1999 10 a.m.—* Social Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting

Location: Council Office conference room; 5 Broadway (Route 1 South); Saugus, MA 01906; telephone: (781) 231-0422.