

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

Dated: December 22, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-31328 Filed 12-27-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF114

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 (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: This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5 Park Street, Freeport, ME 04032; telephone: (207) 865-1433.

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:

Agenda

The Groundfish Committee will discuss Framework Adjustment 56 pertaining to witch flounder specifications only. They will receive an overview of the recent benchmark assessment, Plan Development Team analysis, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and Groundfish Advisory Panel recommendations for witch flounder. The Committee will make recommendations to the Council on witch flounder specifications for FY 2017-FY 2019. The Committee also plans to discuss FY 2017 Recreational Measures for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock. They will receive an overview of recent recreational catch and effort data and results from the bioeconomic model to evaluate options for

management measures in FY 2017. They will receive Recreational Advisory Panel recommendations on FY 2017 recreational measures for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock. They will make recommendations to the Council on FY 2017 recreational measures for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock. The Committee also plans to receive an overview and discuss the Council's 2017 Groundfish Priorities and make recommendations to the Groundfish Committee, as appropriate. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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: December 22, 2016.

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-XF091

Meeting of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

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

ACTION: Notice of open public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the proposed schedule and agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's (MAFAC) Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force. The Task Force will discuss the issues outlined under

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION below.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 24, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and January 25, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Port of Portland Headquarters, Chinook Room, 8th Floor, 7200 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97218.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katherine Cheney; NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region; (503) 231-6730; email: Katherine.Cheney@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of MAFAC's Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBP Task Force). The MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and since 1971, advises the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The complete MAFAC charter and summaries of prior MAFAC meetings are located online at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/>. The CBP Task Force reports to MAFAC and is being convened to discuss and develop recommendations for long-term goals for Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead that address both conservation and harvest opportunities. These goals will be developed in the context of habitat capacity, climate change, and other factors that affect natural mortality. More information is available at the CBP Task Force Web page: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/columbia_river/index.html.

Matters To Be Considered

This meeting time and agenda are subject to change.

The meeting is convened to provide an overview of the CBP Task Force and discuss a collective approach to the work ahead. The meeting is open to the public as observers, and a public comment period will be provided on January 25, 2017, from 1:30-2:00 p.m. to accept public input, limited to the time available.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Katherine Cheney; 503-231-6730 by January 10, 2017.

Dated: December 21, 2016.

Jennifer Lukens,

Director for the Office of Policy, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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