

Inshore fisheries occur in Hawaii state waters (shoreline to the extent of state jurisdiction) which are under the State's management authority (except for federal pelagic and bottomfish fisheries managed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council). This includes both recreational fishing and commercial fishing. Many different kinds of fishing methods exist and, in aggregate, fishing occurs throughout the year and along all accessible coastlines. Hawaiian fishermen utilize gear in four broad categories: hook-and-line, net, trap and spear. There is a diverse array of gear and gear configurations within these categories.

The DAR conservation plan includes a monitoring program to accurately estimate the annual take of sea turtles by inshore fisheries and to assess the effect of mitigation measures on addressing goals and objectives. The plan would also work to reduce the lethal take of sea turtles (all species combined) by 25 percent from 2002 levels and reduce the total take by 10 percent. Incidental mortalities of ESA-listed sea turtles associated with the Hawaii inshore marine fisheries are requested at levels specified in the permit application. The plan would protect critical inshore foraging and resting habitat from the impacts of the permitted activity.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and public comments to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed sea turtles under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 1, 2002.

**Phil Williams,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040102A]

### 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 Groundfish Oversight Committee in April 2002, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone. Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on April 23 and 24, 2002. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (978) 465-0492. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 23, 2002, at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, April 24, 2002, at 8:30 a.m. - Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting.

**Location:** Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

The Committee will continue development of Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 13 will end overfishing and establish rebuilding schedules for overfished stocks. At a meeting on February 27, 2002, the New England Council decided to develop groundfish management measures for five broad areas and one user group: inshore Gulf of Maine, offshore Gulf of Maine, eastern Georges Bank, western Georges Bank, Southern New England/Mid Atlantic, and recreational/charter/party. This meeting will focus on commercial fishing for groundfish in the Eastern and Western Georges Bank

areas. Measures for the Western Georges Bank area will be discussed on Tuesday, April 23, 2002, and measures for the Eastern Georges Bank area will be discussed on Wednesday, April 24, 2002. Proposed area boundaries can be obtained from the Council (see **ADDRESSES**). Interested parties will be consulted to identify management measures that will achieve specific biological, economic, and social objectives identified by the Council. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, trip or possession limits, changes to the days-at-sea program, year-round or seasonal closed areas, or gear changes. Suggestions for management measures should consider all Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements.

The Committee will consider these suggested measures and will develop a recommendation that will be reviewed by the Council at a later date. After Council approval, the measures will be analyzed and included in a draft supplemental environmental impact statement.

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: April 1, 2002.

**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. 040202A]

### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and