

comprehensive FMP for fisheries management off St. Thomas/St. John, in conjunction with similar comprehensive FMPs for fisheries management off Puerto Rico and off St. Croix, would replace the existing species-based FMPs.

Also at its March meeting, the Council voted to hold scoping meetings in July 2013 to receive public feedback on possible actions and alternatives to consider during the development of the St. Thomas/St. John FMP, the Puerto Rico FMP, and the St. Croix FMP. Based on public feedback received at the July scoping meetings, the Council decided at its 148th Meeting, held December 11–12, 2013, to hold a second round of scoping meetings to present a more robust set of actions and alternatives. The Council could develop the comprehensive FMPs without significant changes to current Federal fisheries management. For example, the 2010 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment (76 FR 82404, December 30, 2011) and the 2011 Caribbean ACL Amendment (76 FR 82414, December 30, 2011) established ACLs by island or island group with specific ACLs for the St. Thomas/St. John EEZ. The spatial and species-based attributes of these St. Thomas/St. John ACLs, likely, would not change when developing the new FMP.

However, a re-arrangement from species-based FMPs to island-based FMPs also provides an opportunity for the Council to update management regulations that are outdated or do not reflect the current state of issues in the St. Thomas/St. John EEZ. In the comprehensive St. Thomas/St. John FMP, the Council is considering management measures to modify the composition of the fishery management units (FMUs) by adding or removing species, establishing management reference points for any new species added into the FMUs, and modifying or establishing additional management measures. If regulations are to be changed, additional analyses to assess the impacts to the social, biological, economic, ecological, and administrative environments will be required.

To implement the proposed provisions of this new FMP, the Council will develop a DEIS for the comprehensive St. Thomas/St. John FMP that describes and analyzes the proposed management alternatives. The new FMP will provide the best available scientific information regarding the management of St. Thomas/St. John EEZ fisheries, within the context of Federal fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean. Those alternatives will include, but are not limited to, a “no

action” alternative regarding the continuation of species-based Federal fishery management in St. Thomas/St. John, as well as alternatives to revise the management of U.S. Caribbean fisheries when developing the comprehensive St. Thomas/St. John FMP. In addition, there will be alternatives to modify the current FMUs including, but not limited to, the “no action” alternative. Other actions could be included in the DEIS in response to public feedback during the scoping process.

In accordance with NOAA’s Administrative Order NAO 216–6, Section 5.02(c), the Council and NMFS have identified preliminary environmental issues as a means to initiate discussion for scoping purposes only. These preliminary issues may not represent the full range of issues that eventually will be evaluated in the DEIS.

After the DEIS associated with the development of the Comprehensive St. Thomas/St. John FMP is completed, it will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After filing, the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the DEIS for public comment in the **Federal Register**. The DEIS will have a 45-day comment period. This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and to NOAA’s Administrative Order 216–6 regarding NOAA’s compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations.

The Council and NMFS will consider public comments received on the DEIS in developing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and before voting to submit the FMP to NMFS for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation.

NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register** the availability of the FMP for public review during the Secretarial review period. During Secretarial review, NMFS will also file the FEIS with the EPA for a final 30-day public comment period. This comment period will be concurrent with the Secretarial review period and will end prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the FMP.

NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register**, all public comment periods on the FMP, its proposed implementing regulations, and the associated FEIS. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the Secretarial review period, whether they are on the FMP, the proposed regulations, or the FEIS, prior to final agency action.

Scoping Meetings

All scoping meetings are scheduled for the weeks of April 7 and 14, 2014 (start times and locations are specified below). Participants at the scoping meetings may comment on any of the island-based FMPs (the Puerto Rico FMP, the St. Croix FMP, and the St. Thomas/St. John FMP) during any of the scoping meetings. The meetings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Request for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

Supplemental Island-Based Scoping Meetings in Puerto Rico

- April 7, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.—at the Parador and Restaurant El Buen Café, #381, Rd. #2, Hatillo, Puerto Rico.
- April 8, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.—at the Mayaguez Holiday Inn, 2701 Hostos Avenue, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.
- April 9, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.—at the Asociación de Pescadores Unidos de Playa Húcares, Carr. #3, Km. 65.9, Naguabo, Puerto Rico.
- April 10, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.—at the DoubleTree by Hilton San Juan, De Diego #105 Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- April 14, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.—at the Holiday Inn Ponce & Tropical Casino, 3315 Ponce By Pass, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Supplemental Island-Based Scoping Meetings in the USVI

- April 7, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.—at the Windward Passage Hotel, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- April 8, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.—at the Buccaneer Hotel, Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

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

Dated: March 4, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2014–05153 Filed 3–11–14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Cangrejos Yacht Club Federal Consistency Appeal

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of appeal.

SUMMARY: This announcement provides notice that Cangrejos Yacht Club (CYC), has filed an administrative appeal with the Department of Commerce (Department), requesting that the Secretary override an objection by the Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) to the proposed dredging project in the Boca de Cangrejos Channel in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

ADDRESSES AND DATES: You may submit written comments concerning this appeal or requests for a public hearing to NOAA, Office of General Counsel, Oceans and Coasts Section, Attn. Suzanne Bass, 1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or via email to gc.os.comments@noaa.gov. Comments or requests for a public hearing must be sent in writing postmarked or emailed no later than April 11, 2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Notice of Appeal

On January 2, 2014, Pedro J. Bonilla, representing Cangrejos Yacht Club (CYC), filed notice of an appeal with the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations found at 15 CFR Part 930, Subpart H. The appeal is taken from an objection by the Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) to the proposed dredging project in the Boca de Cangrejos Channel in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Under the CZMA, the Secretary may override the PRPB's objection on grounds that the project is consistent with the objectives or purposes of the CZMA or otherwise necessary in the interest of national security. To make the determination that the proposed activity is "consistent with the objectives or purposes of the CZMA," the Department must find that: (1) The proposed activity furthers the national interest as articulated in sections 302 or 303 of the CZMA, in a significant or substantial manner; (2) the adverse effects of the proposed activity do not outweigh its contribution to the national interest, when those effects are considered separately or cumulatively; and (3) no reasonable alternative is available that would permit the activity to be conducted in a manner consistent with enforceable policies of the applicable coastal management program. 15 CFR 930.121. Conversely, to make the determination that the proposed activity is "necessary in the interest of national security," the Secretary must find that a national defense or other national security interest would be significantly impaired

were the activity not permitted to go forward as proposed. 15 CFR 930.122. The Secretary may also, to promote efficient use of time and resources, first require the appellant and the State agency to submit briefs and supporting materials relevant only to procedural or jurisdictional issues. 15 CFR 930.127(e)(2).

II. Request for Public and Federal Agency Comments

We encourage the public and interested federal agencies to participate in this appeal by submitting written comments and any relevant materials supporting those comments. All comments received are a part of the public record. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible.

III. Public Hearing Request

You may submit a request for a public hearing using one of the methods specified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. In your request, explain why you believe a public hearing would be beneficial. If we determine that a public hearing would aid the decisionmaker, a notice announcing the date, time, and location of the public hearing will be published in the **Federal Register**. The public and federal agency comment period will also be reopened for a ten-day period following the conclusion of the public hearing to allow for additional input.

IV. Public Availability of Appeal Documents

NOAA intends to provide access to publicly available materials and related documents comprising the appeal record on the following Web site: <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/consistency/fcappedaldecisions.html>; and during business hours, at the NOAA, Office of General Counsel in the location specified in the **ADDRESSES** and **DATES** section of this notice.

Dated: March 7, 2014.

Jeff Dillen,

Acting Section Chief, Oceans and Coasts Section, NOAA Office of General Counsel.

[Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog No. 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Assistance.]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD168

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) Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, March 28, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Omni Hotel, One West Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 598-8000; fax: (401) 598-8200.

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 items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to discuss draft alternatives for consideration in Amendment 18 (A18), an amendment to address fleet diversity and accumulation limits in the commercial groundfish fishery. There will be a review of Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) analysis with respect to A18 including an examination of: accumulation limits; permit banks; permit holdings data; United States/Canada quota trading for Eastern Georges Bank (EB) cod, EGB haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder; Handgear A fishery proposal; and recent spatial and temporal trends in fishing effort and biology of Gulf of Maine cod. They will review additional scoping period comments with respect to A18. Also on the agenda will be a discussion on progress toward developing draft alternatives for Framework Adjustment 52 (FW 52), a narrow and focused framework to revise commercial groundfish fishery accountability measures for Southern windowpane flounder and Northern windowpane flounder stocks. They will review PDT analysis with respect to FW 52 including an examination of: recent