

convene a public meeting of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP).

**DATES:** This meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 20, and conclude by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The RFSAP will convene to review stock assessments on the status of the red snapper stock and the red grouper stock in the Gulf of Mexico prepared by NMFS. The RFSAP will also evaluate new information on gag biology that had been presented to the Council during its development of the revised Regulatory Amendment to Set 1999 Gag/Black Grouper Management Measures. This new information includes reports prepared by Dr. Chris Koenig (Florida State University, Dr. Robert Chapman (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) and other academic and state scientists, plus an evaluation and response to the analyses prepared for Southeastern Fisheries Association by Dr. Trevor Kenchington (Gadus Associates) and other independent scientists retained by Dr. Kenchington.

Based on its review of the red snapper and red grouper stock assessments, the RFSAP may recommend a range of allowable biological catch (ABC) for 2000, and may recommend management measures to achieve the ABC. In addition, the RFSAP will review the adequacy of recent biological information presented to the Council on gag that was used by the Council in its recent management decisions.

The RFSAP is composed of biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics. They advise the Council on the status of stocks and, when necessary, recommend a level of ABC needed to prevent overfishing or to effect a recovery of an overfished stock. They may also recommend catch restrictions needed to attain management goals.

The conclusions of the RFSAP will be reviewed by the Council's Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Red Snapper Advisory Panel (RSAP), and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (RFAP) at meetings to be held in late October, 1999. Red grouper is a component of the

shallow-water grouper complex (which consists of red grouper, gag, yellowfin grouper, black grouper, scamp, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, and red hind). The Council may set a year 2000 total allowable catch (TAC) for the red grouper component of the shallow-water grouper complex and red snapper. The Council may also consider other management measures at its meeting in Lake Buena Vista, FL on November 8-11, 1999.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the Panel 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 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 September 13, 1999.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 083199C]

#### **New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Advisory Panel in September, 1999. Recommendations from the advisors will be brought to the Herring Oversight Committee and full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate. This will be a joint meeting with the Herring Industry Advisory Panel of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, September 17, 1999 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Sheraton South Portland Hotel, 363

Maine Mall Road, South Portland, ME 04106, telephone: (207) 775-6161.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The advisors will elect a chair and vice-chair. They will also discuss various options for developing a controlled access program for the Atlantic herring fishery. The advisors may discuss other herring management issues, including spawning area closures and gear interactions.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed 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 Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 082599D]

#### **Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Coral Reef Ecosystem Plan Team (Plan Team) and its Ecosystem and Habitat Advisory Panel (Advisory Panel) in Honolulu, HI. The meeting will also include a public hearing on the management alternatives being considered for implementation in the