

solicit public input on a request by the State of New Jersey to designate 13 of its artificial reef sites located in federal waters as Special Management Zones (SMZ). The Council is also soliciting written comments on the NJ SMZ request through 11:59 p.m. on Friday November 25, 2016.

DATES: The public hearings will begin at 7 p.m. on November 15, 2016 and end at 10 p.m. on November 17, 2016, to view the agenda see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The Council will hold three public hearings, the dates, times, and locations of which are listed below.

1. Tuesday November 15, 2016, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11235, Room M239 of the Marina and Academic Center (The Lighthouse).

2. Wednesday November 16, 2016, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 815 Route 37 West, Toms River, NJ 08755.

3. Thursday November 17, 2016, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Congress Hall, 200 Congress Place, Cape May, NJ 08204.

Addresses for written comments:

Written comments may be sent through mail, email, or fax through 11:59 p.m. on Friday November 25, 2016.

Comments may be mailed to: Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901. Comments may be faxed to: Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at fax number 302-674-5399. Comments may be emailed to Richard Seagraves, Senior Scientist, at rseagraves@mafmc.org. If sending comments through the mail, please write "NJ SMZ Request" on the outside of the envelope. If sending comments through email or fax, please write "NJ SMZ Request comments" in the subject line.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: 302-674-2331 or on their Web site, at www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: 302-526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

In the November 2015, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) petitioned the Mid-Atlantic Council to designate 13 artificial reef sites as SMZ's in the EEZ under provisions of Amendment 9 to the

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The justification for this request was based on the need to ameliorate gear conflicts between hook and line fishermen and fixed pot/trap gear at those sites. The Council received a report from the SMZ Monitoring Team (MT) at its October 2016 meeting which evaluated the NJDEP request relative to the following factors: (1) Fairness and equity; (2) promotion of conservation; (3) avoidance of excessive shares; (4) consistency with the objectives of Amendment 9, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law; (5) the natural bottom in and surrounding potential SMZs; and (6) impacts on historical uses. The MT's analysis concluded that the designation of the NJDEP 13 reef sites appears to be compatible with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable federal law. Based on evaluation of all relevant factors and issues as outlined in Amendment 9, the SMZ Monitoring Team recommended that the Council designate all 13 New Jersey's artificial reefs located in the EEZ as SMZs. The SMZ designation could stipulate that no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may fish in the 13 New Jersey Special Management Zones with any gear except hook and line and spear fishing (including the taking of fish by hand). The MT analysis indicated that commercial fishing vessels deploying pot/trap gear off the coast of New Jersey would likely face minimal to no losses in ex-vessel revenue if the artificial reefs are designated as SMZs. The Council discussed the MT's recommendations and decided to hold public hearings in November 2016 in NJ and NY to solicit public comments on the NJ SMZ request. The Council is seeking public comment on NJ's SMZ request and is scheduled to make a decision relative to NJ's request at its December 2016 meeting in Annapolis, MD.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, 302-526-5251, at least 5 business days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 21, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-25849 Filed 10-25-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE991

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) Devil's Hole Research Planning Group will meet to coordinate research in the proposed Devil's Hole Spawning Special Management Zone.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418.

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, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405; phone 843/571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council selected preferred locations for designation as Spawning Special Management Zones (SMZs) in Amendment 36 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan in 2016. Amendment 36, which is under Secretarial review, includes an action to prohibit harvest or possession of species managed under the Council's snapper grouper fishery management unit in the designated Spawning SMZs because of the area's potential to be spawning areas for multiple species. The Council is holding a meeting to coordinate research for the proposed Devil's Hole Spawning SMZ, one of the proposed Spawning SMZs off the coast of South Carolina. The Devil's Hole Research Planning Group is meeting to discuss past research in the proposed Spawning SMZ and discuss and coordinate future sampling events in the area. The group is comprised of research scientists, state and federal agency representatives, commercial fishermen, recreational

fishermen, and non-governmental organization representatives.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: October 21, 2016.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-25910 Filed 10-25-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE995

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Pacific Council and its advisory entities will meet November 13–21, 2016. The Pacific Council meeting will begin on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 9 a.m., reconvening at 8 a.m. each day through Monday, November 21, 2016. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Wednesday, November 16 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Pacific Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

ADDRESSES: Meetings of the Council and its advisory entities will be held at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, 11999 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, CA 92840; telephone: (714) 750-1234.

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: Mr. Chuck Tracy, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 820-2280 or (866) 806-7204 toll-free; or access the Pacific Council Web site, <http://www.pcouncil.org> for the current meeting location, proposed agenda, and meeting briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The November 13–21, 2016 meeting of the Pacific Council will be streamed live on the Internet. The broadcasts begin initially at 9 a.m. Pacific Time (PT) Wednesday, November 16, 2016 and continue at 8 a.m. daily through Monday, November 21, 2016. Broadcasts end daily at 6 p.m. PT or when business for the day is complete. Only the audio portion and presentations displayed on the screen at the Pacific Council meeting will be broadcast. The audio portion is listen-only; you will be unable to speak to the Pacific Council via the broadcast. To access the meeting online please use the following link: <http://www.gotomeeting.com/online/webinar/join-webinar> and enter the November Webinar ID, 102-405-515, and your email address. You can attend the webinar online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, using the GoToMeeting application. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio portion only of the meeting. The audio portion may be attended using a telephone by dialing the toll number 1-562-247-8422 (not a toll-free number), audio access code 879-397-319, and enter the audio pin shown after joining the webinar.

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 U.S. Secretary of Commerce, under Sections 304 or 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Additional detail on agenda items, Council action, advisory entity meeting times, and meeting rooms are described in Agenda Item A.4, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, and will be in the advance November 2016 briefing materials and posted on the Council Web site at 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. West Coast Regional Operating Agreement Final Review
 - 2. National Standard Guidelines Update
 - 3. Fiscal Matters
 - 4. Approval of Council Meeting Record
 - 5. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
 - 6. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
- D. Salmon Management
 - 1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
 - 2. Salmon Methodology Review
 - 3. Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model Update
 - 4. Preseason Salmon Management Schedule for 2017 Final Action
- E. Pacific Halibut Management
 - 1. Final 2017 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulation Changes
- F. Groundfish Management
 - 1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
 - 2. Methodology Review Final Topic Selection
 - 3. Inseason Management Final Action
 - 4. Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Amendment 28 Alternatives (Part 1 and Part 2)
 - 5. Trawl Gear Modification Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Final Action
 - 6. Five-Year Catch Share Program and Intersector Allocation Review Plans and Fishery Management Plan Update
 - 7. Mid-Biennium Harvest Specification Adjustment Policies
- G. Coastal Pelagic Species Management
 - 1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
 - 2. Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection
 - 3. Small-Scale Fishery Management Alternatives
 - 4. Northern Anchovy Stock Assessment and Management Measures
- H. Current Habitat Issues
 - 1. Current Habitat Issues
- I. Highly Migratory Species Management
 - 1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
 - 2. International Issues
 - 3. U.S.-Canada Albacore Tuna Treaty
 - 4. Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)
 - 5. Swordfish Fishery Management

Advisory Body Agendas

Advisory body agendas will include discussions of relevant issues that are on the Council agenda for this meeting, and may also include issues that may be relevant to future Council meetings. Proposed advisory body agendas for this meeting will be available on the Council Web site <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-briefing-book/> no later than Tuesday, November 1, 2016.