

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Information

Any Recipient classified for tax purposes as an individual, partnership, proprietorship, corporation, or medical corporation is required to submit a taxpayer identification number (TIN) (either social security number, employer identification number as applicable, or registered foreign organization number) on Form W-9, "Payer's Request for Taxpayer Identification Number." Tax-exempt organizations and corporations (with the exception of medical corporations) are excluded from this requirement. Form W-9 shall be submitted to the Grants Officer within 60 days of the award start date. The TIN will be provided to the IRS by DoC on Form 1099-G, "Statement for Recipients of Certain Government Payments." Recipients who either fail to provide their TIN or provide an incorrect TIN may have funding suspended until the requirement is met.

Disclosure of Recipient's TIN is mandatory for Federal income tax reporting purposes under the authority of 26 USC, section 6011 and 6109(d), and 26 CFR 301.6109-1. This is to ensure the accuracy of income computation by the IRS. This information will be used to identify an individual who is compensated with DoC funds or paid interest under the Prompt Payment Act.

Foreign Travel

Recipients must comply with the provisions of the Fly America Act (49 U.S.C. 40118). The Fly America Act requires that Federal travelers and others performing U.S. Government-financed foreign air travel must use U.S. flag air carriers, to the extent that service by such carriers is available. Foreign air carriers may be used only when a U.S. flag air carrier is unavailable, or use of U.S. flag air carrier service will not accomplish the agency's mission.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Disclosure

To the extent permitted under the FOIA, contents of applications and proposals submitted by successful applicants may be released in response to FOIA requests.

Executive Order 12866

This rule has been determined not to be significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This Notice involves collections of information subject to the Paperwork reduction Act (PRA), which have been

approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040 and 0348-0046. Notwithstanding, any other provisions of law no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection displays a current valid OMB Control number.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

These awards fall under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 11.609.

Dated: May 24, 1999.

Karen H. Brown,

Deputy Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Whale Watch Guidelines

[I.D.052499D]

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

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Revised Whale Watch Guidelines for Vessel Operations in the Northeastern United States.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Region (NMFS/NER) has, in coordination with the Northeast Recovery Plan Implementation Team, revised the operational guidelines for all vessels engaged in whale watching in the northeastern United States. The revised guidelines address concerns about the possibility of whale watch vessels colliding with whales. NMFS/NER, which first developed whale watching guidelines in 1985, has revised the guidelines to provide specific vessel speed recommendations, decrease the number of vessels that should be in close proximity to whales, and recommend the use of lookouts when entering or departing known whale aggregation areas.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the new guidelines are available by writing or calling either Douglas Beach, NMFS, One Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930, 978/281-9254; or Anne Smrcina, NOS, Stellwagen National Marine Sanctuary, 175 Edward Foster Rd., Scituate, MA 02066, 781/545-8026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doug Beach, NMFS, Northeast Region 978/281-9254; or Anne Smrcina, NOS, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary 781/545-8026.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Whale watch vessel operators seek out areas where whales concentrate, which has led to numbers of vessels congregating around groups of whales, and thereby increased the potential for harassment, injury or death of these animals. NMFS Northeast Region has attempted to address this situation with a combination of enforcing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 9 prohibitions against taking listed species, promulgating regulations limiting approaches to right whales to 500 yards, and issuing operational guidelines in 1985 to give vessel operators guidance on how to approach large whales without causing harassment. However, since the guidelines were first issued, the increase in numbers and overall speed of vessels operating in whale high use areas has raised the risk of collision with whales, as evidenced by two collisions with whales that occurred during the summer of 1998. The Northeast Recovery Plan Implementation Team, which works to implement the ESA Right Whale and Humpback Whale Recovery Plans, established a Whale Watch Advisory Group (WWAG) under its Ship Strike Sub-Committee to look into appropriate measures to address this increasing threat to whales. The WWAG came up with revisions to the existing guidelines that would address the issue. NMFS has revised the guidelines to incorporate the recommendations of the WWAG.

The revised guidelines include several measures intended to decrease the likelihood of future adverse interactions with whales, such as collisions. The previous guidelines, for instance, included a circular Whale Awareness Zone that extended one-quarter mile from any observed whale. The new awareness zone in the revised guidelines extends two miles from any observed whale. The new guidelines recommend specific speed limits for vessels approaching or departing from whales and further recommend the posting of a dedicated lookout to keep track of all whales in the area and to advise the vessel operator of their location when entering or leaving whale watching areas.

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary has established a program to monitor the effectiveness of the revised whale approach guidelines, and will deploy trained observers aboard vessels owned by a number of commercial

whale watch companies who have volunteered to participate in this monitoring program. The USCG Auxiliary will also use other platforms, such as USCG Auxiliary vessels and aircraft to observe the activities of recreational and commercial whale watch vessel operators on Stellwagen Bank and in other waters off New England during the 1999 season.

The results of the USCG Auxiliary monitoring program are expected to help NOAA determine whether the voluntary guidelines are sufficient or whether additional measures, such as regulations, need to be implemented to prevent harassment or injury of whales in coastal waters of the Northeastern United States.

Dated: May 24, 1999.

Andrew Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052499G]

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 a public meeting of its Herring Committee (joint with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Herring Section); Mid-Atlantic Plans Committee, Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel, Interspecies Committee, Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel, and Habitat Committee and Advisory Panel in June, 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: The meetings will be held between Monday, June 14, 1999 and Monday, June 28, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Peabody, Saugus and Wakefield, MA; and Portsmouth, NH. 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, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

*Monday, June 14, 1999, at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, June 15, at 9 a.m.—*Joint NEFMC Herring Committee and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Herring Section Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street (Route 1), Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

The committee and section will review the draft Atlantic Herring Stock Assessment and Fisheries Economics (SAFE) Report and recommend specifications for the 2000 fishing year. They also will develop recommendations for management measures for the 2000 fishing year (such as total allowable catch (TAC) set-asides, changes to the spawning closures in federal waters, or other framework adjustments). After reviewing the Herring Advisory Panel's recommendations on the subject, the committee and section will begin development of a limited entry or controlled access system for Management Area 1A in the Gulf of Maine. They will consider the Advisory Panel recommendation to establish an August 1, 1999 control date for the Atlantic herring fishery. There also will be a discussion of the 1999 large vessel annual specification.

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—*Mid-Atlantic Plans Committee Meeting

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

The committee will review a Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council proposal for tilefish closures and proposed mackerel management measures. The committee also will discuss coordinating the Atlantic herring and mackerel fishery management plans.

*Thursday, June 17, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—*Groundfish Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel Joint Meeting

Location: Sheraton Colonial Hotel, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01960; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

The committee and panel will discuss and prepare a draft management policy

for closed areas, including a statement of purpose and consideration of exceptions, for commercial and recreational fisheries for possible inclusion in Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The committee and panel will discuss the current cod stock boundaries and its effects on management policy, and advise the Council on possible alternative management area boundaries. The committee and panel also will review Amendment 13 scoping comments and industry proposals for management alternatives. It will continue the development of recommendations to the Council on issues and measures to be included in a public hearing document for Amendment 13, including but not limited to: management of the recreational and party/charter fishery, management policy and strategy for the commercial fishery, action to rebuild all stocks in the fishery management unit as needed under the Council's new overfishing definitions; management of fleet fishing capacity, including possible implementation of a two-tiered permit system to address latent fishing permits; proposals for industry support of scientific research and conservation engineering programs; modification of the annual adjustment schedule and possible change to the timing of the fishing year; the use of electronic vessel monitoring systems; and other issues that may be identified during the scoping process.

*Monday, June 21 at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday, June 22 at 9 a.m.—*Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

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

Review of scientific information and analyses for the Herring (SAFE) Report and discussion of meeting procedures and protocols.

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999, 10 a.m. and Wednesday, June 23, 1999, at 9 a.m.—*Interspecies Committee Meeting

Location: Sheraton Colonial Hotel, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781)245-9300.

The committee will receive a presentation on U.S. Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics (GLOBEC) Program experiments and discuss managing capacity and latent effort, changing fishing years, small vessel permit upgrading restrictions and other relevant business.

*Thursday, June 24, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—*Joint Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting

Location: New England Fishery Management Council Office, 5