

[www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org) also has details on the proposed agenda, webinar access, and briefing materials.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to create a Fishery Performance Report by the Council's Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel. The intent of the report is to facilitate structured input from the Advisory Panel members into the specifications process. Spiny dogfish specifications were previously set for the 2016–2018 fishing years, but the Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) review the performance of multi-year specifications each year.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions 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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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 aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 7, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2017–16863 Filed 8–9–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XF609**

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee will convene two

meetings, which are open to the public. The SSC meetings will also be streamed online for those who want to follow the proceedings remotely.

**DATES:** The SSC meeting will be held Monday, August 28, 2017 from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) or when business for the day has been completed. The SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. or when business for the day has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** The SSC and the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee meetings will be held in the Traynor Room at the National Marine Fisheries Service Western Regional Center's Sand Point facility, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 4, Seattle, WA 98115; telephone: (206) 526–4000. Members of the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee will be attending the meeting in person at the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the rest of the SSC are invited to attend both meetings via webinar.

To attend via webinar, (1) join the meeting by visiting this link <http://www.gotomeeting.com/online/webinar/join-webinar>; (2) enter the webinar ID: 368–736–003, and (3) enter your name and email address (required). After logging into the webinar, please (1) dial this TOLL number: 1–562–247–8422 (not a toll-free number); (2) enter the attendee phone audio access code: 639–618–333; and (3) then enter your audio phone pin (shown after joining the webinar). **Note:** We have disabled mic/speakers as an option and require all participants to use a telephone or cell phone to participate. Technical Information and System Requirements: PC-based attendees are required to use Windows® 7, Vista, or XP; Mac®-based attendees are required to use Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer; Mobile attendees are required to use iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet (See the GoToMeeting WebinarApps). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at [Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov](mailto:Kris.Kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820–2280, extension 411 for technical assistance.

**Council address:** Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John DeVore, Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the August 28th SSC meeting is to review draft 2017 stock assessment

documents, stock assessment review (STAR) panel reports, and any other pertinent information for new benchmark stock assessments for lingcod, Pacific ocean perch, yelloweye rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, blue rockfish, deacon rockfish, and California scorpionfish; review catch-only updates of 2015 assessments for canary and chilipepper rockfish; and consider endorsing these assessments for use by the Pacific Council family and other interested persons for developing management recommendations for fisheries in 2019 and beyond. Additionally, the SSC will consider endorsing new 2019 and 2020 overfishing limits and stock categories for groundfish stocks.

The purpose of the August 29 SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting is to review new proposed analyses informing sigmas (*i.e.*, values associated with assessment uncertainty) for older assessments and the proxy stock categories used to determine acceptable biological catches for groundfish stocks. Additionally, the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will review a proposal for a new stock assessment methodology for determining stock compositions from mixed stock landings. No management actions will be decided by the SSC or the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee. The SSC members' role will be development of recommendations and reports for consideration by the Pacific Council at its September meeting in Boise, ID. The full SSC is expected to complete their reports at their September meeting in Boise, ID.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agendas may be discussed, 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent of the SSC to take final action to address the emergency.

All visitors to the National Marine Fisheries Service Western Regional Center's Sand Point facility should bring one of the following forms of identification:

- Enhanced Driver's License from the states of Washington, Minnesota, and New York
- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Passport Card
- U.S. Department of Defense CAC
- U.S. Federal agency HSPD–12 compliant ID cards

- U.S. Veterans ID
- U.S. Military Dependent's ID Card
- U.S. Trusted Traveler Card—Global Entry, SENTRI, or NEXUS
- U.S. Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC)
- State issued Real ID Compliant Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards.

Visitors who are foreign nationals (defined as a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States) will require additional security clearance to access the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Foreign national visitors should contact Dr. Martin Dorn at (206) 526-6548 at least two weeks prior to the meeting date to initiate the security clearance process.

### Technical Information and System Requirements

PC-based attendees: Windows® 7, Vista, or XP operating system required. Mac®-based attendees: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer required. Mobile attendees: iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet required (use *GoToMeeting* Webinar Apps).

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (503) 820-2280 at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 7, 2017.

**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-XF542

### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the South Atlantic States; Amendment 43

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

**ACTION:** Notice announcing the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA).

**SUMMARY:** The NMFS Southeast Region, in collaboration with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council),

is preparing an EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Amendment 43 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 43). This notice is intended to inform the public of the change from the preparation of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to an EA for Amendment 43. Additionally, this notice serves to announce the change of the scope of actions being considered in Amendment 43 by the Council. The purpose of Amendment 43 is to revise annual catch limits (ACLs) for red snapper in the South Atlantic to provide fishing access while preventing overfishing.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank Helies, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305; or email: [frank.helies@noaa.gov](mailto:frank.helies@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** According to the most recent stock assessment, the red snapper stock in the South Atlantic is undergoing overfishing and is overfished (2016 Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 41). Currently, the commercial and recreational ACLs are set at zero and red snapper seasons are determined through an annual process established in Amendment 28 to the FMP (78 FR 44461, July 24, 2013). Red snapper removals (total landings and dead discards) in the 2014, 2015, and 2016 fishing years exceeded the stock's acceptable biological catch and therefore harvest and possession of red snapper was not allowed in the 2015, 2016, or 2017 fishing years. Despite the overfishing determination resulting from SEDAR 41, NMFS notified the Council in March 2017, that adequate management action has been taken to address overfishing and continue to rebuild the stock through the harvest prohibition in 2015 and 2016.

On January 6, 2017, NMFS published a notice of intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** to prepare a draft EIS for Amendment 43 (82 FR 1720). As originally developed, Amendment 43 considered changes to commercial and recreational ACLs and the recreational annual catch target by modifying the annual process in Amendment 28. Amendment 43 also included actions to modify red snapper management reference points, establish seasonal and area closures, reduce discard mortality, and improve the quantity and quality of data collected from recreational fishermen. NMFS also announced scoping meeting dates, times, and locations that were scheduled to occur in January and February 2017.

In June 2017, the Council decided to reduce the scope of actions considered in Amendment 43. The amendment now would only modify the process implemented through Amendment 28 by revising the process to determine the commercial and recreational ACLs for red snapper. The Council may consider the other actions specified in the NOI in a future amendment. The scope of Amendment 43 was reconsidered by the Council to increase the likelihood that the revised ACL action in the amendment would be implemented by the red snapper commercial and recreational season starting dates in July 2018.

Consequently, NMFS reassessed the action in the amendment relative to NEPA. Based on the reduced scope of actions being considered in Amendment 43, NMFS, in collaboration with the Council, will develop an EA rather than proceeding with the development of a draft EIS. If the EA results in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the EA and FONSI will be the final environmental documents prepared to inform this decision. If the EA reveals that significant environmental impacts may be reasonably expected to result from the proposed actions, NMFS and the Council will develop a draft EIS to further evaluate those impacts. The Council will hold public hearings to discuss the actions included in Amendment 43 in webinars in August 2017, and will take public comment on the document at the September 2017, Council meeting in Charleston, SC. Exact dates, times, and locations of any future public hearings will be announced by the Council. A copy of the Amendment 43 draft options paper is available at: [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/sg/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/index.html).

NMFS will announce, through a document published in the **Federal Register**, all public comment periods on the final amendment, its proposed implementing regulations, and the availability of its associated EA. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the Secretarial review period, whether they are on the final amendment, the proposed regulations, or the EA, prior to final agency action.

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

Dated: August 7, 2017.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

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