

successful implementation of the goals and objectives of the Reserve.

The mission of the Reserve management plan is to improve the stewardship of the region's estuarine and coastal watershed ecosystems. The management plan identifies the following priority issues facing the Reserve: Water quality/eutrophication/watershed land-use; climate change/sea level rise/shoreline change; and assessment of ecosystem response to natural variability and human impacts.

The management plan identifies five goals that are addressed through active management. The goals are (1) improve the understanding of coastal ecosystems and the human influences on them, (2) improve environmental literacy in communities to enable environmentally-sustainable decision-making, (3) demonstrate sustainable stewardship of the land and water ecosystems within the Reserve to serve as a model for community stewardship in the region, (4) foster dialogue and development of coastal ecosystem management solutions through sustained community engagement, (5) improve operations, infrastructure and stature of the Reserve.

The Reserve's management plan addresses these goals with specific programs for resource management and protection and stewardship, research and monitoring, education and training, public access and visitor use, program administration, and partnerships and regional coordination.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Grimm at (301) 563-7101 or Kate Barba, Acting Chief, Estuarine Reserves Division at (301) 563-1158 of NOAA's National Ocean Service, Estuarine Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM5, 10th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Dated: August 25, 2006.

David M. Kennedy,
Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-14430 Filed 8-29-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081406A]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Meeting of Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

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

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold a two-day Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) meeting in October 2006. The intent of the meeting is to consider options for the conservation and management of HMS.

DATES: The AP meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2006, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA, 22311; phone: 703-845-1010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Othel Freeman or Chris Rilling at 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, provided for the establishment of an AP to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any Fishery Management Plan (FMP). NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of AP members when preparing and implementing FMPs or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks. The AP has previously consulted with NMFS on: the HMS FMP (April 1999), Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2003), Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999), and the Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP in February 2006. The October 2006 AP meeting will focus on conservation and management options for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Othel Freeman or Chris Rilling at (301) 713-2347, at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 24, 2006.

James P. Burgess,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 06-7262 Filed 8-25-06; 2:36 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082506B]

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 3-day Council meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26 beginning at 9 a.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, September 27 and 28, beginning at 8:30 a.m., each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978)535-4600. Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Following introductions, the Council will hold elections for 2006-07 officers. A series of brief reports will follow from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NOAA Northeast Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Scallop Survey Advisory Panel and the Northeast Multispecies Capacity Reduction Committee. During this morning session, the Council also will receive a report from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center on recent oceanographic variability in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank regions and the implications for fisheries. The Council will then review and approve the following for inclusion in phase I of the NEFMC's Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment: essential fish habitat designation alternatives for red crab and Atlantic salmon; alternatives for habitat areas of particular concern

(HAPCs); the prey species-related sections of the amendment, as well as the non-fishing impacts section. The Council's Sea Scallop Committee intends to recommend approval of final alternatives to be considered and analyzed in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to accompany Amendment 11 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan. This will be followed by a presentation on the updated estimate of exploitable scallop biomass in the Elephant Trunk area.

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

During the morning session, the Council's Research Steering Committee Chairman will report on the committee's recommendations concerning the use of information provided in several cooperative research final reports. This will be followed by a presentation on the recent activities of the Northeast Cooperative Research Partners Program. The rest of the morning session will be used to discuss the Groundfish Committee's report. Items will include possible action on recommendations for the 2009 Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Plan adjustment as well as consideration of recommendations concerning standards for approving additional gear for the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program. During the afternoon portion of the meeting, there will be a presentation on the results of the 43rd Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee meeting. Species to be addressed include dogfish, red crab and black sea bass. A report on the results of the Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee's findings on the status of Eastern Georges Bank cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder will follow. The Council will then consider and could approve the recommendations of the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee for fishing year 2007 Total Allowable Catches for yellowtail flounder, cod and haddock caught in the U.S./Canada area. The day will conclude with a report from the Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Committee on the development of an amendment to implement an SBRM process across all NEFMC fishery management plans (FMPs). This will include comments from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee on a recommended approach and the selection of preferred alternatives.

Thursday, September 28, 2006

The Council will spend the morning session on Atlantic herring management issues. Members will consider final

recommendations for multi-year fishery specifications (2007–09). Beforehand, members will consider the recommendations of the Herring Committee, Advisory Panel and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Herring Section. During the afternoon session, the Council will receive a summary of the comments collected during recent scoping meetings on the management of small mesh multispecies. Following this review, members will provide guidance to the Small Mesh Multispecies Committee as they move forward to develop a fishery management plan amendment. The Skate Annual Review will follow in which the status of the seven species managed through the Skate Fishery Management Plan will be discussed, along with any necessary actions that might be required. Prior to adjournment, there will be consideration of a recommendation to NOAA Fisheries to initiate a data collection program for the hagfish fishery.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council 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 that the public has been notified of the Council'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 Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 25, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-14461 Filed 8-29-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082406B]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its Crustaceans Plan Team (CPT) meeting, in Honolulu, HI.

ADDRESSES: The CPT meeting will be held at the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

DATES: The meeting of the CPT will be held on September 15, 2006, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CPT will meet on September 15, 2006, to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introductions
2. Review of Last Plan Team Meeting and Recommendations
3. Adding *Heterocarpus* as a Management Unit Species to the Crustaceans Fishery Management Plan
4. Update on Lobster Research Activities

The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agenda.

The Plan Team will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Plan Team for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Plan Team action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issue arising after publication of this document that requires 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

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 25, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-14460 Filed 8-29-06; 8:45 am]

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