

specified in a given year. However, the NOA inadvertently indicated that only domestic vessels greater than 165 ft (50.3m) in length, rather than equal to or greater than 165 ft (50.3m) in length, would be prohibited from fishing for Atlantic herring in the EEZ.

Correction

Accordingly, the publication on July 27, 1999, of the NOA (I.D. 063099A), which was the subject of document FR Doc. 99-19171, is corrected as follows:

On page 40543, in column 2, under the heading, "Restrictions on the Size of Domestic Fishing and Processing Vessels", the second line of the first sentence is corrected to read as follows:

"domestic vessels greater than or equal to 165 ft (50.3m) in"

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

Dated: August 3, 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

50 CFR Part 648

(I.D. 073099E)

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Public hearings, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold public hearings to allow for input on its Draft Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Regulatory Impact Review for this FMP. This FMP is designed to eliminate overfishing and rebuild the tilefish resource to the biomass that would support maximum sustainable yield (MSY) through a constant harvest strategy within a 10-year rebuilding period.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through September 7, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates and times.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904.

The hearings will be held in Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for locations of the hearings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management, 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This FMP is proposed to eliminate overfishing and rebuild the tilefish resource to the biomass that would support the MSY through a constant harvest strategy within a 10-year rebuilding period. The projection associated with the preferred alternative would allow for total allowable landings of 1.76 million lb (798 mt) with a 50 percent probability of achieving the biomass target at the end of 10 years. The default alternative assumes a total allowable level of catch of 1.412 million lb (640 mt) with a 75 percent probability of reaching the target biomass at the end of 10 years. Commercial quotas and a time period closure are included as options in the FMP. The commercial quota would be divided into full-time, part-time, and incidental categories. A limited access program would be applied to the full-time and part-time quota categories.

The Council established a control date for the possible limitations of entrants into this fishery of June 15, 1993, published at 58 FR 33081, June 15, 1993. The Council's preferred alternative for the full-time category would require that a vessel had landed more than 50,000 lb (22.68 mt) in any 1 year between 1988 and 1993 as well as landed at least 25,000 lb (11.34 mt) per year for any 2 years between 1994 and 1998. To qualify as a part-time participant, the preferred option indicates that a vessel had to land at least 10,000 lb (4.536 mt) in any year between 1988 and June 15, 1993. The preferred alternative would add a closure to the directed (part-time and

full-time vessels) tilefish fishery for a 1 calendar month period from May through September.

Recreational fisheries management measures are addressed in the FMP as framework measures, so that no specific measures are proposed for implementation immediately upon approval of the FMP. Identification and description of essential tilefish habitat are included in the FMP as are management measures to minimize adverse gear impacts to that habitat. The preferred alternative to minimize adverse gear impacts is to prohibit directed tilefish fishing with bottom tending mobile gear and require that gear fishing in statistical areas 616 and 537 between bottom depths of 300 and 850 ft (91 and 259 m) must be modified to reduce impacts on bottom habitat.

Hearings

The dates, times and locations of the hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Monday, August 23, 1999, 7:00-10:00 p.m. - Crown Plaza at the Crossings (old Holiday Inn), 801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI, telephone 401-732-6000.
2. Tuesday, August 24, 1999, 7:00-10:00 p.m. - Ramada Inn, Exit 72, Long Island Expressway & Route 25, Riverhead, NY, telephone 516-369-2200.
3. Wednesday, August 25, 1999, 7:00-10:00 p.m. - Sheraton Atlantic City West, 6841 Black Horse Pike (Route 40), Atlantic City West, NJ, telephone 609-272-0200.

The hearings will be tape recorded with the tapes filed as the official transcript of the hearings.

Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council at least 5 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: August 3, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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