

Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery, input on Citizen Science projects, fishery performance reports for Yellowtail Snapper and Golden Tilefish, recommendations on developing amendments to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, and other issues as appropriate. The AP will develop recommendations as necessary for consideration by the Council's Snapper Grouper Committee.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the public hearings.

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

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

Dated: September 25, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-21172 Filed 9-27-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG497

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its System Management Plan (SMP) Workgroup via webinar.

DATES: The SMP Workgroup will meet via webinar from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on October 19, 2018 and from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on November 2, 2018.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meetings will be held via webinar. The meetings are accessible to the public via webinar. Registration is required. Information regarding registration and other meeting information will be posted to the Council's website at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/> as it becomes available.

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, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SMP Workgroup is an advisory group for the Council that reviews actions items, evaluates protected areas, and reviews management of protected areas recommended by the Council. The SMP Workgroup was formed in March 2018. These will be the first two meetings held to discuss the System Management Plan for the Spawning Special Management Zones (SMZs) created in Amendment 36 to Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. Agenda items for the SMP Workgroup meetings include the following: Data collected in Spawning SMZs; outreach and enforcement, format for reports, and report card for the Spawning SMZs. The Workgroup will also elect a chair and vice-chair, assign writing tasks, and review materials developed for Spawning SMZs.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the public meeting.

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

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

Dated: September 25, 2018.

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-XG494

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that

an Exempted Fishing Permit application from the Coonamessett Farm Foundation contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This Exempted Fishing Permit would allow participating commercial fishing vessels to temporarily possess undersized monkfish for biological sampling during normal fishing operations in the Southern Fishery Management Area. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 15, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* NMFS.GAR.EFP@noaa.gov.

Include in the subject line "Comments on CFF 2018 Monkfish RSA EFP."

- *Mail:* Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on CFF 2018 Monkfish RSA EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Ferrio, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9180, Cynthia.Ferrio@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on September 12, 2018, to conduct fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would authorize 12 participating vessels to temporarily possess undersize monkfish while biologically sampling all monkfish caught during normal fishing operations in the Southern Fishery Management Area. This research is designed to create a reproductive profile for monkfish in the region. Sampling would consist of recording the length, total weight, gonad weight, liver weight, and spleen color of each individual sampled fish. Collection of gonad and blood samples will also occur. Retention and sale of legal catch would be allowed on these trips, but all undersized fish and otherwise prohibited catch will be returned to the sea as quickly as possible.

If approved, this research would be conducted opportunistically over the course of 16 single-day commercial trips within the Southern Fishery Management Area for monkfish. All of these 16 trips are expected to take place in 2019 between January and June. All

gear and effort specifications (*i.e.*, haul duration, number of nets, etc.) would be dependent upon the discretion of the vessel captains' typical fishing practices, but would remain within commercial regulations.

CFF is requesting an exemption from the minimum size possession restriction in the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) found at 50 CFR 648.93(a) to accurately sample all monkfish during these selected fishing trips. Funding for this research has been awarded under the Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program.

If approved, CFF may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the study period. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: September 25, 2018.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-21164 Filed 9-27-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG498

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting and hearing.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Advisory Panel (AP) to discuss and make recommendations on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

DATES: The American Samoa Archipelago FEP AP will meet on Thursday, October 11, 2018, between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. All times listed are local island times. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The American Samoa Archipelago FEP AP will meet at the Native American Samoa Advisory Council Building, Pava'ia'i Village, Tutuila, American Samoa, 96799.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public comment periods will be provided in the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for the American Samoa Archipelago FEP AP Meeting

Thursday, October 11, 2018, 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Report on Previous Advisory Panel Recommendations
3. Council Issues
 - A. Precious Corals Essential Fish Habitat Refinement Options
 - B. Update on Aquaculture Management
 - C. Specification of American Samoa Bottomfish MUS Annual Catch Limits for Fishing Year 2019
4. American Samoa FEP Community Activities
5. American Samoa FEP AP Issues
 - A. Report of the Subpanels
 - i. Island Fisheries Subpanel
 - ii. Pelagic Fisheries Subpanel
 - iii. Ecosystems and Habitat Subpanel
 - iv. Indigenous Fishing Rights Subpanel
 - B. Other Issues
6. Public Comment
7. Discussion and Recommendations
8. Other Business

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: September 25, 2018.

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-XG496

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) will hold a meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in Charleston, SC. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SSC will meet 1 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday, October 15, 2018; 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 16, 2018; and 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Town & Country Inn and Suites, 2008 Savannah Hwy., Charleston, SC 29407; phone: (800) 334-6660 or (843) 571-1000; fax: (843) 766-9444.

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, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North 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 following agenda items will be addressed by the SSC during the meeting:

1. Updates on Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) projects; approve the terms of reference, schedule, and identify participants for the Gulf and South Atlantic Scamp Research Track; and approve the terms of reference for the South Atlantic golden Tilefish and Snowy Grouper assessments.

2. Review the findings of a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission selectivity study for Red Snapper, determine if they are the best scientific information available, and provide recommendations for including these findings into the Interim Analysis for Red Snapper.