

Limits for the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The public hearing will be held on March 25, 2013, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing will be held at The Buccaneer Hotel, 7 Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the following management options:

**Summary**

The National Marine Fisheries Service, in collaboration with the Council, has developed Regulatory Amendment 2 and its Environmental Assessment to establish compatible regulations with U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) territorial regulations for the harvest of queen conch. Fishing and possession of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is only allowed in the area of Lang Bank, to the east of St. Croix.

The USVI has expressed interest in having federal waters become compatible with the territorial trip limit because some of the harvest of queen conch in St. Croix comes from the EEZ, and that harvest must traverse territorial waters to be landed. Thus, establishing compatible regulations would aid enforcement by eliminating the inconsistency in the number of queen conch allowed to be possessed on the water.

The alternatives considered in this Regulatory Amendment address the following issues:

The current trip limit in federal waters allows a licensed commercial fisherman to harvest up to 150 queen conch per day, but does not establish a harvest limit per vessel. USVI regulations allow the harvest of 200 queen conch per vessel regardless of the number of licensed fishermen on board.

The daily recreational bag limit in federal waters allows three queen conch per person and a maximum of 12 queen conch per boat. In contrast, the USVI daily recreational bag limit consists of six queen conch per person and a maximum of 24 per boat.

Although commercial and recreational harvest of queen conch appears to occur primarily in territorial waters, with only minimal EEZ harvest, queen conch is currently classified as an

overfished species, and it is managed under a 15-year rebuilding plan. Establishing compatible regulations would allow for more efficient management and enforcement of queen conch regulations in both territorial and EEZ waters.

The goal of Regulatory Amendment 2 is to achieve state-federal compatibility of queen conch.

**List of Actions and Alternatives**

**ACTION 1:** Modify the trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**Alternative 1:** No Action. Do not modify the current trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ, which allows no more than 150 queen conch per licensed commercial fisherman per day.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to be consistent with the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) limit which consists of no more than 200 queen conch per vessel per day.

**Alternative 3:** Modify the trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to allow for no more than 150 queen conch per vessel per day if there is one licensed commercial fisherman on board, or no more than 200 queen conch per vessel per day if more than one licensed commercial fisherman is on board.

**ACTION 2:** Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ.

**Alternative 1:** No Action. Do not modify the current bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ, which consists of 3 queen conch per person per day, or if more than 4 persons are aboard, 12 queen conch per vessel per day.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to be consistent with the USVI territorial limit of 6 queen conch per person per day, with a maximum of 24 queen conch per vessel per day.

**Alternative 3:** Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to allow no more than 6 queen conch per person per day, with a maximum of 12 queen conch per vessel per day.

**Alternative 4:** Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to allow no more than 3 queen conch per person per day, with a maximum of 24 queen conch per vessel per day.

**Special Accommodations**

The hearing is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 5, 2013.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-05425 Filed 3-7-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XC546**

**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 Scallop Advisory Panel 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 Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Westin Waterfront Hotel, 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110; telephone: (617) 532-4600; fax: (617) 532-4650.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Advisory Panel will recommend measures for Framework 25 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Program (FMP). Framework 25 will include fishery specifications for fishing year 2014 and default measures for 2015 as well as accountability measures for southern windowpane flounder. The

panel will provide recommendations for research priorities as well as review the status of the fishery for fishing year 2012. Finally, the panel will review progress on the Limited Access General Category Individual Fishing Quota performance report being completed by the Scallop Plan Development Team.

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 Thomas A. Nies, 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 5, 2013.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-05433 Filed 3-7-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC532

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) in North Charleston, SC.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418; telephone: (843) 744-4422; fax: (843) 744-4472.

**Council address:** South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

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

#### Agenda for Wednesday, March 27, 2013

1. Approve the current agenda as well as the minutes from the April 2012 Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting.

2. Receive a presentation on dolphin research from the Cooperative Sciences Center.

3. Receive an update from the January 2013 scoping meetings regarding Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5. This amendment pertains to: Revision of accountability measures; changes to dolphin sector allocations; modifications to the framework for dolphin and wahoo; and changes to the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC). Discuss timing of the amendment.

4. Receive an overview Dolphin Wahoo Amendment.

5. Discuss the amendment and provide AP recommendations.

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

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for 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 4, 2013.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-05349 Filed 3-7-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC539

#### Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Spanish Mackerel and Cobia Stock Assessment Review Workshop.

**SUMMARY:** Independent peer review of Gulf of Mexico Spanish Mackerel and Cobia stocks will be accomplished through written reviews because delays in completing the assessments prevented their consideration at the SEDAR 28 Review Workshop. This workshop is being held by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to consider recommendations from the written reviews and develop recommendations for the Gulf Council Scientific and Statistical Committee. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The Stock Assessment Review Workshop for Gulf of Mexico Spanish Mackerel and Cobia will be held on March 25-26, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. The established time may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from, or completed prior to the times established by this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The Review Workshop will take place in the conference room of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's office at 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa FL 33607. The workshop is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Ryan Rindone at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Please request meeting information at least 24 hours in advance.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ryan Rindone, SEDAR Coordinator, 2203 N Lois Ave, Suite 1100, Tampa FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630; email: [ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions,