

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

[I.D. 111501D]

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 will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on December 10-13, 2001.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Imperial Palace Hotel, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: 228-436-3000.

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***December 12*

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.—Appointment of new committee members. 9:15 a.m. - 12 noon—Receive public testimony on Dolphin/Washoo Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Shrimp Amendment 10/Environmental Assessment (EA).

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.—Receive the report of the Shrimp Management Committee.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.—Receive the report of the Mackerel Management Committee.

3:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.—Receive a report of the Law Enforcement Committee.

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.—CLOSED SESSION—Receive a report of the Advisory Panel (AP) Selection Committee.

December 13

8:30 a.m. - 12 noon—Receive a report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.—Continue report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.—Receive a report of the Personnel Committee.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.—Receive a report of the Administrative Policy Committee.

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.—Receive a report of the Habitat Protection Committee.

3:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.—Receive a report of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Advisory Committee.

4 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.—Receive a report of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Liaison.

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.—Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

4:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

5 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.—Other Business.

Committees*December 10*

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—CLOSED SESSION—Convene the AP Selection Committee to recommend members for an Ad Hoc Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)/EIS Review Panel.

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Convene the Personnel Committee to consider revisions to the personnel section of the Administrative Handbook.

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Convene the Administrative Policy Committee to consider revisions of Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPS).

1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to review a consolidated Draft Reef Fish Amendment 18 with a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) that includes measures to further encourage grouper stocks as well as identification of EFH, habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs), and gear impacts. The Committee may develop their recommendations to the Council and to approve public hearing locations. The Committee will also discuss a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) review protocol. The full Council will consider these recommendations on Thursday morning. Final action on Reef Fish Amendment 18 will likely be taken at the March 11-15, 2002 Council meeting in Mobile, AL. Public testimony on the amendment and DSEIS is scheduled before the Council takes final action.

December 11

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to review Draft Amendment 10/EA and develop recommendations to the full Council for final action. The full Council will consider these recommendations on Wednesday afternoon. The Shrimp Committee will also hear a report on the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation's Bycatch and Effort Monitoring Program.

11 a.m. - 12 noon—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to hear

recommendations from Habitat Protection APs and to discuss a proposed Council freshwater inflow policy.

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.—Convene the Mackerel Management Committee to make recommendations regarding approval of the Dolphin/Wahoo EIS.

3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Law Enforcement Committee to receive progress reports on the 2001 Operations Plan and Cooperative Enforcement Agreements and to consider the 2002 Operations Plan.

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 (Magnuson 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 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 December 3, 2001.

Dated: November 16, 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. 111301B]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Industry Advisors will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, December 5, 2001, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, MD 21090, telephone 410-859-8400.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1444 Eye Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone 302-674-2331, ext. 19. Jack Dunnigan, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 202-289-6400, ext. 304.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2002 recreational management measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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 Mid-Atlantic Council Office at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 15, 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. 111401E]

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 Research Steering Committee, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Scallop Oversight Committee in December, 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 be held between December 7-11, 2001. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

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

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Friday, December 7, 2001, 9:30 a.m. – Research Steering Committee Meeting.

Location: Sheraton Colonial, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

The Council's Research Steering Committee plans to review its roles and responsibilities with respect to its relationship to the Council and NMFS. Further discussion about coordination of previously funded projects is scheduled. The committee also will review the impact of the experimental/exempted fishing permit program on collaborative research; and if time permits there will be a discussion of a 2002 Request for Proposals relative to the Northeast groundfish resource.

Friday, December 7, 2001, 9:30 a.m. – Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting.

Location: Holiday Inn, Boston Logan Airport, 225 McClellan Highway,

Boston, MA 02128; telephone: (617) 569-5250.

The SSC will discuss several issues raised with respect to the Consensus Summary of Assessments of the 33rd Northeast Stock Assessment Workshop and provide guidance to the Council. The Stock Assessment Workshop estimated biomass reference points associated with Maximum Sustainable Yield for Gulf of Maine cod, using an age structured model and assumptions about the relationship between spawning stock and recruitment. The new estimates also included discards and recreational catch. The SSC will consider the stock-recruitment relationship used by the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC), the contribution of several factors to the large change in the biomass target and whether a biomass target based on spawning stock biomass (SSB_{MSY}) is more robust. The SSC also will consider the basis for the SARC's determination that the stock was overfished and that overfishing was occurring. Finally the SSC will consider (1) whether the assessment included all sources of significant catch to estimate mortality and stock size; (2) what was the contribution of discards and recreational catch; (3) were there sufficient reasons for not estimating these sources of mortality. With respect to the redfish assessment the SSC will consider whether there is sufficient rationale for using mortality threshold more conservative than $F_{0.1}$ and whether adopting a new proxy for F_{MSY} implies a new B_{MSY} proxy. With respect to the white hake assessment, the SSC will consider whether trends in abundance and exploitation of fish larger than 60 cm adequately characterize the stock condition, whether the assessment accounted for sources of removals other than fishing, and why the abundance of fish less than 60 cm increased, while the abundance of fish greater than 60 cm decreased over the assessment.

Monday, December 10, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. – Scallop Oversight Committee Meeting.

Location: Holiday Inn, Boston Logan Airport, 225 McClellan Highway, Boston, MA 02128; telephone: (617) 569-5250.

The Oversight Committee will continue development of management alternatives for Draft Amendment 10 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The committee discussion will focus on measures (bycatch Total Allowable Catch (TACs), gear modifications, etc.) to reduce bycatch and habitat impacts, a potential bag tag