

ii. A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or

iii. Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

4. Name Check Review

All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of, or are presently facing, criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters that significantly reflect on the applicant's management, honesty, or financial integrity.

5. Primary Applicant Certifications

All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided:

i. Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension. Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR 26.105) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

ii. Drug-free Workplace. Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR 26.605) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

iii. Anti-lobbying. Persons (as defined at 15 CFR 28.105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed here applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000; and

iv. Anti-lobbying Disclosures. Any applicant who has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR part 28, appendix B.

6. Lower Tier Certifications

Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL,

"Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

7. False Statements

A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

8. Pre-award Activities

If you incur any costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by an authorized NOAA official, you do so solely at your own risk of these costs not being included under the award. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that you may have received, pre-award costs are not allowed under the award unless the grants officer approves them in accordance with 15 CFR 14.28.

9. Future Awards

If we select your application to perform sea scallop research to be conducted with the scallop TAC set-aside, we have no obligation to provide any additional TAC set-aside obligations in connection with that award.

Classification

Prior notice and opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)).

Because a general notice of proposed rulemaking as specified in 5 U.S.C. 533, or any other law, was not required for this action, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq., are not applicable.

This notice contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 269, 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0039, 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Dated: May 23, 2001.

John Oliver,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-13416 Filed 5-23-01; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052201C]

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 meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on Tuesday, June 12, 2001 and the Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP) on Wednesday, June 13, 2001.

DATES: The SSC will meet beginning at 8:30 a.m. on June 12, 2001 and will conclude by 5 p.m. The AP will meet beginning at 8:30 a.m. on June 13, 2001 and will conclude by 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the New Orleans Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Highway, Kenner, LA; telephone: 504-469-5000.

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 SSC and AP will meet to review and comment on proposals contained in draft Reef Fish Amendment 18, which will establish a 10-year red grouper rebuilding program and address other gear and enforcement issues. The SSC and AP will also be asked to review and comment on a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) which updates the last SEIS (published in 1993 as part of Amendment 5), reviews environmental impacts of the Amendment 18 alternatives, and identifies reef fish essential fish habitat (EFH). The issues contained in draft Reef Fish Amendment 18 and the Council's preferred alternatives are as follows:

- Longline and buoy gear endorsement (Section 6.1.1):

6.1.1.1 Establish a longline/buoy gear endorsement— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

6.1.1.2 Transferability of endorsement— Fully transferable

6.1.1.3 Appeals board— Appeals to be handled by NMFS

- Longline and buoy gear boundary line (Section 6.1.2)— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

• Longline and buoy gear phase-out (Section 6.1.3)— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

- Use of powerheads when spearfishing (Section 6.2): Require a permit for the use of powerheads when reef fish fishing (both commercially and recreationally), and eliminate the regulatory exemption that allows the use of powerheads in the stressed area for harvest of sand perch, dwarf sand perch, and hogfish.

• Use of reef fish for bait (Section 7.0): Prohibit the use of all species in the reef fish management unit or parts thereof, except sand perch and dwarf sand perch, with any gear for bait. (No preferred alternative on whether to apply this provision to commercial fishing, recreational fishing, or both.) Vessel monitoring system (Section 8.0): Require fishing vessels engaged in the bottom (reef fish) longline fishery to be equipped with an electronic vessel monitoring system (VMS), with the cost of the vessel equipment, installation, maintenance, and month-to-month communications to be paid or arranged by the owners as appropriate. NMFS will maintain and will publish in the **Federal Register** a list of type-approved units and communications protocols.

• Dormant reef fish permits (Section 9.0)— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

• Red grouper rebuilding plan (Section 10.0):

• 10.1 Red Grouper Sustainable Fishing Parameters: Set red grouper maximum sustainable yield (MSY), fishing mortality rate at MSY (FMSY), and spawning stock biomass proxy at MSY (SSMSY) at the range of values estimated by the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel, MSY = 6.705 to 7.012 million pounds; FMSY = 0.223 to 0.270; SSMSY = 350.7 to 433.2 million grams female gonad weight.

10.2 Red Grouper Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST): Red grouper minimum stock size threshold (MSST) shall be 80% of SSMSY (280.6 to 346.6 million grams female gonad weight).

10.3 Red Grouper Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT): Red grouper maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) shall be FMSY (0.223 to 0.270), or the F consistent with

recovery to the MSY level in no more than 10 years.

10.4 Red Grouper Optimum Yield (OY): Red grouper optimum yield (OY) shall be 90% of MSY (6.035 to 6.311 million pounds).

10.5 Red Grouper Rebuilding Strategy: Adopt a 10-year red grouper rebuilding plan based on a constant catch strategy. The annual ABC during the rebuilding period is initially set at 4.3-5.2 million pounds. (This is a reduction of 21%–34% from the 1996–99 average landings of 6.6 million pounds.) This ABC range may be modified following a future stock assessment by a regulatory amendment or plan amendment.

10.6 Commercial Shallow-Water Grouper Closed Seasons— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.7 Recreational Closed Seasons— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.8 Commercial Grouper Trip Limits— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.9 Recreational Grouper Bag Limits— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.10 Closed Areas— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

Tilefish and Deep-Water Grouper (Section 11.0): Combine tilefish and deep-water grouper into a new deep-water reef fish aggregate, and set the new deep-water reef fish quota at 1.47 million pounds (which is the average annual harvest of tilefish and deep-water grouper from 1996–99).

- Changes to the reef fish management unit (Section 12.0): Add the following species to the management unit: a. Marbled grouper (*Epinephelus inermis*) - to the shallow-water aggregate, b. Sand tilefish (*Malacanthus plumieri*)
- Modifications to the Framework Procedure for Setting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) (Section 13.0): The primary modification is to allow a species TAC and commercial-to-recreational allocation to be set for an individual species within an aggregate (such as the shallow-water grouper aggregate) that differs from the aggregate allocation, provided the aggregate allocation remains as specified. A second modification allows NMFS stock assessments to report the status of stocks in terms of biomass or biomass proxy instead of spawning potential ratio (SPR).

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSC/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 SSC/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 June 5, 2001.

Dated: May 23, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-13437 Filed 5-25-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052201B]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Joint Groundfish Oversight Committee, Ad Hoc Capacity Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel in June 2001. Recommendations from these committees will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will held on Tuesday, June 12, 2001, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore, Kennedy Plaza, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There is a concern that fishing effort may increase in the groundfish fishery, threatening recent improvements in stock condition. The Groundfish Oversight Committee, Groundfish Advisory Panel, and Ad Hoc Capacity Committee will meet to review issues concerning latent effort and