

may be used to conduct monkfish research activities during the current fishing year. In September 2012, NMFS published a notice announcing the 2013 Monkfish RSA Program, and solicited proposals for monkfish research activities to be conducted under the RSA program. Four proposals were received, and two were granted awards totaling 426 RSA DAS. As a result, there are 74 DAS that were not awarded and are now available as exempted DAS. Therefore, pursuant to the regulations governing the monkfish fishery at 50 CFR 648.92(c)(1)(v), NMFS is reallocating the unused 2013 RSA DAS as exempted DAS that may be used to conduct monkfish research during the remainder of fishing year 2013 (through April 30, 2014). Requests for exempted DAS must be submitted to NMFS along with a complete application for an exempted fishing permit. The exempted DAS differ from RSA DAS in that research must occur in conjunction with the exempted DAS. The exempted DAS cannot be used solely to generate funds. A summary of the requirements for submitting an exempted fishing permit are available online at: [www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms/EFPLOAEAAPossessionLOA/Guidance.pdf](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms/EFPLOAEAAPossessionLOA/Guidance.pdf).

## Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest because the action is administrative in nature, and because it provides the public (*i.e.*, researchers) the opportunity to reduce costs associated with conducting monkfish related research activities. Additionally, there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date because the action is administrative in nature.

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

Dated: October 30, 2013.

**James P. Burgess,**

*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-XC950

### Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Scoping Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a scoping meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a scoping meeting to obtain input from fishers, the general public, and the local agencies representatives on the development of compatible regulations for three seasonally closed areas off Puerto Rico. The Council is considering modifying the seasonal closures of Abrir La Sierra, Bajo de Sico, and Tourmaline Bank. The goal of modifying the closures is to protect the red hind spawning aggregations and large individuals of snappers and groupers from directed fishing pressure to achieve a more natural sex ratio, age, and size structure, while minimizing adverse social and economic effects. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The scoping meeting will be held on November 25, 2013, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The scoping meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Mayagüez, 2701 Highway #2, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Options Paper entitled “Developing Compatible Regulations for Three Seasonally Closed Areas off Puerto Rico: Abrir La Sierra Bank, Bajo de Sico, and Tourmaline Bank,” considers the following alternative actions:

Action 1: Modify the length of the closed season for Abrir La Sierra.

Option 1: No Action—do not modify the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra.

Option 2: Modify the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra to a 6 month closure from October 1–March 31.

Option 3: Modify the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra to a 6 month closure from December 1–May 31.

Option 4: Modify the closure of Abrir La Sierra to 12 months.

Action 2: Modify the length of the closed season for Tourmaline Bank.

Option 1: No Action—do not modify the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank.

Option 2: Modify the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank to a 6 month closure from October 1–March 31.

Option 3: Modify the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank to a 6 month closure from December 1–May 31.

Option 4: Modify the closure of Tourmaline Bank to 12 months.

Action 3: Modify the length of the closed season for Bajo de Sico.

Option 1: No Action—do not modify the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico.

Option 2: Modify the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico to a 3 month closure from December 1–End of February.

Option 3: Modify the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico to a 6 month closure from December 1–May 31.

Option 4: Modify the closure of Bajo de Sico to 12 months.

Action 4: Prohibit Fishing Activities in Abrir La Sierra.

Option 1: No Action—Do not modify the species prohibited during the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra.

Option 2: During the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra specified in Action 1, prohibit fishing for council-managed reef fish.

Option 3: During the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra specified in Action 1, prohibit fishing for and possession of council-managed reef fish species.

Option 4: During the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra specified in Action 1, prohibit fishing for spiny lobster.

Option 5: During the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra specified in Action 1, prohibit fishing for and possession of spiny lobster.

Option 6: During the seasonal closure of Abrir La Sierra specified in Action 1, prohibit fishing for and possession of all species.

Action 5: Prohibit Fishing Activities in Tourmaline Bank.

Option 1: No Action—Do not modify the species prohibited during the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank.

Option 2: During the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank specified in Action 2, prohibit fishing for council-managed reef fish.

Option 3: During the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank specified in Action 2, prohibit fishing for and possession of council-managed reef fish species.

Option 4: During the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank specified in Action 2, prohibit fishing for spiny lobster.

Option 5: During the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank specified in Action 2, prohibit fishing for and possession of spiny lobster.

Option 6: During the seasonal closure of Tourmaline Bank specified in Action 2, prohibit fishing for and possession of all species.

Action 6: Prohibit Fishing Activities in Bajo de Sico.

Option 1: No Action—Do not modify the prohibition on fishing for or possession of Council-managed reef fish during the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico.

Option 2: During the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico specified in Action 3, prohibit fishing for Council-managed reef fish.

Option 3: During the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico specified in Action 3, prohibit fishing for spiny lobster.

Option 4: During the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico specified in Action 3, prohibit fishing for and possession of spiny lobster.

Option 5: During the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico specified in Action 3, prohibit fishing for all species.

Option 6: During the seasonal closure of Bajo de Sico specified in Action 3, prohibit fishing for and possession of all species.

Action 7: Prohibit Anchoring in Abrir La Sierra.

Option 1: No Action—do not prohibit anchoring by vessels in Abrir La Sierra.

Option 2: Prohibit anchoring for 3 months in Abrir La Sierra. The 3-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 1.

Option 3: Prohibit anchoring for 6 months in Abrir La Sierra. The 6-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 1.

Option 4: Prohibit anchoring year-round in Abrir La Sierra.

Action 8: Prohibit Anchoring in Tourmaline Bank.

Option 1: No Action—do not prohibit anchoring by vessels in Tourmaline Bank.

Option 2: Prohibit anchoring for 3 months in Tourmaline Bank. The 3-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 2.

Option 3: Prohibit anchoring for 6 months in Tourmaline Bank. The 6-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 2.

Option 4: Prohibit anchoring year-round in Tourmaline Bank.

Action 9: Prohibit Anchoring in Bajo de Sico.

Option 1: No Action—maintain the year-round prohibition on anchoring by vessels in Bajo de Sico.

Option 2: Prohibit anchoring for 6 months in Bajo de Sico. The 6-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 2.

Option 3: Prohibit anchoring for 3 months (December 1 through the end of February) in Bajo de Sico.

Option 4: Do not prohibit anchoring in Bajo de Sico.

Action 10: Prohibit Spearfishing in Abrir La Sierra.

Option 1: No Action—do not prohibit spearfishing in Abrir La Sierra.

Option 2: Prohibit spearfishing in Abrir La Sierra for 3 months. The 3-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 1.

Option 3: Prohibit spearfishing in Abrir La Sierra for 6 months. The 6-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 1.

Option 4: Prohibit spearfishing year-round in Abrir La Sierra.

Action 11: Prohibit Spearfishing in Tourmaline Bank.

Option 1: No Action—do not prohibit spearfishing in Tourmaline Bank.

Option 2: Prohibit spearfishing in Tourmaline Bank for 3 months. The 3-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 2.

Option 3: Prohibit spearfishing in Tourmaline Bank for 6 months. The 6-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 2.

Option 4: Prohibit spearfishing year-round in Tourmaline Bank.

Action 12: Prohibit Spearfishing in Bajo de Sico.

Option 1: No Action—do not prohibit spearfishing in Bajo de Sico.

Option 2: Prohibit spearfishing in Bajo de Sico for 3 months. The 3-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 3.

Option 3: Prohibit spearfishing in Bajo de Sico for 6 months. The 6-month closure will coincide with the closure period chosen in Action 3.

Option 4: Prohibit spearfishing year-round in Bajo de Sico.

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold a scoping meeting to receive public input on the management options mentioned above. The complete document is available at:

[www.caribbeanfmc.com](http://www.caribbeanfmc.com) or you may contact Ms. Livia Montalvo at [livia\\_montalvo\\_cfmc@yahoo.com](mailto:livia_montalvo_cfmc@yahoo.com), or the Council office at (787) 766-5926 to obtain copies.

Written comments can be sent to the Council not later than 5:00 p.m., December 6, 2013, by regular mail to the address below, or via email to [graciela\\_cfmc@yahoo.com](mailto:graciela_cfmc@yahoo.com).

### Special Accommodations

The meeting 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 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 30, 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-XC955**

### 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:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Summer Flounder Monitoring Committee, Scup Monitoring Committee, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, November 22, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting agenda.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton BWI Airport, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, MD 21090; telephone: (410) 859-8400.

*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:** The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee will meet to recommend recreational management measures for the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries for the 2014 fishing year. Multi-year recreational measures may be considered for all three species into 2015.

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