

Management Committee projects; review and evaluate position paper for Amendment 13 to the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan; discuss coordination and processing of joint plans (MAFMC and New England Fishery Management Council, MAFMC and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission); address Federal enforcement of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational rules in light of possible differences in size, season, and bag limits between exclusive economic zone and state jurisdiction; review and discuss Framework 2 management measures regarding extension of *Illex* moratorium, *Loligo* exemption in *Illex* fishery, real time management of *Loligo* and rule roll-over for mackerel; review and approve Framework 1 measures regarding quota set-aside for Secretarial submission; Stock Assessment Workshop 32 public review workshop for sea scallops, American plaice, Gulf of Maine haddock, silver hake (whiting); horseshoe crab management update; Information and Education presentation on Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) data; review and approve Framework 2 management measures regarding conservation equivalency for Secretarial submission; hear organizational and committee reports including the New England Council's report where the MAFMC may address possible actions on mahogany quahogs, groundfish, scallops, skates, herring, monkfish and dogfish; and address and recommend MAFMC position regarding joint venture processing allocation for mackerel.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the MAFMC for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal MAFMC action during this meeting. 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 MAFMC's intent to take final actions to address such emergencies.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the MAFMC (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 18, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011201F]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Committee and its Herring Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel (joint with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Herring Section Advisory Panel, in February, 2001 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will held between Tuesday, February 6, 2001 and Tuesday, February 13, 2001. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Peabody, MA and Danvers, MA. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (978)465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Tuesday, February 6, 2001, 9:30 a.m.-
-Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting.

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

The Groundfish Oversight Committee will continue development of management alternatives for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Committee will continue to refine the area management alternative.

It will also consider the recommendations of the Plan Development Team (PDT) with respect to minor adjustments to the status quo management measures, and will provide further advice to the PDT for developing those alternatives. The Committee will also further develop technical measures in the alternatives, such as developing a flexible closure system, days-at-sea counting and allocation alternatives, and other issues. The Committee intends to present these alternatives to the Council at the March 14-15, 2001 Council meeting.

Tuesday, February 13, 2001, 9:30

*a.m.-*Joint Herring Oversight Committee, Advisory Panel and ASMFC Meeting.

Location: Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

The agenda includes discussion of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) proposal for an Area 1A landings prohibition until June 1 of each fishing year, as well as possible modification of spawning area boundaries and the spawning tolerance provisions in the ASMFC Atlantic Herring management plan. The committee and panel will review the controlled access/limited entry goals and proposals from recent industry group meetings and develop recommendation to the Council for further action. There will also be a discussion of herring research priorities and possible funding sources.

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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: January 18, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 011201B]

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 Monday, February 5, 2001 through Thursday, February 8, 2001. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

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

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 Council's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, February 5, and continue through Thursday, February 8. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, February 5, and continue through Wednesday, February 7.

The Council will begin their plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 7, continuing through Monday, February 12, 2001. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions which may be held during the week at which the Council will discuss personnel issues and/or current litigation.

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) State Fisheries Report by Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.
 - (c) NMFS Management Report.
 - (d) Enforcement and Surveillance reports by NMFS and the Coast Guard.
 - (e) Report on Marine Research Funds
 - (f) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Report on Eider Critical Habitat Final Rule.
2. Halibut Charter Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ): Initial review of analysis, direction to staff.

3. Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem Research: Report from Prince William Sound Science Center.

4. Steller sea lion issues: discuss all aspects of current and planned management measures to protect Steller sea lions; take action as appropriate to initiate further management actions.

5. Receive report on Kodiak adaptive management experiment.

6. American Fisheries Act:

- (a) Review final co-op reports and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) salmon bycatch provisions; take action as appropriate.

- (b) Discuss alternatives for processing sideboards and provide direction.

- (c) Receive industry report on Pacific cod sideboards; take action as appropriate.

- (d) Discuss the Report to Congress on fisheries during the first year of the American Fisheries Act.

7. Gulf of Alaska Rationalization: Receive committee report and provide further direction.

8. Administration of Community Development Quotas: Receive progress report and provide direction to committee.

9. Appointments to Council committees and Scientific and Statistical Committee.

10. Groundfish Management:

- (a) Initial review of Pacific cod allocation (BSAI Amendment 68); direction to staff.

- (b) Progress report on process of setting total allowable catch.

- (c) Review a discussion paper on vessel-by-vessel catch and bycatch disclosure; task staff as appropriate.

11. Crab Management: Receive report from Crab Plan Team on bycatch; task staff as appropriate.

12. Staff Tasking: Review current staff tasking and projects to be tasked; provide direction to staff.

Advisory Meetings

Advisory Panel: The agenda for the Advisory Panel will mirror that of the Council listed above, with the exception of the reports under Item 1, and Item 9, appointments to committees.

Scientific and Statistical Committee: The Scientific and Statistical Committee will address the following issues:

1. SSC review of the November 30, 2000 biological opinion addressing Steller sea lion/groundfish fishery interactions.

2. Groundfish management issues listed under Council agenda.

3. Crab management issues listed under Council agenda.

4. Review initial analysis for Halibut Charter IFQ program and provide comments to staff and Council.

Committee and Workshop Meetings

IFQ Implementation Team will meet Sunday, February 4, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the Penthouse Meeting Room of the Westmark Hotel, 720 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK. The Team will review the draft Halibut Charter IFQ analysis and provide comments to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Halibut Charter IFQ Industry Workgroup will meet Monday, February 5, at 1 p.m. in the Iliamna Room at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, to review the draft Halibut Charter IFQ analysis and provide comments to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Gulf of Alaska Rationalization Committee will meet Thursday, February 8, at 6 p.m. in the Aleutian Room at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, to continue work on elements and options of a rationalization plan for Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.

Other committees and workgroups may hold impromptu meetings throughout the meeting week. Such meetings will be announced during regularly-scheduled meetings of the Council, Advisory Panel, and SSC, and will be posted at the hotel.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this 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 the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 18, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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