

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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: March 27, 2012.

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

RIN 0648-XB133

Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Joint Marianas and American Samoa Archipelago Plan Team (Joint PT) and Hawaii and Pacific Remote Island Area Archipelago Plan Team (HI-PRIA PT) to review the status of the nearshore fisheries, data collection issues and improvements, improvements in the Annual Catch Limit specifications, and developing Cooperative Research Priorities.

DATES: The Joint PT meeting will be held on April 16-18, 2012 and the HI-PRIA PT on April 19-20, 2012. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

ADDRESSES: The Joint PT and HI-PRIA PT meetings will be held at the Council office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public comment periods will be provided. The order in which agenda items are

addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for the Joint PT Meeting

April 16, 2012—1 p.m.–5 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Assignment of Rapporteurs.
4. Guiding Principles for Development of Effective Fishery Monitoring Programs.
5. Evaluation of data collection programs in the Western Pacific.
6. Improving fishery data collections and status reporting.

A. Summary of the Fishery Data Collection Improvement Workshop.

B. Update on Status of Fishery Data Collection Improvement Actions.

C. Data collection in military installations in Guam.

D. Discussion on the fishery characterization based on creel survey performance.

April 17, 2012—8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

7. Review of the Status of the Western Pacific Insular Fisheries.

A. American Samoa

- i. Coral reef and crustacean fisheries.
- ii. Bottomfish fisheries.
- iii. Precious corals fishery and coral reef habitat status.
- iv. Update on Bio-Sampling Program data summary.
- v. Non-stock related factors affecting Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) in the coral reef fisheries.

vi. Estimation of non-commercial landings.

vii. Administrative and regulatory updates.

viii. Discussions.

B. Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

- i. Coral reef fisheries.
- ii. Bottomfish fisheries.
- iii. Crustacean and precious coral fisheries.
- iv. Coral reef habitat status.
- v. Update on Bio-Sampling Program and Spearfishing Market-flow project.
- vi. Estimation of non-commercial landings.
- vii. Administrative and regulatory updates.
- viii. Discussions.

C. Guam

- i. Coral reef fisheries.
- ii. Bottomfish fisheries.
- iii. Crustacean fisheries.
- iv. Precious corals fishery and coral reef habitat status.
- v. Update on Bio-Sampling Program Data Summary.

vi. Estimation of non-commercial landings.

vii. Administrative and regulatory updates.

viii. Discussions.

8. Format and information needs for the Annual Report Modules.

9. Improving Annual Catch Limit (ACL) specifications.

A. Surplus production model using biomass, catch, and natural mortality estimates.

B. Use of other data sources (e.g. commercial receipt book, BioSampling).

C. Discussions.

April 18, 2012—8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

10. Essential Fish Habitat/Habitat Area of Particular Concern (EFH/HAPC).

A. Territory bottomfish, pelagic, and precious corals.

B. Coral reef ecosystem management unit species.

C. Coral reef EFH Project.

11. Status of the territorial bottomfish assessment.

12. The Council Five-Year Research Priorities.

13. Development and Review of Cooperative Research Priorities and Projects.

14. Other Business.

15. Public Comments.

16. Rapporteur reports.

17. General discussions and Plan Team recommendations.

Schedule and Agenda for the Hawaii and Pacific Remote Island Area Plan Team meeting

April 19, 2012—8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

3. Assignment of Rapporteurs.

4. Guiding Principles for

Development of Effective Fishery Monitoring Programs.

5. Status of Fishery Monitoring Programs and Research Projects.

A. Coral reef fisheries.

B. Crustacean fisheries.

C. Precious coral fisheries and gold coral moratorium.

i. Status of the black coral surveys.

D. Bottomfish fisheries.

i. Main Hawaiian Island Annual Catch Target Monitoring.

ii. Performance of trip level reporting.

iii. Status of Cooperative Research Projects.

iv. Evaluation of effectiveness of Bottomfish Restricted Areas.

E. Hawaii non-commercial landing estimation.

F. Administrative and regulatory updates.

G. Report on reef fish tagging in Palmyra Atoll.

H. Discussions.

6. Improving ACL specifications and stock assessments.

A. Overview of the ACL process and FY2012 specification.

B. Report on the Council—NMFS ACL Revisited Workshop.

C. Surplus production model using biomass, catch, and natural mortality estimates.

D. Length-based estimation of fishing and natural mortality in Hawaii coral reef fishes.

E. Kona crab stock assessment.

F. Update on the kumu stock assessment.

G. Use of fish trap CPUE as proxy for estimating stock abundance.

H. Discussions.

April 20, 2012—8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

7. Data collection and reporting issues.

A. Report on the Non-Commercial Data Workshop.

B. Report on the Pacific Island Regional Office data contracts.

C. Report on the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation boat registry survey.

D. Discussion on potential improvements in the Hawaii data collection.

E. Annual Archipelagic Fishery Ecosystem Reports.

F. Discussions.

8. Essential Fish Habitat/Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

A. Hawaii coral reef EFH project.

B. Hawaii EFH and HAPC for coral reef, pelagic and precious corals.

C. Discussions.

9. Protected species issues.

A. List of fisheries 2012: Marine Mammal Protection Act issues.

10. Developing Cooperative Research priorities.

11. Discussions.

12. Other Business.

13. Public Comment.

14. HI—PRIA PT recommendations.

Special Accommodations

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

Dated: March 27, 2012.

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

RIN 0648-XB129

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) 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 Monday, April 16, 2012 at 8 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hotel Providence, 137 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 861-8000; fax: (401) 861-8002.

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 NEFMC's Scientific and Statistical Committee will:

a. Complete development of fishing year 2013 and 2014 ABC recommendations for redfish, Georges Bank haddock, Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank windowpane flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic windowpane flounder, ocean pout, wolffish and halibut, for recommendations not completed from the March 28, 2012 SSC meeting.

b. Review assessments and develop fishing year 2013 and 2014 ABC recommendations for Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine haddock, Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder, American plaice, witch flounder and Georges Bank/Gulf of Maine white hake.

c. Other business may be discussed.

The public is invited to participate in the SSC meeting via webinar. For online access to the meeting, please reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/309803270>.

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 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 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: March 27, 2012.

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

RIN 0648-XZ14

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Navy Training Conducted at the Silver Strand Training Complex, San Diego Bay

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

ACTION: Notice; additional information for the proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received an application from the U.S. Navy (Navy) for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting training exercises at the Silver Strand Training Complex (SSTC) in the vicinity of San Diego Bay, California. Subsequently, additional information on marine mammals and proposed improvement on marine mammal monitoring and mitigation measures was received from the Navy. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to the Navy to incidentally harass, by Level B Harassment only, eight species of marine mammals during the specified activity.