

March 25, 2005.

**Sam D. Hamilton,**

*Regional Director, Southeast Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

Dated: March 3, 2005.

**P. Michael Payne,**

*Chief, Marine Mammal and Marine Turtle Conservation Division, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

March 9, 2005.

**Ren Lohofener,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 05-8032 Filed 4-20-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041805A]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Notice of Crab Rationalization Program Public Workshop

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public workshop.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will present a public workshop on the new Crab Rationalization Program (Program) for participants in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) king and Tanner crab fisheries. At this workshop, NMFS will provide an overview of the Program, discuss the key Program elements, provide information on the application process, and answer questions. This workshop is specifically intended to address issues related to the Arbitration System portion of the Program. NMFS is conducting this public workshop to provide assistance to fishery participants in complying with the requirements of this new Program.

**DATES:** Workshop will be held May 9, 2005. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** Workshop will be held in Seattle, WA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sheela McLean, 907-586-7032 or [sheela.mclean@noaa.gov](mailto:sheela.mclean@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 2, 2005, NMFS published a final rule implementing the Crab Rationalization Program (Program) as Amendments 18 and 19 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs. In January 2004, the

U.S. Congress amended section 313(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Pub. L. No. 108-199, section 801). As amended, section 313(j)(1) requires the Secretary to approve and implement by regulation the Program, as it was approved by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) between June 2002 and April 2003, and all trailing amendments, including those reported to Congress on May 6, 2003. In June 2004, the Council consolidated its actions on the Program into the Council motion, which is contained in its entirety in Amendment 18. Additionally, in June 2004, the Council developed Amendment 19, which represents minor changes necessary to implement the Program. The Notice of Availability for these amendments was published in the **Federal Register** on September 1, 2004 (69 FR 53397). NMFS approved Amendments 18 and 19 on November 19, 2004. NMFS published a proposed rule to implement Amendments 18 and 19 in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 2004 (69 FR 63200).

NMFS conducted four public workshops in March and April in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington to provide assistance to fishery participants in complying with the requirements of this new Program (70 FR 10992). At these workshops, NMFS provided an overview of the Program, discussed the key Program elements, and provide information on the application process.

The May 9, 2005 workshop is intended to specifically focus on the Arbitration System. Elements related to economic data collection, monitoring and enforcement, electronic reporting, quota share and individual fishing quota application and transfer provisions, the appeals process, fee collection, and the loan program may be addressed secondarily. Additionally, NMFS will answer questions from workshop participants. For further information on the Crab Rationalization Program, please visit the NMFS Alaska Region Internet site at [www.fakr.noaa.gov](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov).

#### Workshop Dates, Times, and Locations

NMFS will hold the public workshop as follows:

Monday, May 9, 2005, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST)—Leif Erickson Hall, 2245 Northwest 57th Street, Seattle, WA.

#### Special Accommodations

This workshop is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations should be directed to Sheela McLean

(see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least five working days before the workshop date.

Dated: April 18, 2005.

**Emily Menashes,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041505G]

#### 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 meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific meeting schedule.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held May 9 - 12, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** These meetings will be held at the Palace Casino Resort, 158 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS.

*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:

##### Council Meetings - Schedule

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

*8:30 a.m. – Convene.*

*8:45 a.m. – 12 Noon - Receive public testimony on (a) Final Shrimp Amendment 13/EA and (b) Exempted fishing permits (if any).*

*1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Receive a report on the Administration's Ocean Action Plan.*

*1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. - Receive a presentation on major law enforcement issues regarding red snapper violations and illegal seafood imports.*

*2:45 p.m. – 3 p.m. - Receive the National State Fishery Directors' Meeting report.*

*3 p.m. – 4 p.m. - Receive the Shrimp Management Committee report.*

*4 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. - Receive the AP Selection Committee Report (CLOSED SESSION).*

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Receive the SSC Selection Committee Report (CLOSED SESSION).

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. - Receive the SEDAR Committee Report (CLOSED SESSION).

4:45 p.m. – 5 p.m. - Receive the Joint Budget/Personnel Committee Report (CLOSED SESSION).

Thursday, May 12, 2005

8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. - Receive the AP Selection Committee Report.

8:35 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. - Receive the SSC Selection Committee Report.

8:40 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. - Receive the SEDAR Committee Report.

8:45 a.m. – 9 a.m. - Receive the Joint Budget/Personnel Committee Report.

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. - Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee report.

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. - Receive the Joint Administrative Policy/Budget/Personnel Committee Report.

9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m. - Receive the Habitat Protection Committee Report.

10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. - Receive the Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Committee Report.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - Receive the Data Collection Committee Report.

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. - Receive the NMFS Billfish and HMS AP Meeting Report.

10:45 a.m. – 11 a.m. - Receive Enforcement Reports.

11 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. - Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's report.

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Receive Directors' Reports.

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. - Other Business.

Committee

Monday, May 9, 2005

9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. - The Advisory Panel (AP) Selection Committee will meet in closed session to appoint AP members.

10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. - The Scientific and Statistical (SSC) Selection Committee will meet in closed session to appoint SSC members.

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - The Joint Budget/Personnel Committee will meet in closed session to make recommendations to Council on the selection of an Ecosystem Facilitator and then open session to review the Council's operational budget for CY2005.

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. - The Shrimp Management Committee will review public hearing summaries, public letters, AP recommendations, LEAP recommendations, SEP comments, SSC recommendations and committee recommendations on Final Shrimp Amendment 13/EA, which addresses

limited access in the shrimp fishery in order to make recommendations to the Council.

3 p.m. – 4 p.m. - The Joint Administrative Policy/Budget/Personnel Committee will meet to review the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) revision to the SOPPs.

4 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. - The Habitat Protection Committee will hear reports on the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Coordinators' Meeting and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) Meeting. They will then hear an update on liquefied natural gas (LNG) Facility Permitting.

4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. - The Data Collection Committee will receive a presentation on the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System.

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. - The SEDAR Committee will meet in closed session to select panel participants for SEDAR workshops for amberjack, vermilion snapper and gray triggerfish.

9:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon - The Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to review Public Hearing Draft Reef Fish Amendment 18A/EA, which addresses the grouper fishery and receive a demonstration of bycatch release gear. The Committee will then receive the red grouper 2004/2005 landings data and hear a status report on the interim red grouper rule. The Committee will review a revised options paper for the Red Grouper Regulatory Amendment providing for commercial vessel trip limits and a revised total allowable catch (TAC) and then discuss the red grouper industry buy-out business plan.

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. - The Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Management Committees will review a public hearing draft of a Generic Amendment for Extension of Charter Vessel Permit Moratorium.

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 (M-SFCMA), 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

M-SFCMA, 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 timely completion of discussion relevant to the

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 May 2, 2005.

Dated: April 18, 2005.

**Emily Menashes,**

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

[FR Doc. E5-1873 Filed 4-20-05; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041805B]

### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject application to modify an existing Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Assistant Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Assistant Regional Administrator proposes to recommend that an EFP be issued to modify a recently approved EFP by allowing additional exemptions from the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The EFP would add an exemption from the FMP as follows: The Gulf of Maine (GOM) Rolling Closure Area III; Western GOM Closure