

Dated: February 7, 2002.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020602C]

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 Monkfish Oversight Committee and Scallop Oversight Committee in February and March, 2002 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 on February 28, 2002 and March 4 and 5, 2002. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101; telephone: (207) 775-2311.

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

*Thursday, February 28, 2002, 10 a.m.—*Monkfish Oversight Committee Meeting.

The committee will finalize recommendations to the Council on goals and objectives for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for approval in March. The committee will also begin to outline alternative management strategies to achieve those goals and objectives.

*Monday, March 4, 2002, 10 a.m. and Tuesday, March 5, 2002, 9:30 a.m.—*Scallop Oversight Committee Meeting.

The Oversight Committee will continue development of management

alternatives for Draft Amendment 10 to the Sea Scallop FMP. The committee will evaluate habitat and bycatch technical advice from the joint meeting of the Habitat Technical Team, the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) and the Scallop PDT. Recommendations will be developed for draft alternatives in Scallop FMP Amendment 10 to minimize, to the extent practicable, bycatch and habitat impacts from scallop fishing. Other issues and measures associated with Amendment 10 may also be developed.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal 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 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: February 7, 2002.

Matteo Milazzo,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Disposal of Paper Copies of U.S. Patents Removed From the Examiners' Search Rooms

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is considering whether the paper copies of selected subclasses of U.S. patents to be removed from the examiners' search rooms should be disposed of as wastepaper or donated to a non-profit organization. The USPTO is seeking input on whether any non-profit organization is interested in acquiring the paper copies of the U.S. patents to be removed from the examiners' search rooms.

DATES: Any interested non-profit organization should contact the USPTO on or before March 14, 2002 to indicate a desire to acquire paper copies of U.S. patents. If such interest is expressed, and the USPTO proceeds with donating the paper copies of U.S. patents removed from the examiners' search rooms to a non-profit organization, interested non-profit organizations will then be required to contact the USPTO within thirty days of the date the USPTO's web site is updated to include the subclasses in which the organization is interested.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any interested non-profit organization should contact Richard Seidel by facsimile marked "ATTN EXAMINERS SEARCH ROOMS" at (703) 308-7725. Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Richard Seidel by telephone at (703) 306-3431.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO is in the process of removing paper copies of selected subclasses of U.S. patents from the examiners' search rooms. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has determined that paper copies of U.S. patents in the examiners' search rooms are temporary records that may be destroyed when no longer needed for current USPTO business. Some of the paper copies have already been destroyed. The USPTO is considering whether it should: (1) Dispose of the paper copies of the selected subclasses of U.S. patents removed from the examiners' search rooms as wastepaper; or (2) donate the paper copies of the selected subclasses of U.S. patents removed from the examiners' search rooms to a non-profit organization. Therefore, the USPTO is seeking input on whether any non-profit organization is interested in acquiring the paper copies of U.S. patents to be removed from the examiners' search rooms (the USPTO is not currently aware of any).

Any donation of paper copies of U.S. patents must comply with the NARA regulations for the donation of temporary records which are set out in 36 CFR 1228.60. For example, the donee must be a non-profit organization and must agree not to sell the U.S. patent copies except as wastepaper, the donation must be made without cost to the United States Government, and NARA must provide written approval of the donation. Thus, even if there is interest by a non-profit organization in acquiring the paper copies of U.S. patents removed from the examiners' search rooms, the USPTO may still dispose of them as wastepaper if the USPTO cannot donate them to the non-