

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) recently announced its intention to prepare Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and a Fishery Management Plan for deep-sea crab, and, if necessary, to prepare an SEIS and an EIS, respectively, to analyze the impacts of any proposed management measures for this action. NMFS is extending the comment period for submission of written comments for both actions to ensure opportunity for public comment.

DATES: Written comments on the intent to prepare the SEIS for Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP must be received on or before 5:00 p.m., local time, March 6, 2000. Written scoping comments on the intent to prepare an EIS for the deep-sea red crab fishery must be received on or before 5:00 p.m., local time, March 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Comments may also be sent via fax to (978) 465-0492. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (978) 465-0492. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 4, 2000 (65 FR 5488), NMFS published notification of the Council's intention to prepare Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP. See the February 4, 2000, **Federal Register** notification for background and scoping information related to Amendment 10 and for the public meeting schedule. NMFS is extending the period to submit written comments from March 1, 2000, to March 6, 2000.

On February 2, 2000 (65 FR 4941), NMFS published notification of the Council's intention to prepare an FMP for deep-sea red crab and to prepare an EIS, if necessary. See the February 2, 2000, **Federal Register** notification for background and scoping information related to this action and for the public meeting schedule. NMFS is extending the period for submission of written comments from February 21, 2000, to March 3, 2000.

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

Dated: February 7, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00-3285 Filed 2-10-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 012800F]

Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting to give the public an opportunity to comment on a regulatory amendment to be implemented under the framework process of the Council's Pelagics Fishery Management Plan. The measure would establish a 50-nautical mile (nm) closure to pelagic fishing vessels larger than 50 ft (15.24 m) around Tutuila and Manua Islands, and a 30-nm closure around Swain's Atoll.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 17, 2000, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) in American Samoa at the address given here. Copies of the background material summarizing the Council's previous deliberations, rationale, and analysis of the preferred alternative may be obtained from the DMWR, P.O. Box 3730, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Tulafono, Director, DMWR; telephone 684-633-4456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is being convened to give the public in American Samoa the opportunity to comment on a revised framework measure under the Council's Fishery Management Plan for the Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific region. In December 1997, at its 94th Meeting, the Council voted to recommend a closed area from which large (greater than 50 ft (15.24 m)) pelagic fishing vessels would be excluded to protect the small vessel longline fishery in American Samoa.

That proposed revision was adopted under the two-meeting framework process. The measure would have established a 50-nm closure to pelagic fishing vessels larger than 50 ft (15.24 m) around Tutuila and Manua Islands, and a 30-nm closure around Swain's Atoll. The recommended closure was sent to the NMFS Southwest Regional Administrator in October 1998 but was disapproved in March 1999, with the advice that it could be re-submitted if amended to include greater justification for closed areas under National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Subsequently a revision of the framework measure has been drafted that includes a preferred alternative to implement a 50-nm closure to pelagic fishing vessels larger than 50 ft (15.24 m) around Tutuila and Manua Islands, and a 30-nm closure around Swain's Atoll. The Council will take final action on this framework measure at its 102nd meeting which will be held between February 28 and March 2, 2000, in Honolulu, HI.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ray Tulafono, 684-633-4456 (voice), or 684-633-5944 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 8, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00-3213 Filed 2-8-00; 4:34 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 020200B]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; public scoping hearing; public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Council's (Council) will hold its 73rd meeting of its Scientific and Statistical