

Dated: January 11, 2000.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 00-1298 Filed 1-19-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011400A]

#### Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (RDSAP).

**DATES:** This meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 7, 2000 and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2000.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Peter Hood, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The RDSAP will convene to re-evaluate a stock assessment on the status of the red drum stocks in the Gulf of Mexico prepared by NMFS. The RDSAP will consider available information, including but not limited to, commercial and recreational catches, natural and fishing mortality estimates, recruitment, fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data, and data needs. These analyses will be used to determine the condition of the stocks and the levels of acceptable biological catch (ABC). If time allows for the assessment to be run, the RDSAP may also review estimates of stock size (biomass at maximum sustainable yield (Bmsy)) and minimum stock size thresholds (MSST). Otherwise estimates of stock size and minimum stock size thresholds will be discussed at a later meeting. Currently it is illegal to harvest or possess red drum in Federal waters.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the RDSAP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the RDSAP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take 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 Anne Alford at the above address by January 31, 2000.

Dated: January 14, 2000.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011400B]

#### North 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held the week of February 7, 2000. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W. Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council staff, telephone: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Scientific Committee and Advisory Panel will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, February 7, continuing through Wednesday and Thursday, February 9 and 10, respectively.

The Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries beginning at

9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 8, and begin their normal plenary session at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 9, continuing through Monday, February 14.

All meetings are open to the public except Executive Sessions which may be held during the week to discuss litigation and/or personnel matters.

*Alaska Board of Fisheries/Council:* The agenda for the Council's joint meeting with the Alaska Board of Fisheries will include the following subjects:

1. Preseason gear restrictions.
  2. Crab management issues.
  3. Management proposals of mutual concern.
  4. Habitat areas of particular concern.
  5. Halibut management issues.
- Council:* The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports
  - (a) Executive Director's Report
  - (b) NMFS Management Report
2. Halibut Charterboat Guideline Harvest Level/Management Measures: Final action.
3. Steller Sea Lions:
  - (a) Status report on implementation of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives.
  - (b) Review regulatory amendment for Chiniak closures required for research on pollock fishery effects off Kodiak.
4. American Fisheries Act:
  - (a) Comment on proposed rule for 2000, and initiate regulatory action as appropriate.
  - (b) Analysis of Groundfish Processor Sideboards/Pollock Excessive Share: Initial review.
5. License Limitation Program: Pacific cod species/area endorsements: Initial review.
6. Groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS): Status report.
7. Council/Board of Fisheries Issues:
  - (a) Summary of joint meeting.
  - (b) Comment on Board of Fisheries management proposals, including state water Pacific cod closure.
  - (c) Further direction to staff on stand-down measures and Crab Fishery Management Plan revisions.
8. Research Priorities: Review and approve.
9. Habitat Areas of Particular Concern: Initial review of analysis.
10. Staff Tasking: Review proposals for changes in management groundfish fisheries and the sablefish and halibut individual fishery quota program.

#### Advisory Meetings

*Advisory Panel:* With the exception of the reports listed under Item 1, and the