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A solicitation for applications can also be obtained through "FedBizOpps."

Dated: May 8, 2002.

William T. Hogarth,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service

[FR Doc. 02-12029 Filed 5-13-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050802E]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Council Chairmen's Meeting

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

ACTION: Annual meeting of Regional Fishery Management Council and NMFS representatives.

SUMMARY: Representatives of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils will meet with representatives of NMFS in Sitka, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 through Friday, May 31, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail Bendixen, NPFMC, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Tuesday, May 28, Council representatives and NMFS representatives will meet separately to prepare for the joint meetings Wednesday and Thursday, May 29-30. Council representatives will meet again on Friday morning, May 31, to finalize any recommendations resulting from the joint meetings.

The tentative agenda includes the following subjects for discussion:

1. Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other legislative initiatives.

2. Procedure and schedules for approval of Council statements of operating policies and procedures.

3. Discussion of Marine Protected Area initiative.

4. The ability of NMFS to meet mission requirements.

5. Discussion of education and public outreach campaign.

6. International trade negotiations, capacity reduction assessments, and general litigation influences.

7. Reports:

(a) NMFS reports on cooperative research funds and electronic logbook program.

(b) U.S. Coast Guard report on fisheries enforcement and rescue activities.

(c) Update on the 2002 annual Status of Stocks report to Congress and discussion of process and format for future reports.

(d) Status of the Coral Reef Task Force and funding issues.

(e) Status report on electronic rulemaking initiative.

(f) Status report on Essential Fish Habitat lawsuit and development of environmental impact statements.

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 identified 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

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

Dated: May 8, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-12031 Filed 5-13-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050102D]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The CPSMT will meet Wednesday, May 29, 2002, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held in the large conference room (D-203) at NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037; (858) 546-7000.

Council address: Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council; (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the work session is to review the current Pacific mackerel stock assessment and develop harvest guideline and seasonal structure recommendations for the 2002-2003 fishery. The 2002 CPS stock assessment and fishery evaluation (SAFE) document might also be discussed.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the CPSMT meeting agenda may come before the CPSMT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal CPSMT action during this meeting. CPSMT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 CPSMT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 8, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-12032 Filed 5-13-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Area the Public Is Requested to Temporarily Avoid During Coral Reef Restoration Activities in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS)

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuaries Program (NMSP), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of Area to be Temporarily Avoided.

SUMMARY: NOAA requests that users of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) avoid, from May 15, 2002 through June 28, 2002, an area of approximately 0.58 acres marked by construction buoys in the vicinity of 25°0.67' N, 80°22.37' W, which is at "Molasses Reef," and is located 6 nautical miles (11.1 km) off the southeastern portion of Key Largo, Florida. During this time, NOAA and authorized contractors will be conducting physical restoration activities of a coral reef where the M/V Wellwood grounded in August 1984. The public is requested to avoid the area

during this period due to the presence of heavy construction materials and equipment (e.g., barges and cranes), moorings, surface air supply hoses of divers and increased localized boat traffic. The intent of this notice is to ensure the timely and successful completion of the restoration and the protection of life and property during these complex activities.

DATES: The public is requested to avoid the area from May 15, 2002 through June 28, 2002. If less or more time is needed, NOAA will so inform the public. Public notice of this request also will be provided through local news media, a Notice to Mariners, and posting of placards or bulletin boards in public areas in Key Largo.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harriet Sopher, Program Manager, Resource Protection Team, National Marine Sanctuaries Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC4, 11th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. Telephone number: 301-713-3125, ext. 109.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 4, 1984, the M/V Wellwood, a 122-meter Cypriot-registered freighter, ran aground on the upper fore reef of Molasses Reef within the FKNMS. The grounding site is a bank reef located 6 nautical miles (11.1 km) off the southeast portion of Key Largo, Florida (entered at approximately 25°0.67' N, 80°22.37' W). The impact of the grounding and the shifting of the vessel created large scars on the Molasses Reef fore reef. Significant injuries were inflicted to the coral reef colonies, substrate, and other resident marine organisms such as sponges and sea fans. The unconsolidated coral rubble and ship debris have been removed. Storm events, including Hurricane Georges in the autumn of 1998, have caused additional damage to the grounding site.

Section 312 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA; 16 U.S.C. 1443) authorizes NOAA to pursue claims for response costs and damages when sanctuary resources are destroyed, lost or injured. Funds recovered under section 312 are used to restore, replace or acquire equivalent sanctuary resources. As part of the restoration process at the site of the M/V Wellwood grounding, NOAA and its authorized contractor will be placing reef modules and tremie concrete to rebuild the physical structure of the damaged coral reef. This activity will occur from April 15, 2002 through June 28, 2002.

Because divers, moorings, heavy construction materials and equipment (e.g., barges and cranes) and increased localized boat traffic will be present during the restoration activity, NOAA requests the public to avoid an area of approximately 0.58 acres where the restoration activity will occur. Five to seven, recreational mooring buoys will be removed from the work area and the nearby vicinity. The work area will be marked by construction buoys. The buoys will be set about 30 feet beyond the barge tie down locations, and create an area approximately 200 feet by 150 feet, with the longer axis oriented in a NE-SW direction, around the grounding site (25°0.67' N, 80°22.37' W).

The intent is to provide an area for the conduct of these important restoration activities; protect the life and property of construction crews and Sanctuary users while heavy construction materials and equipment (e.g., barges and cranes) are in the area; protect moorings which will be used at the site to stabilize the barges; protect the surface air supply hoses of the divers and SCUBA crew who will be conducting the restoration activities; and ensure timely and successful completion of the restoration. The area that the public is requested to avoid is the minimum area necessary to moor the barges and includes buffer zones to moor support vessels and provide an extra margin for public safety during the restoration activities. The time period for which the public is requested to avoid the restoration site is the expected time necessary to complete the construction activities. If less or more time is needed, NOAA will so notify the public.

During the spring of 2002, one-on-one contact was made with local dive operators, a public meeting was held to explain the restoration project and make the public aware of the area it would be requested to temporarily avoid. Additionally, NOAA issued press releases to the local newspapers and radio stations which have covered the restoration planning process and which have provided notice of NOAA's request for the public to avoid the restoration area.

Locations and Boundaries of the Area the Public Is Requested to Avoid

The area which the public is requested to avoid is located approximately 6 nautical miles offshore the southeast portion of Key Largo, Florida (centered near 25°0.67' N, 80°22.37' W). The total area is approximately 0.58 acres. The boundary of this area will be marked by construction buoys.