

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent electronically to the Fish for the Future Foundation, nominations@fish4thefuturefoundation.org. Nominations can also be mailed to Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards, c/o Fish for the Future Foundation, 3382 Gunston Road, Alexandria, VA 22302, or faxed to (703) 379-5777. All information and official nomination forms can be accessed electronically at the NMFS Web site www.nmfs.noaa.gov/awards/ or the Fish for the Future Foundation Web site www.fish4thefuturefoundation.org or by calling (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michele Shea, Fish for the Future Foundation, (703) 379-6101, Michele.Shea@fish4thefuturefoundation.org or Laurel Bryant, NMFS, (301) 713-2379 x171, laurel.bryant@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Established by NMFS, the Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards reflect the values and principles of NOAA and its mission to ensure sustainable management of U.S. fishery resources for the benefit of our Nation. NMFS has partnered with the Fish for the Future Foundation, an Internal Revenue Service-approved non-profit organization, to assist with the awards program. The Fish for the Future Foundation is dedicated to promoting education among the American public on the need for and importance of a vibrant, sustainable fishing industry.

The Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards Program is open to fishing industry sectors, organizations, individuals, and state, local and federal government agencies and their employees. Organizations, individuals and agencies cannot nominate themselves. A nominee cannot be nominated for more than one award category. International entities or employees of NMFS are not eligible to receive an award under any category. Presenting an award under each of the six categories will be entirely dependent on the pool of eligible candidates received and NMFS' determination of their qualifications. As such, there may be years in which an award is not presented under one or more of the categories.

Nominated through a public process, nominees will be considered for the following categories: Special Recognition Award, Stewardship & Sustainability Award, Conservation Partnership Award, Science, Research & Technology Award, Coastal Habitat Restoration Award, and Public

Education, Community Service & Media Award.

Nominations must be submitted on the official nomination form available at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/awards/ or www.fish4thefuturefoundation.org, and submitted electronically, mailed or faxed to Fish for the Future Foundation (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES**). Relevant supporting materials, not to exceed 10 pages in length, may be submitted along with the nomination form. At least one reference is required, however no more than three references or endorsements will be accepted or considered by the review panel. Nominations will be reviewed by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (a federal advisory group established to advise the Secretary of Commerce on living marine resource issues) as well as NMFS leadership, making recommendations to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. Final selection of award recipients is made by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

The following award categories are open for nominations:

Special Recognition Award—This award honors an individual who has demonstrated a life time achievement in innovative management and outstanding leadership for the stewardship and sustainable use of living marine resources.

Stewardship & Sustainability Award—This award recognizes excellence in promoting responsible stewardship and innovative management for long-term social, economic and biological sustainability of living marine resources.

Conservation Partnership Award—This award recognizes outstanding achievement in cooperative and collaborative work among stakeholder groups to foster best practices in sustainable living marine resources management.

Science, Research & Technology Award—This award recognizes excellence in the field of applied fisheries research. Nominations will be considered for advancements in technology to improve fisheries monitoring, reduce bycatch, protect habitat, conserve protected species, and enhance fishing operations as well as other technological advances that reduce the impacts of human activity on the marine environment.

Coastal Habitat Restoration Award—This award recognizes significant achievements made in coastal habitat restoration, including the development of innovative approaches and community based support necessary to

accomplish the ambitious goals inherent with these projects.

Public Education, Community Service & Media Award—This award recognizes efforts to inform the general public about marine fisheries and living marine resources in the United States, or efforts to support the nation's fishing communities through community service.

Evaluation of nominations will include but are not limited to the following criteria:

Leadership—the individual or the overall team effort that has been demonstrated over a sustained period of time in support of the stewardship and sustained use of living marine resources.

Impact on Stewardship—the degree of stewardship and conservation ethics and practices fostered within the larger community of living marine fisheries stakeholders and users.

Ecological Significance—the impact and benefit to the overall health and abundance provided to living marine resources.

Long-term Significance—the impact to the science, management and economic sustainability of living marine resources.

These awards are presented annually. This is the second year of the Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards. Information on last year's awards and award recipients can be found at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/awards.

Dated: November 2, 2006.

William T. Hogarth,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 06-9116 Filed 11-3-06; 1:36 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Advisory Board Meeting

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information

services. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

Time And Date: The meeting will be held Tuesday December 5, 2006, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday December 6, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Please refer to the Web page <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Meetings/meetings.html> for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

Place: The meeting will be held both days at the Courtyard by Marriott, 8506 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a 30-minute public comment period on December 5 (check Web site to confirm time). The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments (at least 35 copies) should be received in the SAB Executive Director's Office by November 27, 2006 to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after November 27 will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Matters To Be Considered: The meeting will include the following topics: (1) The Revision of NOAA Information Quality Guidelines to Conform with the OMB Peer Review Bulletin; (2) NOAA High Performance Computing Needs; (3) NOAA Space-Based Sensors; (4) Sound in the Marine Environment and Associated Science Challenges and Opportunities for NOAA; (5) the NOAA Hurricane Intensity Research Working Group (HIRWG) and National Science Foundation (NSF) National Science Board Hurricane Reports; (6) Research Goals to Improve Operational Support of Wildland Fire Management; (7) the NOAA Five-Year Research Plan and (8) Reviews of the NOAA Cooperative Institutes and the SAB's Role in them.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Rm. 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-713-9121, Fax: 301-713-3515, E-mail:

Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov); or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

Dated: November 2, 2006.

Mark E. Brown,

Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-18869 Filed 11-7-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102606B]

Sea Turtle Conservation; Activities Related to Fishing

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is seeking public review and comment on information characterizing Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico state trawl fisheries to support the Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation in Relation to Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries (Strategy). NMFS is requesting public review of these reports to ensure state trawl fishery characterizations contain the most accurate and up-to-date scientific, commercial, and anecdotal information available and to inform potential future management actions to address incidental capture of sea turtles in trawl gears (bycatch).

DATES: Written comments on the state trawl characterizations announced by this notice, or other information that NMFS should consider, are requested on or before January 8, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may also be sent via fax to (301) 427-2522. Comments on this notice may be submitted by e-mail (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: 102606B. Comments sent via e-mail, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size. References used in this document may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning the contact listed here

(See **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tanya Dobrzynski (ph. 301-713-2322, fax (301) 427-2522, e-mail Tanya.Dobrzynski@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

All species of sea turtles that occur in U.S. waters are listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NMFS is required to take steps to conserve and recover endangered and threatened sea turtles. Incidental capture in fishing gear is a leading threat to sea turtle populations. Certain types of gear are more prone to incidentally capturing sea turtles than others, depending on the design of the gear, the manner in which the gear is fished, and the time and area within which it is fished. NMFS initiated the Strategy in 2003 to institute a new approach to addressing sea turtle bycatch on a per-gear basis, rather than fishery by fishery, given that sea turtle bycatch is more strongly correlated with gear type than target species. The primary objectives of the Strategy are to: (1) conserve and recover sea turtles; (2) evaluate sea turtle bycatch across gear types; (3) develop and implement measures to reduce bycatch; and (4) authorize fishery takes consistent with ESA mandates. A comprehensive approach evaluating fishing impacts by gear type across fishing sector as well as across state, Federal, and regional boundaries will increase management effectiveness and ensure broader compliance with the ESA.

To execute the goals of the Strategy, NMFS has prioritized fishing gear in relation to sea turtle bycatch. Trawl gears operating without turtle excluder devices in areas and times where sea turtles are present are a high priority gear type under the Strategy. NMFS' efforts to address sea turtle bycatch in trawl gears include characterizing state and Federal fisheries; monitoring and estimating sea turtle takes; undertaking gear research; and working with stakeholders to develop solutions.

To prepare the state fishery characterizations mentioned above, NMFS contracted the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to prepare Atlantic state reports and individual state agencies in the Gulf of Mexico to prepare Gulf state reports. State fishery characterizations contain information, where available, on all fisheries and fishing gears used in each state's waters. NMFS is seeking public review only of trawl gear reports at this time since trawls have been identified as a high