

The Regional Administrator will issue one permit to an eligible applicant to maintain the current total.

Any prospective applicant may file an application for a Ho'omalulu Zone permit. Forms will be provided by the Pacific Islands Area Office, Southwest Region, NMFS (See ADDRESSES). In accordance with 50 CFR 660.61 (g)(1) a permit will be awarded based on a point system as follows:

(1) Two points will be assigned for each year in which the applicant was owner or captain of a vessel that made three or more qualifying landings of bottomfish in the NWHI. A qualifying landing is: (a) Any amount of bottomfish management unit species, regardless of weight, if made on or before August 7, 1985; (b) At least 2,500 lb (1,134 kg) of bottomfish management unit species, if made after August 7, 1985; or (c) At least 2,500 lb (1,134 kg) of any fish legally harvested from the NWHI, of which at least 50 percent by weight was bottomfish, if made after August 7, 1985.

(2) One point will be assigned for each year in which the applicant was owner or captain of a vessel that landed at least 6,000 lb (2,722 kg) of bottomfish from the main Hawaiian Islands.

(3) For any one year, points will be assigned for bottomfish landed from either the NWHI or the main Hawaiian Islands, but not for a combination of both areas.

Applicants must maintain their own files or valid documentation verifying claims of accrued points. Copies of these documents must accompany all permit applications. A permit shall be awarded to a qualifying applicant in descending order, starting with the applicant with the largest number of points. If two or more persons have an equal number of points, and there are insufficient new permits for all such applicants, the new permit shall be awarded by the Regional Administrator through a lottery. An applicant must own at least a 25-percent share in the vessel that the permit would cover, and only one permit will be assigned to any vessel. No additional permits will be issued to any vessel owner who already has a Ho'omalulu Zone bottomfish permit or to a vessel owner whose permit was not renewed for the 1999 permit year. Also, in considering applications for a Ho'omalulu Zone permit the Regional Administrator will follow the guidance recommended by the Council at its 91st meeting, November 18-21, 1996: (1) No State of Hawaii fish catch reports used to document eligibility points will be accepted that are more than 1 year delinquent; (2) only State of Hawaii fish catch reports will be accepted by NMFS

to validate accrued qualifying points demonstrating historical participation in the Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishery; (3) the cutoff date for applications is 45 days after publication of this notice of availability in the **Federal Register**; (4) relief captains and vessel owners must provide vessel insurance records or legal certificates of documentation demonstrating the minimum 25 percent ownership in the vessel; and (5) only records of bottomfish management unit species will be used for assigning qualifying points.

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

Dated: September 17, 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.090999B]

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) from October 25-28, 1999.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

October 25, 1999, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
October 26, 1999, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
October 27, 1999, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
October 28, 1999, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, at the Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., and at the Hotel Washington, 515 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to MAFAC, Office of Operations, Management and Information, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Lu Cano, Designated Federal Officer; telephone: (301) 713-2252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5

U.S.C. App. (1982), notice is hereby given of meetings of MAFAC and MAFAC Subcommittees. MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on February 17, 1971, to advise the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. This Committee ensures that the living marine resource policies and programs of the Nation are adequate to meet the needs of commercial and recreational fisheries, and of environmental, state, consumer, academic, and other national interests.

Matters to Be Considered

October 25, 1999

Orientation and program briefings for new MAFAC members

October 26, 1999

Legislative, Budget, Fisheries Overcapacity, and Multi-Disciplinary Science Subcommittee Meetings

October 27, 1999

Legislative Subcommittee Report and Recommendations, Budget Subcommittee Report and Recommendations, Multi-Disciplinary Science Subcommittee Report and Recommendations, and Fisheries Overcapacity Subcommittee Report and Recommendations

October 28, 1999

Constituent Outreach and Communication Presentation and Recommendations, Vessel Monitoring Systems Presentation and Recommendations, Steering Committee Report, and Full Committee

Discussion and Recommendations

Time will be set aside for public comment on agenda items.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to MAFAC (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: September 20, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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