

- E-mail: 0648-AS70.NOI@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: Charter Headboat Permit Moratorium.

- Mail: Andy Strelcheck, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

- Fax: 727-824-5308; Attention: Andy Strelcheck. Requests for the scoping document may be directed to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, The Commons at Rivergate, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619; telephone: 813-228-2815; fax: 813-225-7015. Scoping documents are also available to download at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stu Kennedy (phone: 813-228-2815; fax: 813-225-7015; e-mail: Stu.Kennedy@gulfcouncil.org); or Andy Strelcheck (phone: 727-824-5305; fax: 727-824-5308; e-mail: Andy.Strelcheck@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council and NMFS intend to prepare a DSEIS in support of the proposed Moratorium Amendment. For-hire vessel permits were initially required in the coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) fishery starting in 1987 and in the reef fish fishery in 1997. Amendments establishing the charter vessel/headboat permit moratorium for the CMP fishery (Amendment 14) and the Reef Fish fishery (Amendment 20) were approved by NMFS on May 6, 2003, and implemented on June 16, 2003 (68 FR 26280). The intended effect of these amendments was to cap the number of for-hire vessels operating in these two fisheries at the current level (as of March 29, 2001) while the Council evaluated whether limited access programs were needed to constrain effort. In this proposed Moratorium Amendment, the Council is considering alternatives that would: allow the moratorium on for-hire reef fish and CMP permits to expire; extend the moratorium for a finite period of time (5 or 10 years); or establish a permanent limited access program. In any case, except for allowing the moratorium to expire, there would be no new permits issued. The DSEIS will evaluate the impacts of these alternatives. Alternatives which have been under consideration are described in detail in *The Scoping Document for Extending the Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium by Amending the FMPs for: Reef Fish (Amendment 25) and Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Amendment 17)*, which is available from the Council (see **ADDRESSES**). The Council is soliciting public comment on the range of

alternatives and scope of issues that should be considered in this DSEIS.

In accordance with NOAA's Administrative Order NAO 216-6, Section 502(c)4, the Council previously held nine scoping hearings during June 2004 to solicit input from interested parties on proposed actions and alternatives identified in the above-mentioned scoping document. These hearings were held in the following locations: Port Isabel, Port Aransas, and Galveston, TX; Kenner, LA; Biloxi, MS; Orange Beach, AL; Destin, Madeira Beach, and Naples, FL.

Additionally, public comments may be accepted at the following Council meetings and during public hearings that will be announced in future **Federal Register** notices:

July 11-14, 2005, Diamondhead All-Suite Beach Resort, 2000 Estero Boulevard, Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931; and
September 12-15, 2005, New Orleans, LA (Location TBA).

The meetings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Gulf Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

The completed DSEIS associated with the draft Moratorium Amendment will be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announced in the **Federal Register**, and open to public comment for a 45-day period. This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and to NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6 on complying with NEPA and the CEQ regulations.

The Council will consider public comments received on the DSEIS in developing the final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS), and before taking final action on the Moratorium Amendment. The Council will submit both the final amendment and the supporting FSEIS to NMFS for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation under the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

NMFS will announce, through a document published in the **Federal Register**, the availability of the final Moratorium Amendment for public review during the Secretarial review period. During Secretarial review, NMFS will also file the FSEIS with the EPA for a final 30-day public comment period. This comment period will be concurrent with the Secretarial review period and will end prior to final agency

action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the final Moratorium Amendment.

NMFS will announce, through a notice published in the **Federal Register**, all public comment periods on the final Moratorium Amendment, any proposed implementing regulations, and its associated FSEIS. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the Secretarial review period, whether they are on the final amendment, any proposed regulations, or the FSEIS, prior to final agency action.

Dated: April 1, 2005.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 05-6939 Filed 4-6-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040405B]

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 Groundfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel for gopher rockfish, cowcod, California scorpionfish, and vermilion rockfish will hold a work session which is open to the public.

DATES: The gopher rockfish, cowcod, California scorpionfish, and vermilion rockfish STAR Panel will meet beginning at 8 a.m., Monday, May 9, 2005. The meeting will continue through Friday, May 13, 2005, beginning at 8 a.m. every morning. The meetings will end at 5 p.m. each day, or as necessary to complete business.

ADDRESSES: The gopher rockfish, cowcod, California scorpionfish, and vermilion rockfish STAR Panel meeting will be held at NMFS, Southwest Regional Office, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; telephone: 562-980-4000.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Stacey Miller, Northwest Fisheries Science Center; telephone: 206-860-3480; or Mr. John DeVore, Pacific

Fishery Management Council;
telephone: 503-820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the STAR Panel meeting is to review draft stock assessment documents and any other pertinent information, work with the Stock Assessment Teams to make necessary revisions, and produce a STAR Panel report for use by the Council family and other interested persons. No management actions will be decided by the STAR Panel. The STAR Panel's role will be development of recommendations and reports for consideration by the Council at its June meeting in Foster City, CA.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the STAR Panel participants for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal STAR Panel action during this meeting. STAR Panel 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 STAR Panel participants' intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Entry to the Southwest Regional Office requires visitors to show a valid picture ID and register with security. A visitor's badge, which must be worn while at the Southwest Region Facility, will be issued to non-federal employees participating in the meeting.

Special Accommodations

This 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 503-820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 4, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E5-1592 Filed 4-6-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040405A]

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) Ad Hoc Allocation Committee (Committee) will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The Committee meeting will be held Monday, May 2, 2005, from 1 p.m. until business for the day is completed. The Committee meeting will reconvene Tuesday, May 3, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The Committee meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon at a location to be determined. The Pacific Fishery Management Council will distribute notice of the meeting location to interested parties on their groundfish mailing list and will post this information as well on their website at www.pcouncil.org.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John DeVore, Groundfish Management Coordinator; telephone: 503-820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Committee meeting is to consider allocational issues associated with development of an individual quota (or dedicated access) program initiative for the Pacific Coast groundfish trawl fishery, as well as initiatives pursuant to implementing bycatch reduction measures frameworked in Amendment 18 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The Committee will discuss the types of provisions that may be necessary to prevent further overfishing, to reduce bycatch of overfished species in the various groundfish fisheries, and to reduce bycatch in nongroundfish fisheries. No management actions will be decided by the Committee. The Committee's role will be development of recommendations for consideration by the Council at its June meeting in Foster City, California.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee 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 Committee'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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at 503-820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 4, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E5-1593 Filed 4-6-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040105D]

National Marine Fisheries Service, Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors Meeting; April 26-29, 2005

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is hosting the Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC) Chairs and Executive Directors Meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 through Friday, April 29, 2005, in Dana Point, California. The purpose of the meeting is to enable NMFS, NOAA, and other officials to exchange information with and obtain views of the Council Chairs and Executive Directors (CCED).

DATES: The CCED will meet April 26-29, 2005. There will be non-public administrative sessions on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday, April 29, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The public general sessions will be held Wednesday, April 27, 2005 and Thursday, April 28, 2005, beginning each day at 8 a.m. through 5 p.m., or until business is concluded.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Laguna Cliffs Marriott Hotel, 25135 Park Lantern, Dana Point, California 92629; telephone 800-545-7483.

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