

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. John S. Rhoton at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 11, 1999.

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. 020999E]

Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Precious Corals Plan Team.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 9, 1999, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at NMFS Laboratory, 2570 Dole Street, Room 112, Honolulu, HI; telephone: 808-983-5300.

Council address: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Precious Corals Plan Team will discuss possible adjustments in established management measures, including modifying the harvest quota for gold coral, implementing a minimum size limit for black coral, applying the size limit for pink coral to all established and conditional beds, restricting the areas where the use of non-selective gear is allowed, designating the newly discovered bed near French Frigate Shoals as a conditional bed and revising data reporting requirements.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Team 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 listed in this notice.

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Dated: February 11, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-3998 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 090198A]

Recreational Fishing; Code of Angling Ethics

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

ACTION: Notice of Final Code of Angling Ethics

SUMMARY: NMFS is adopting this Code of Angling Ethics to implement the public education strategy required under the

NMFS-specific Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan.

DATES: Effective March 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final Code of Angling Ethics are available from Richard H. Schaefer; Chief, Office of Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries; 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 425; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard H. Schaefer, 301-427-2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On June 7, 1995, the President signed Executive Order 12962 (EO) - Recreational Fisheries. The EO recognized the social, cultural, and economic importance of recreational fishing to the nation and directed Federal agencies to "improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities."

Further, the EO established the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council (NRFCC) consisting of Secretarial designees from the Departments of Commerce, Interior, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The NRFCC was directed under the EO to produce a Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan (National Plan). The National Plan, completed June 3, 1996, directed each Federal agency to develop an agency-specific implementation plan that identifies actions needed to meet the goals and objectives of the National Plan. The NMFS-specific Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan, unveiled December 31, 1996, dictates four Implementation Strategies as policy to achieve the goals of the National Plan. Implementation Strategy III, Public Education, states that NMFS will support, develop, and implement programs designed to enhance public awareness and understanding of marine conservation issues relevant to the well-being of marine recreational fishing. One output listed under this Implementation Strategy is "NMFS will develop, promote and distribute a "Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing"."

On October 5, 1998, a notice of proposed code of angling ethics (63 FR 53353) was published in the **Federal Register**.

The three comments received are addressed as follows:

Comments and Responses

Comment 1: One commenter asked that the proposed Code of Angling Ethics be expanded to include an enforcement ethic that would encourage anglers to confront individuals not conforming to the Code of Ethical Angling and identify and report illegal activities.

Response: The intent of the proposed Code is to succinctly describe ethical conduct for the angler. Although NMFS concurs with the public's involvement and responsibility suggested by the commenter, such enforcement issues are outside of the intent of the Code of Angling Ethics.

Comment 2: One commenter, while supporting the proposed Code as written, resented the Government proposing anything to guide the personal behavior of anglers.

Response: The Code is intended to inform the angling public of NMFS's views regarding what constitutes ethical angling behavior. The guidelines are discretionary, not mandatory.

Comment 3: An association of anglers stated that they fully supported the draft