

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032607G]

**Notice of Public Hearings for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold five public hearings in April 2007 to receive public comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP).

**DATES:** The public comment period for the DPEIS is from March 16, 2007, to April 30, 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** under the heading Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations for the dates and locations of the public hearings.

**ADDRESSES:** The public has the opportunity to submit comments on the document using the following methods:

- E-mail: [mmhsrpeis.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:mmhsrpeis.comments@noaa.gov).
- Mail: David Cottingham, Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Attn: MMSHRP DPEIS, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- Facsimile (fax) to: (301) 427-2584, Attn: MMHSRP DPEIS.
- Public Hearings: Submit oral or written comments at public hearings for the DPEIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Howlett or Sarah Wilkin, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; telephone: (301) 713-2322.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 16, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the DPEIS for the MMHSRP for public comment and review.

NMFS has scheduled five public hearings for the DPEIS. The purpose of these hearings is to provide an opportunity for the public to submit oral or written comments on the DPEIS. The DPEIS and information on these hearings can be found at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/eis.htm>.

**Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations**

The dates, times, and locations of the public hearings are as follows:

1. *Monday, April 2, 2007* – San Francisco, CA 1–4 p.m. – Bay Conservation and Development Commission, 50 California Street, Suite 2600, San Francisco, CA 94111.
2. *Tuesday, April 3, 2007* – Seattle, WA 2–5 p.m. – NMFS Northwest Regional Office, Building 9, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115.
3. *Friday, April 6, 2007* – Silver Spring, MD 1–4 p.m. – Silver Spring Metro Center, Building 3, Room 1311–B, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
4. *Monday, April 9, 2007* – Boston, MA 1–4 p.m. – New England Aquarium Conference Center, Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110.
5. *Tuesday, April 10, 2007* – St. Petersburg, FL 4–7 p.m. – NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Dolphin Conference Room, 263 13th Avenue, South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

**Special Accommodations**

These hearings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Sarah Howlett or Sarah Wilkin, 301-713-2322 (voice) or 301-427-2522 (fax), at least 5 working days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: March 27, 2007.

**David Cottingham,**

*Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032607E]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), its Research Set Aside (RSA) Committee, its Ecosystem Committee, its Protected Resources Committee, its Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee, its Executive Committee, and its Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Committee will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 through Thursday, April 19, 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** These meetings will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842; telephone: (410) 524-7777.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Tuesday, April 17, 2007**

*8 a.m. until 1 p.m.* - The Research Set Aside (RSA) Committee will meet privately with NMFS officials.

*9 a.m. until 11 a.m.* - The Ecosystems Committee will also meet concurrently with the RSA Committee.

*11 a.m. until 1 p.m.* - The Protected Resources Committee will meet concurrently with the RSA Committee.

*2 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.* - The Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee will meet.

*7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.* - NMFS will hold a scoping session on National Standard 1 Guidelines regarding annual catch limits and accountability measures.

**Wednesday, April 18, 2007**

*8 a.m. until 9 a.m.* - The Executive Committee will meet.

*9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.* - The Council will convene to receive a presentation from the National Fisheries Institute's Scientific Monitoring Committee.

*10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.* - A Public Hearing for Phase 1 of the New England Council's Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment will be held.

*11:30 a.m.* - The 5th District Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard will discuss Coast Guard activities and Command changes.

*1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.* - The Council will conduct its regular Council business.

*3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.* - The Council will discuss and likely approve Framework 7 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

*4:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.* - An update on the Limited Access Privilege Programs will be presented by Council staff.

**Thursday, April 19, 2007**

8 a.m. until 10 a.m. - The Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee will meet with its Advisors.

10 a.m. - The Council will convene to receive an update regarding the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) integration.

10:30 a.m. until adjournment - The Council will receive committee reports and address any continuing or new business.

Agenda items for the Council's committees and the Council itself are: The Research Set Aside (RSA) Committee will meet privately with NMFS officials to review 2008 RSA project proposals. The Ecosystems Committee will review responses to the March 9 solicitation letter to member states regarding artificial reefs, and develop a Committee position on the need to create (or not) special management zones (SMZs) for artificial reefs. The Ecosystems Committee will also receive the NMFS' Northeast Fisheries Science Center presentation on the current status of its ecosystem efforts. The Protected Resources Committee will meet with its Advisors to review and discuss the NMFS' Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on sea turtle conservation, and to also review and discuss impacts of the Atlantic Trawl Gear Take Reduction Team's (ATGTRT) efforts to reduce the incidental take of pilot whales and dolphins. The Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee will review and update outcomes from its March 21 Committee meeting on Amendment 11. NMFS' will hold a scoping session regarding annual catch limits and accountability measures associated with National Standard 1 Guidelines. The Executive Committee will review outcomes of the meeting of NMFS' Northeast Region (NER) officials regarding impacts of the MSA Reauthorization Act of 2006, review status of the Council's fiscal year 2007 budget, and review the status of the Council's Advisory Panel surveys and related actions. The National Fisheries Institute's Scientific Monitoring Committee will provide a presentation on the results of its Supplemental Finfish Survey and Loligo Net-Testing Study. A Public Hearing will be held regarding Phase 1 of the New England Council's Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Omnibus Amendment. The Council will conduct its regular business session, and review, select, and approve options/alternatives included in Framework 7 to its Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP regarding mechanisms to

change biological reference points during the specification setting process following peer reviewed stock assessments. A staff-led discussion will then be held on Limited Access Programs. The Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee and its Advisors will review cost recovery options for surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries and solicit input from Advisors regarding 2008, 2009, and 2010 quota specifications. The Council will receive a presentation from its Executive Directors on Section 107 of the MSA Reauthorization Act of 2006. This will be followed by committee reports and any continuing or new business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council 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 the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final actions to address such emergencies.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Bryan (302) 674-2331 ext. 18 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 26, 2007.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032607D]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public committee meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Multispecies (Groundfish) Advisory Panel and Committee will hold meetings to consider actions affecting

New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meetings will be held April 19-20, 2007. For specific dates and times, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings 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 12, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The advisory panel and committee's schedule and agenda for the following two meetings are as follows:

**1. Thursday, April 19, 2007, beginning at 9 a.m. - Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (Panel) will meet to review scoping comments received for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This amendment will adopt measures as necessary to continue the rebuilding of several stocks of groundfish, as well as make other changes to the FMP that may be required. The Panel will spend most of its time reviewing two alternative management proposals received during scoping. One proposal, called area management, suggests managing in discrete, finite areas with specific measures tailored to those areas. A second proposal suggests allocating points to commercial fishing vessels that will be deducted based on catch. If time permits, the Panel will also review other comments received during scoping, including suggestions for changes to the days-at-sea (DAS) program and other management measures. The Panel may also consider other business. Panel recommendations will be forwarded to the Multispecies Committee at a meeting on April 20, 2007.

**2. Friday, April 20, 2007, beginning at 9 a.m.- Multispecies (Groundfish) Committee Meeting**

The Multispecies Committee will meet to develop Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. This amendment will adopt measures as necessary to continue the rebuilding of several stocks of groundfish, as well as make other changes to the FMP that may be required. The Committee will spend most of its time reviewing two alternative management proposals received during scoping. One proposal,