

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 121200D]

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 Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP) on January 5, 2001.

DATES: The Reef Fish AP will meet beginning at 9:00 a.m. on January 5, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Chateau LeMoyné, 301 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130; telephone: 504-581-1303.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Reef Fish AP will meet to review a report of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel and to recommend total allowable catches (TACs) for red grouper and greater amberjack. The AP will also make recommendations on a proposed red snapper recovery plan that calls for converting from a constant catch to a constant fishing mortality rate strategy beginning in 2004, and thereafter a review and adjustment of TAC at five-year intervals. In addition, the AP will review an early draft of options being considered for including in a new Reef Fish plan amendment. These options deal with a longline limited entry system, moving the longline boundary line, phasing out the use of longlines, the use of cut-up reef fish for bait, an electronic vessel monitoring system for longline and fish trap vessels, the use of powerheads when spearfishing, requiring operator permits for commercial and charter/headboat operators, a commercial grouper fishery endorsement, grouper closed seasons, prohibiting the import of undersized red snapper, eliminating dormant reef fish permits, and changes to the species listed in the reef fish management unit and deep-water grouper aggregation. Additional options may be added or

deleted as this options paper is developed into Reef Fish Amendment 18.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP 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 AP 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.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

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 Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by December 27, 2000.

Dated: December 12, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 00-32169 Filed 12-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 120700D]

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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee (SPOC) will hold work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The SPOC will meet Wednesday, January 10, 2001, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, January 11, 2001, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Large Conference Room, 45 SE 82nd Drive, Suite 100, Gladstone, OR 97027; telephone: (503) 650-5400.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Waldeck or Don McIsaac, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this work session is to review topic areas and issues contained in the Groundfish Strategic Plan; prioritize the various topic areas and issues; develop a draft implementation schedule; discuss the make-up of management-alternative development teams; and develop recommendations to the Council about the implementation process and schedule, and membership of the development teams.

This meeting is the first step in implementing the Groundfish Strategic Plan. In September 2000, the Council adopted the following guidelines for implementing the plan:

1. At the September 2000 Council meeting, the Council adopts the Final Groundfish Strategic Plan document (per revisions incorporated after the summer public comment phase).
2. The Council directs the formation of a "Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee" which should be composed of Council members, some of which will have been members of the Strategic Plan Development Committee, to ensure continuity and an effective transition to implementation.
3. At its discretion, the Implementation Oversight Committee may establish small implementation development teams to develop specific alternative(s) for implementing elements of the Strategic Plan. Implementation development teams will be comprised of Council subpanel, management team, and committee members from the Groundfish Management Team, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Enforcement Committee, and members of the public as deemed necessary by the Implementation Oversight Committee.
4. The Implementation Oversight Committee works at the direction of the Council and is tasked with making recommendations regarding implementation of the strategic plan.
5. The Implementation Oversight Committee goals should include: (a) effective transition to the implementation phase, (b) ensuring the plan is implemented in a timely fashion, and (c) whenever possible, doing so in a fashion that provides for constituent acceptance and buy-in.

6. At the direction of the Council, the Implementation Oversight Committee will develop recommended schedules for carrying out all components of the strategic plan.

7. The Implementation Oversight Committee will develop recommendations for all components of the strategic plan that can be developed further: (a) directly by the Council, (b) via advisory entity assignments, or (c) through formation and use of an implementation development team approach, e.g., capacity reduction implementation development team(s), which would handle all of the complexities of addressing the implementation of capacity reduction. For example, there might be four teams – with industry representatives from trawl, fixed gear, open access with groundfish target, and open access with non-groundfish target. Each of these teams will also have a representative from the Implementation Oversight Committee, with a charge to develop a plan and product by “x” date. The Implementation Oversight Committee considers the work of the implementation development teams and develops the final recommendations for the Council. Clarification, input, and technical support will be available to all teams with “on-call” availability from Council staff, states, NMFS staff and General Counsel, etc.

8. It will be important to consider current conditions in the groundfish fishery, including the effects of recent changes in resource status, fishery management, and the environment, as part of the strategic plan implementation process.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the SPOC meeting agenda may come before the SPOC for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal SPOC action during the meeting. SPOC action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the SPOC's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 11, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 00-32052 Filed 12-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120700C]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) and Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will hold work sessions, which are open to the public.

DATES: The HMSPDT and HMSAS will meet jointly on Monday, January 8, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, January 9, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Wednesday, January 10, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The HMSPDT will convene for a work session on Thursday, January 11, 2001, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, January 12, 2001, 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work sessions will be held in the large conference room at NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, Room D-203, La Jolla, CA 92038-0271; telephone: (619) 546-7000.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council; (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the work sessions is to review and revise sections of the draft fishery management plan (FMP) for highly migratory species (HMS); the draft FMP is scheduled for review by the Council in March 2001.

The proposed FMP and its associated regulatory analyses would be the Council's fourth FMP for the exclusive economic zone off the West Coast. Development of the FMP is timely, considering the new mandates under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, efforts by the United Nations to promote conservation and management of HMS

resources through domestic and international programs, and the increased scope of international activities related to HMS fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the HMSPDT/HMSAS meeting agenda may come before the HMSPDT and/or HMSAS for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal HMSPDT nor HMSAS action during these meetings. HMSPDT and/or HMSAS action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the HMSPDT's and/or HMSAS's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 11, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 00-32053 Filed 12-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121200E]

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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad-Hoc Groundfish Management Process Committee (GMPC) will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The GMPC will meet Thursday, January 11, 2001, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, January 12, 2001, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Large Conference Room, 45 SE 82nd Drive, Suite 100, Gladstone, OR 97027; telephone: (503) 650-5400.