

framework for addressing the issues facing the sanctuary over the next five years. It lays the foundation for restoring and protecting the sanctuary's ecosystem; details the human pressures that threaten the qualities and resources of the sanctuary; and recommends actions that should be taken both now and in the future to better manage the area and resources.

This document provides strategic guidance for management actions and focuses these actions on four priority

programmatic areas: capacity building, ecosystem protection, marine mammal protection and maritime heritage management. The eleven action plans detailed in the draft management plan address issues relative to these four areas, and are based extensively on the advice of working groups established by the SAC, cooperative coordination with other government agencies and organizations and ongoing public input. The draft environmental assessment analyzes the environmental impacts of

the revised management plan pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. In doing so, it analyzes two alternatives: the status quo (no change to the 1993 management plan) and the preferred alternative (revising the 1993 management plan).

#### Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held at the following locations and dates:

June 5 .....	Portland, ME .....	University of Southern Maine Law School, Talbot Lecture Hall, 88 Bedford Street.
June 9 .....	Wenham, MA .....	Gordon College, Lane Student Center, President's Dining Room, 255 Grapevine Road.
June 10 .....	Boston, MA .....	Boston University, School of Management, 4th Floor, Rooms 426 and 428, 595 Commonwealth Ave.
June 11 .....	Plymouth, MA .....	Hilton Garden Inn Plymouth, Plymouth Rooms 1 and 2, Four Home Depot Drive.
June 12 .....	Hyannis, MA .....	The Cape Codder Resort, JFK Ballroom, 1225 Iyanough Road, Route 132 & Bearse's Way.
June 16 .....	Portsmouth, NH .....	Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Harbor's Edge Room, 250 Market Street.
June 17 .....	North Dartmouth, MA .....	University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth, Woodland Common, 285 Old Westport Road.
June 19 .....	Mystic, CT .....	Mystic Aquarium, Main Exhibit Hall, 55 Coogan Boulevard.

Dated: April 21, 2008.

**Daniel J. Basta,**

*Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.*

[FR Doc. E8-9977 Filed 5-5-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XH68

#### Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a joint meeting of The Standing and Special Reef Fish SSCs (SSC).

**DATES:** The Joint Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 and conclude by 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Quorum Hotel, 700 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609; telephone: (813) 289-8200.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203

North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Joint Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will meet to review scientific information on the Gulf of Mexico gag and red grouper stocks, and to review draft Reef Fish Amendment 29 dealing with grouper and tilefish effort management. At the April 7-11, 2008 Council meeting, the Council heard an outside review of the gag stock assessment by Dr. Trevor Kenchington, Gadus Associates, in which it was suggested that overfishing of gag had ended in 2006. The Council also heard a review of the assessment from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), along with updated indices of abundance which suggested that, after peaking in 2004, the gag and red grouper stock levels are again declining. The SSC will review and discuss the information from Dr. Kenchington and the SEFSC, and will advise the Council with regard to recent trends in abundance of gag and red grouper, current estimates of spawning stock biomass (SSB), current estimates of natural mortality, the extent to which reduced effort and/or reduced SSB are contributing to a reduction in landings, and recommendations for appropriate catch levels. The SSC will also review

the appropriate baseline to use when determining percent reductions needed in harvest. If time permits, the SSC will also review a red grouper yield per recruit analyses which was prepared last fall by the SEFSC but has not yet been reviewed by the SSC.

The SSC will also review the alternatives in draft Reef Fish Amendment 29. This Amendment proposes to rationalize effort and reduce overcapacity in the commercial Gulf of Mexico grouper and tilefish fisheries in order to achieve and maintain optimum yield. Approaches being considered include permit endorsements and individual fishing quotas.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSCs for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the SSCs will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 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 Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 1, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-9913 Filed 5-5-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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

**RIN: 0648-XH66**

**New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Survey Advisory Panel in May, 2008 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 700 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780; telephone: (508) 823-0430; fax: (508) 880-6480.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The panel will discuss planning and coordination of calibration surveys to be conducted this summer on the R/V Hugh Sharp and other vessels. The Panel will also continue its evaluation of potential development and integration of new optical and acoustic technology into the annual resource survey, as well as discuss potential expansion of coordinated state and other surveys to augment the annual National Marine

Fishery Service scallop survey. The panel may discuss other topics at their discretion.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 1, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-9911 Filed 5-5-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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

**RIN: 0648-XH67**

**New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council's Recreational Advisory Panel will meet to consider possible actions affecting New England groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Peabody, MA; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New

England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The items of discussion in the panel's agenda are as follows:

The Recreational Advisory Panel will meet to review draft Amendment 16 management measures and develop recommendations for the Groundfish Committee's consideration. Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 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.

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

Dated: May 1, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-9912 Filed 5-5-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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

**RIN: 0648-XH69**

**Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) will hold work sessions by telephone conference, which are open to the public, to develop recommendations for the June 2008 Council meeting.

**DATES:** The Salmon Advisory Subpanel telephone conference will be held Wednesday, June 4, 2008, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Salmon Technical Team