

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Requesting Public Comment on Updated Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Protected Areas Center, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior (DOI) jointly propose an updated Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States (Framework). The Framework is required by Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This Framework provides overarching guidance for collaborative efforts among federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, tribal and local governments and stakeholders to implement an effective National System of MPAs (National System) from existing sites, build management capacity among MPA programs, coordinate collaborative efforts to address common management issues and identify ecosystem-based gaps in the protection of significant natural and cultural resources for possible future action by the nation's MPA authorities. The proposed draft document would update the previous version of the Framework, completed in November 2008, using experience gained implementing the National System and advice from the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and MPA programs.

**DATES:** Comments will be considered if received by December 26, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified as NOAA-NOS-2014-0112, by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NOS-2014-0112](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NOS-2014-0112), click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- Mail: Submit written comments to National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East West Highway, N/NMS, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, Attn: Lauren Wenzel.

*Instructions:* Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or

individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NOAA. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. 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. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only. The draft updated Framework is available for download at: <http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lauren Wenzel, Acting Director, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 301-713-7265 or [lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov).

Copies of the updated Framework can be downloaded or viewed on the Internet at [marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov](http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov). Copies can also be obtained by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Protected Areas Center (MPA Center), in cooperation with the Department of the Interior (DOI), completed the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States* (Framework) to meet requirements under Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas (Order) in November 2008. NOAA and DOI are now proposing to update this Framework to reflect five years of implementation experience as well as advice from MPA management agencies and the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. The purpose of this notice is to notify the public of the availability of the draft updated Framework for public comment.

MPAs are an effective tool for conserving marine resources, and have been implemented by a wide range of agencies in the United States to conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystem functions, conserve cultural resources and restore fisheries. When used effectively and in conjunction with other management tools, MPAs can help to ensure healthy Great Lakes and oceans by contributing to the overall protection of critical marine habitats and resources. In this way, effective MPAs can offer social and economic opportunities for current and future

generations, such as tourism, biotechnology, fishing, education, and scientific research.

Executive Order 13158 calls for the creation of a National System of MPAs to "enhance the conservation of our Nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and the ecologically and economically sustainable use of the marine environment for future generations." Established in November 2008, the National System provides a mechanism for MPA managers to: Voluntarily collaborate on shared management challenges; strengthen linkages among sites to enhance the management of marine resources; and build management capacity.

This proposed updated Framework is streamlined for greater clarity and readability, has an increased focus on the functions of the National System, and describes the role of the MPA Center in coordinating and supporting the National System. It also includes substantial revisions to the criteria for cultural resources, adding a criterion that allows MPAs created by tribes and indigenous people to be eligible for the National System.

Dated: October 21, 2014.

**Daniel J. Basta,**

*Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2014-25448 Filed 10-24-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XD583**

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Committee 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:** The meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 9 a.m. and Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton, 407 Squire Road Revere, MA 02151; telephone: (781) 284-7200; fax: (781) 289-3176.

*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 committee will discuss Framework 53 (FW53), specifically, status changes (Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock) and specifications for groundfish stocks (GOM cod and haddock; GOM and Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder; pollock; GB yellowtail flounder, cod and haddock). They will also discuss the management measures (windowpane flounder sub-annual catch limit (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs), expansion of the GOM cod inshore spawning closure, additional management measures for GOM cod, roll-over provision for specifications, and carryover provisions). Additionally, the committee will review the Groundfish Plan Development Team's (PDT) environmental impact analysis. They will also develop committee recommendations to the council regarding preferred alternative in FW 53. They will discuss other business as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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**

These meetings are 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: October 21, 2014.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*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-XD581**

**Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Council and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The Council and its advisory entities will meet November 12-19, 2014. The Council meeting will begin on Friday, November 14, 2014 at 1 p.m., reconvening each day through Wednesday, November 19, 2014. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held for approximately one hour at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 14 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa, 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; telephone: (714) 540-7000.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220. Instructions for attending the meeting via live stream broadcast are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 820-2280 or (866) 806-7204 toll free; or access the Council Web site, <http://www.pcouncil.org> for the current meeting location, proposed agenda, and meeting briefing materials.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The November 14-19, 2014 meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council will be streamed live on the Internet. The live meeting will be broadcast daily starting at 2 p.m. Pacific Time (PT) on Friday, November 14, 2014 through Wednesday, November 19, 2014. The broadcast will end daily at 6 p.m. PT or when business for the day is complete. Only the audio portion, and portions of the presentations displayed on the screen at the Council meeting, will be broadcast. The audio portion is listen-only; you will be unable to speak to the Council via the broadcast. Join the meeting by visiting this link <http://www.joinwebinar.com>, enter the Webinar ID for this meeting, which is

430-417-591 and enter your email address as required. It is recommended that you use a computer headset as GoToMeeting allows you to listen to the meeting using your computer headset and speakers. If you do not have a headset and speakers, you may use your telephone for the audio portion of the meeting by dialing this TOLL number 1-646-307-1719 (not a toll free number); entering the phone audio access code 536-452-326; and then entering your Audio Pin which will be shown to you after joining the webinar. The webinar is broadcast in listen only mode.

The following items are on the Pacific Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order. Agenda items noted as "(Final Action)" refer to actions requiring the Council to transmit a proposed fishery management plan, proposed plan amendment, or proposed regulations to the Secretary of Commerce, under Sections 304 or 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Additional detail on agenda items, Council action, and meeting rooms, is described in Agenda Item A.4, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, and will be in the advance November 2014 briefing materials and posted on the Council Web site ([www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)).

- A. Call to Order
  1. Opening Remarks
  2. Roll Call
  3. Executive Director's Report
  4. Approve Agenda
- B. Open Comment Period
  1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items
- C. Administrative Matters
  1. Marine Planning Update
  2. Recreational Fisheries Policy Update
  3. National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region Strategic Plan
  4. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes
  5. Fiscal Matters
  6. Advisory Body Position Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
  7. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
- D. Habitat
  1. Current Habitat Issues
- E. Coastal Pelagic Species Management
  1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
  2. Sardine Harvest Fraction (Final Action)
  3. Methodology Preliminary Topic Selection and Review Process
  4. 2015 Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Notice of Intent
- F. Salmon Management
  1. National Marine Fisheries Service