

SUMMARY: The Council's Recreational Fisheries Data Task Force (RFDTF) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held November 16, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the 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: This will be the second meeting of the RFDTF which will discuss the following topics: review of recommendations from the first task force meetings and progress to date, U.S. Coast Guard safety requirements for small-scale commercial fishing vessels, support for recreational fishing in Hawaii, economic impact of recreational fishing in the Western Pacific Region, impacts of current and proposed fishery management plans on recreational fisheries in Hawaii, and other business as required.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, 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 and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: October 29, 1999.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-28801 Filed 11-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990921259-9259-01]

National Weather Service (NWS) Modernization and Associated Restructuring

AGENCY: NWS, NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Deferral of public comment period and clarification regarding NWS proposed actions for the Erie, Pennsylvania, Weather Service Office (WSO).

SUMMARY: The NWS published in 64 FR 52491, Sept. 29, 1999, a notice and opportunity for public comment on proposed certifications for the consolidation, automation, and closure of WSO Erie, Pennsylvania, and WSO Fairbanks, Alaska. This notice defers the public comment period on proposed certifications of WSO Erie and provides updated and clarifying information regarding NWS proposed actions for WSO Erie.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Beaver at 301-713-0300 extension 136.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NWS published in 64 FR 52491, Sept. 29, 1999, a notice and opportunity for public comment on the proposed certifications for the consolidation, automation, and closure of WSO Erie, Pennsylvania, and WSO Fairbanks, Alaska. With respect to WSO Erie certifications, the notice informed the public that the NWS determined removal of the WSR-74C radar would cause a degradation of service for some lake-effect snow events in the Erie, Pennsylvania, service area. It further informed the public that to address this degradation, the NWS would continue operating the WSR-74C radar at Erie during the winter season until a new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar is installed at the Erie airport and suitability of weather data from the FAA radar is validated by the NWS in consultation with users.

Since the publication of the September 29, 1999, FR notice, certain information in the notice has changed. In addition, the NWS believes its planned course of action for WSO Erie requires clarification. First, the NWS has been advised that installation of the new FAA radar at Erie will begin in May 2002, not 2001 as indicated in the September 29, 1999, FR notice. Second, regarding the NWS planned course of action, the NWS stresses it will not seek the Modernization Transition Committee's endorsement of the Erie

consolidation, automation, and closure certifications nor will it seek the Secretary's final approval of these certifications until actions to address the identified degradation have been fully and successfully implemented and user groups have been appropriately consulted. Therefore, NWS believes seeking comments from the public at this time is premature since the NWS plan for use of data from the new FAA radar is several years from completion. Accordingly, NWS is deferring the public comment period on its proposed certifications for WSO Erie until actions to address the identified degradation have been fully and successfully implemented and user groups have been appropriately consulted. The NWS will provide advance notice in the FR of the public comment period at that time.

Dated: October 29, 1999.

John J. Kelly, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.

[FR Doc. 99-28854 Filed 11-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KE-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071599E]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Applications for EFPs; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of applications for EFPs. If issued, these EFPs would authorize the retention of Atlantic tunas (other than bluefin tuna) by vessels participating in the coastal driftnet fishery for Atlantic bonito. NMFS anticipates the receipt of several more EFP applications for this same purpose. If EFPs are issued for the coastal driftnet fishery, NMFS would collect information on target catch and bycatch and assess the potential impacts of authorizing driftnet gear for certain Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fisheries. While this information is being collected, issuance of EFPs will reduce regulatory discards of Atlantic tunas.

DATES: Written comments on NMFS' consideration to issue such EFPs must be received on or before December 6, 1999.