

Dated: December 16, 2004.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-27930 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121504C]

#### 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 along with the Council's Administrative Policy Committee, Data Collection Committee, Habitat Protection Committee, Mackerel Management Committee, Reef Fish Management Committee, Shrimp Management Committee, and the Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee. Joint meetings will also be held by the Artificial Reef/Reef Fish Committees and the Reef Fish/Mackerel Committees. The agenda for these meetings can be found under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**DATES:** The Council will meet January 12, 2005, from 1 to 5:15 p.m. and January 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Committee meetings will be held January 10, 2005, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., January 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and January 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Sheraton Baton Rouge, 102 France Street, Baton Rouge, LA.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 North U.S. Highway 301, 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:**

#### **Agenda for the Fishery Management Council Meeting**

*Wednesday, January 12, 2005*

*1 p.m. - Convene.*

*1:15 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. - Receive public testimony on (1) Final Reef Fish Amendment 24, (2) Final CMP*

*Amendment 15, (3) Final essential fish habitat (EFH) Amendment 3, (4) the Texas Shrimp Closure, and (5) exempted fishing permits (if any).*

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

*3:45 p.m. — 4:15 p.m. - Receive the Shrimp Management Committee report.*

*4:15 p.m. — 4:45 p.m. - Receive the Mackerel Management Committee report.*

*4:45 p.m. — 5:15 p.m. - Receive the Joint Artificial Reef/ Reef Fish Committee report.*

*Thursday, January 13, 2005*

*8:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. - Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee report.*

*10:30 a.m. — 10:45 a.m. - Receive the Data Collection Committee report.*

*10:45 a.m. — 11 a.m. - Receive the Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Committee report.*

*11 a.m. — 11:15 a.m. - Receive the Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee report.*

*11:15 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. - Receive the Administrative Policy Committee report.*

*11:30 a.m. — 11:45 a.m. - Receive the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting report.*

*11:45 a.m. — 12 noon - Receive the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting report.*

*12 noon — 12:15 p.m. - Receive Enforcement Reports.*

*12:15 p.m. — 12:30 p.m. - Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's report.*

*12:30 p.m. — 12:45 p.m. - Receive Director's Reports.*

*12:45 p.m. — 1 p.m. - Other business.*

#### **Agenda for Committee Meetings**

*Monday, January 10, 2005*

*9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. - The Shrimp Management Committee will review the public hearing draft of Shrimp Amendment 13 which addresses limited access in the shrimp fishery. They will also review scientific analyses of the effect of the cooperative shrimp closure with the state of Texas and determine whether the closure should be implemented in 2005.*

*1 p.m. — 5:30 p.m. - The Reef Fish Management Committee will meet take final action on Reef Fish Amendment 24. The Committee will discuss a proposed vessel buy-out program for the Gulf commercial grouper fishery based on funding provided by Congress and review a biological opinion on the effect of the Gulf reef fish fishery, proposed by NMFS, under the Endangered Species Act. The Committee will also review a*

*draft of Reef Fish Amendment 18A addressing the grouper fishery and a preliminary draft of a red grouper regulatory amendment providing for commercial vessel trip limits.*

*Tuesday, January 11, 2005*

*8:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. - The Reef Fish Management Committee will reconvene to complete its work.*

*10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. - The Mackerel Management Committee will meet to take final action on CMP Amendment 15.*

*1 p.m. — 2 p.m. - The Joint Artificial Reef/Reef Fish Committees will review a Mississippi Fishing Banks Special Management Zone Request.*

*2 p.m. — 3 p.m. - The Data Collection Committee will hear an update by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission on its Fisheries Information Network (FIN) program.*

*3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. - The Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Committees will review an options paper for an amendment that would extend the charter vessel permit moratorium.*

*4:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m. - The Administrative Policy Committee will review feasibility studies for distribution of Council mail via email and video/teleconferencing of public hearings or meetings.*

*Wednesday, January 12, 2005*

*8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. - The Habitat Protection Committee will take final action on the EFH Amendment by developing their recommendations to Council.*

*9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. - The Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee will meet to review NMFS actions on developing social survey documents and address developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for soliciting contractual support in carrying out social ecosystem surveys. They will also discuss the role of the Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).*

*Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees 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. The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the untimely completion of discussion relevant to other agenda items. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by December 29, 2004.

Dated: December 17, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E4-3763 Filed 12-21-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation for Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

**SUMMARY:** This notice responds to the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2002, Public Law 107-372, which requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to solicit nominations for membership on the Hydrographic Services Review Panel. This advisory committee will advise the Under Secretary on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, (the Act) and such other appropriate matters as the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice.

**DATES:** Resumes should be sent to the address, e-mail, or fax specified and must be received by February 1, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910, FAX: 301-713-4019, e-mail:

*Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Captain Roger Parsons, Director, Office

of Coast Survey, NOS/NOAA, 301-713-2770 x 134, fax 301-713-4019, e-mail: *Roger.L.Parsons@noaa.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under 33 U.S.C. 883a, *et seq.*, NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) is responsible for providing nautical charts and related information for safe navigation. NOS collects and compiles hydrographic, tidal and current, geodetic, and a variety of other data in order to fulfill this responsibility. The Hydrographic Services Review Panel provides advice on topics such as NOAA's Hydrographic Survey Priorities, technologies relating to operations, research and development, and dissemination of data pertaining to:

- (a) Hydrographic surveying and data;
- (b) Nautical charting;
- (c) Water level measurements;
- (d) Current measurements;
- (e) Geodetic measurements; and
- (f) Geospatial measurements.

The Panel comprises fifteen voting members appointed by the Under Secretary in accordance with Section 105 of the Act. Members are selected on a standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. The Directors of the Joint Hydrographic Center and no more than two employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration serve as nonvoting members of the panel. This solicitation is to obtain candidates to replace five of the original voting members whose original two-year appointments expire in late 2005 or early 2006.

The voting members of the Panel are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more disciplines relating to hydrographic surveying, tides, current, geodetic and geo-spatial measurements, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, and coastal and fishery management. An individual may not be appointed as a voting member of the Panel if the individual is a full-time officer or employee of the United States. Any voting member of the Panel who is an applicant for, or beneficiary of, (as determined by the Under Secretary) any assistance under the Act shall disclose to the Panel that relationship, and may not vote on any matter pertaining to that assistance.

Voting members of the Panel serve for a term of four years. Members serve at the discretion of the Under Secretary and are subject to government ethics standards. Any individual appointed to a partial or full term may be reappointed for one additional full term. A voting member may serve until his or her

successor has taken office. The Panel selected one voting member to serve as the Chair and another to serve as the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair acts as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair.

At a minimum, meetings occur biannually, and at the call of the Chair or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Under Secretary. Voting members receive compensation at a rate established by the Under Secretary, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when actually engaged in the performance of duties for such Panel and shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

Dated: December 13, 2004.

**Captain Roger L. Parsons, NOAA,**

*Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-JE-M**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121504F]

#### 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 Groundfish and Scallop Oversight Committees in January, 2005. Recommendations from these committees will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meetings will held on Thursday, January 13, 2005 and Wednesday, January 26, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held in Mansfield and Revere, MA.

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

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**