

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]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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.

[FR Doc. 2018-21180 Filed 9-27-18; 8:45 am]

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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.