

include modifications to groundfish closed areas (including habitat areas). The Committee will further review a motion passed at its last meeting that would provide increased access to most groundfish closed areas, and may consider modifications to that motion that will be forwarded to the Council. They may consider other modifications to the sector program, such as creating areas for fishing on Georges Bank (GB) that are not subject to the GB yellowtail flounder ACE limits. With respect to ABCs/ACLs/AMs, the Committee will consider options for addressing catches of groundfish stocks (primarily SNE/MAB windowpane flounder) by other fisheries (such as the fluke, scup and squid fisheries), and may either develop options for additional sub-ACLs or may propose changes to accountability measures to control those catches. The Committee may also discuss other issues that may be incorporated into the framework. Options identified by the Committee will be included in a future management action (Framework Adjustment 48) that will be considered by the Council in the fall of 2012. The Committee is also expected to receive a preliminary report on catch advice developed for Eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder that will be developed by the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee. The Committee may provide comments for consideration by the Council when it considers these Fishing Year 2013 quotas. The Committee may discuss scallop/groundfish management issues, such as yellowtail flounder allocations and the timing of scallop vessel access to groundfish closed areas. Other business may be discussed.

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: August 29, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC213

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's (Council) Herring Committee will meet jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Council's (ASMFC) Section to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn, 1940 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 732-0470; fax: (401) 732-6872.

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 committee's agenda are as follows:

The Herring Committee and the ASMFC Section will meet to develop Atlantic herring fishery specifications for the upcoming fishing years (2013-15); discussion may include specifications related to the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), management uncertainty and a stockwide annual catch limit (ACL), domestic annual harvesting (DAH), domestic annual processing (DAP), border transfer (BT), sub-ACLs for the four herring management areas, and set-asides for research and the fixed gear fishery. They will discuss the recent court decision regarding Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), related correspondence, and possible upcoming Council actions, including a possible action to maintain the 2012

specifications through 2013 and develop a comprehensive specifications package for 2014-16 to address some elements of the Amendment 4 court order. Also on the agenda will be the review and discussion of the recent benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic Herring (SAW/SARC 54). The Committees will also review and discuss recommendations of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) regarding scientific uncertainty and the specification of ABC. They will review and discuss issues related to management uncertainty and develop recommendation for specification of management uncertainty and a stockwide ACL.

Additionally, the Committees will discuss other elements of herring fishery specifications and possible options for management area sub-ACLs. They will address other business as necessary.

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.

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

Dated: August 29, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC214

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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