

possession limit of Permit Category A and C vessels fishing in the SFMA. This was deemed a reasonable approximation because it is reflective of how the standard monkfish commercial fishery operates. Further, it is likely that RSA grant recipients would optimize their RSA DAS award by utilizing this possession limit.

Prior to the submission of SMAST's RSA proposal, Amendment 5 to the Monkfish FMP was implemented. This adjusted the tail-to-whole-weight conversion factor from 3.32 to 2.91, which essentially reduced the whole weight possession limits. However, SMAST has noted that, because its RSA proposal and budget were developed in a manner that was consistent with previously approved EFPs, the request is justified. Therefore, if approved, participating vessels could use up to 129 DAS, or up to 464,400 lb (210,648.3 kg) of whole monkfish under the EFP, whichever limit is reached first.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: April 9, 2013.

**Kara Meckley,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XC618**

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Public hearing for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Omnibus Recreational Fishery Accountability Amendment.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 5 p.m., EST, on

May 15, 2013. The public hearings will be held on April 29, 30, May 1, 2, and 3, 2013 during this comment period. All public hearings will be held from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. For details on hearing times and locations, see **ADDRESSES**.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearings will be held, in chronological order, as follows: April 29, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, (401) 732-6000; April 30, 2013 at Hyatt Place Long Island/East End, 431 East Main St., Riverhead, NY 11901, (631) 574-8008; May 1 at the Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050, (609) 481-6100, May 2 at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842, (800) 638-2100, and May 3 at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 3001 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (757) 213-3000. Written comments should be mailed to the Council office at the address below and marked "RECREATIONAL AM AMENDMENT." The public hearing document can be obtained by contacting the Council at the address below or at the Council's Web site: <http://www.mafmc.org>.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** If approved, the Omnibus Recreational Accountability Amendment (AM) will modify accountability measures for the recreational Atlantic mackerel, bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. The Amendment evaluates AMs that are alternatives to the current pound-for-pound reductions and in-season closures. The Amendment considers AMs that take into account the biological cost of a catch overage and the generally uncertain nature of recreational fishery catch estimates and management controls. A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the proposed actions is available by contacting the Council office and at the Council's Web site: <http://www.mafmc.org> after April 15, 2013.

#### Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids

should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 9, 2013.

**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-XC619**

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Plan Team (CPT) will meet in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held April 30 through May 3, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Clarion Suites, 1110 West 8th Avenue, Heritage Room, Anchorage, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diana Stram; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Plan Team meeting agenda includes preparation of the Economic Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report, and recommendations of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and Overfishing level (OFL) for 4 BSAI crab stocks—Aleutian Island Golden King Crab (AIGCK), Norton Sound Red King Crab (NSRKC), Pribilof Island Golden King Crab (PIGKC), Adak red king crab. Model update and reviews for Snow Crab, Tanner Crab, Saint Matthew Blue King Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBRKC). See full detailed agenda on Council Web site.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those