

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Mr. Alvin Katekaru, Pacific Islands Area Office, Southwest Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu HI 96814-4700; telephone 808-973-2935 ext. 207.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Federal reporting requirements are established for four fisheries (pelagics, crustaceans, bottomfish, and precious corals) in the western Pacific region managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This information collection covers the information that must be provided to NMFS to meet these reporting requirements, which include fishing logbooks, notifications of intended vessel departure and return times and other actions, experimental fishing permit reports, and transshipment and sales reports. These reports are necessary to provide information to evaluate the effects of fishing on the stocks and to assess the need for changes in management to ensure that overfishing will be prevented and the optimum yield from the fisheries will be obtained.

II. Method of Collection

Typically, the holder of a permit for the fisheries is provided with a copy of any logbook or other reporting forms and with instructions for making any required reports. In many cases, logbooks are collected from permit holders at the docks when the vessel returns from a trip. Other reports are collected by phone or are received through regular mail. The option of electronic reporting is provided in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Crustaceans Fishery and the potential for electronic reporting is being investigated for other fisheries.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0214.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 174.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes for notifications; 5 minutes for

sales reports, pre-offloading reports, and in-season catch reports in the crustacean fishery; 3 minutes per page for logbook entries in the crustacean fishery; 5 minutes per day for logbook entries in the precious coral and western Pacific pelagic fisheries; 5 minutes for protected species interaction reports in the western Pacific bottomfish fishery; 15 minutes for sales reports in the precious coral fishery; 1 hour for observer placement information in the longline fishery for western Pacific pelagics; 1 hour for requests for exemptions to area closures in the western Pacific pelagic fishery; 4 hours for claims for lost fishing time due to sick observers on longline vessels in the western Pacific pelagic fishery; and 4 hours for experimental fishing reports.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,130.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$5,000.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 25, 2000.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-5223 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022400A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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 (Council) will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on March 20-23, 2000.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Adams Mark Riverwalk Hotel, 111 Pecan Street East, San Antonio, TX; telephone: 210-354-2800.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

March 22

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Receive a report of the Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Committees.

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.—Receive a report of the Red Drum Management Committee.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.—Receive a report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.—Receive a report of the Administrative Policy Committee.

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.—Receive a report of the Habitat Protection Committee.

4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.—Receive a report of the Stone Crab Management Committee.

March 23

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—Receive a report of the Mackerel Management Committee.

9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.—Receive a report of the Joint Marine Reserves/Reef Fish Management Committees.

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.—Receive a report of the Shrimp Management Committee.

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.—Receive the NMFS Billfish Advisory Panel (AP) Report.

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Receive the NMFS HMS AP and International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Advisory Committee Reports.

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.—Receive a report of the Coral Reef Task Force and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Liaison.

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Receive a report of the NOAA Strategic Planning Meeting.

11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.—Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.—Other Business.

Committees

March 20

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.—Convene the Administrative Policy Committee to discuss the legal status of National Standard Guidelines.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to hear a report on the effects of using oil dispersants on marine organisms in shallow water, and a report on the NMFS workshop on the effects of fishing gear on the habitat.

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Convene the Red Drum Management Committee to review recommendations of the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel for a subsequent meeting to review a new stock assessment.

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Joint Reef Fish/Management Committees to review the proposal from the Ad Hoc Charter Vessel/Headboat Advisory Panel for a new Federal permitting system for recreational for-hire vessels. Such a system would require development of a fishery management plan amendment for consideration by the public at hearings later in the year. The full Council will discuss the proposal from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Wednesday.

March 21

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—Convene the Stone Crab Management Committee to hear a report on a trap certificate program for the stone crab fishery, that is under development by the state of Florida.

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to review the scoping workshop summaries on the Options Paper for Shrimp Amendment 10 which addresses reduction of trawl bycatch in the eastern Gulf. Based on that review, the Committee will recommend further action to the Council.

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Convene the Joint Marine Reserves/Reef Fish Management Committees to discuss an Options Paper for Tortugas 2000 Marine Reserves Amendment. Based on that discussion a draft amendment will be developed for Council consideration at the May, 2000 meeting.

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.—Convene the Mackerel Management Committee to

review recommendations from an InterCouncil Committee meeting of the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils regarding a potential Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan and will develop recommendations regarding future actions, including scheduling of public hearings.

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to review a Preliminary Amendment 18 Scoping Document. This document will eventually become a major amendment regulating primarily the grouper fishery. At this preliminary state the Committee and Council will be identifying management measures for which staff should develop analyses of the biological, economic, and social impacts. Development of the draft amendment will continue over the next several Council meetings, with public hearings likely being scheduled in the fall.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the 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 identified in this notice 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 final action to address the emergency.

A copy of the Committee schedule and agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 228-2815.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 March 13, 2000.

Dated: February 28, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00-5224 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022200]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Public Meetings; Corrections

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

ACTION: Correction of public meeting notice.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) substitutes a meeting of the Joint MAFMC/New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) Spiny Dogfish Committee in place of its Spiny Dogfish Working Group meeting and adds an agenda item to consider the recommendations of this committee to its meeting agenda published in the **Federal Register** on February 29, 2000. The purpose of the meeting and additional agenda item is to come to an agreement with the NEFMC on how to manage the spiny dogfish fishery resource for the upcoming fishing year. The NEFMC, at a later date in March, will consider the recommendations of the Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee.

DATES: The Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2000, from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. The MAFMC will consider the recommendations of that committee on Thursday, March 16, 2000. The NEFMC will consider the recommendations of the Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee at its March 21-23, 2000, meeting in Gloucester, MA.

ADDRESSES: The MAFMC meeting will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD, telephone 410-266-3131.

Council Addresses: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone 302-674-2331; or New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, The Tannery - Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01915, telephone 978-465-0492

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone 302-674-2331, ext. 19; or Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, telephone 978-465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original notice of these meetings was published in the **Federal Register** on February 29, 2000 (65 FR 10771).