

allocation framework, which is a purpose of this EIS.

Preliminary Identification of Environmental Issues

A principal objective of this scoping and public input process is to identify potentially significant impacts to the human environment that should be analyzed in depth in the EIS. Impacts of the following components on the biological and physical environment may be evaluated: (1) essential fish habitat and ecosystems; (2) protected species listed under the Endangered Species Act or protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the critical habitat of those species (if any); and (3) the fishery management unit, including target and nontarget fish stocks. Socioeconomic impacts on the following groups are also going to be evaluated: (1) those who participate in harvesting the fishery resources and other living marine resources (for commercial, subsistence, or recreational purposes); (2) those who process and market fish and fish products; (3) those who are involved in allied support industries; (4) those who rely on living marine resources in the management area; (5) those who consume fish products; (6) those who benefit from nonconsumptive use (e.g., wildlife viewing); (7) those who do not use the resource, but derive benefit from it by virtue of its existence, the option to use it, or the bequest of the resource to future generations; (8) those involved in managing and monitoring fisheries; and (9) fishing communities. Analysis of these groups will be presented in a manner that allows the identification of any disproportionate impacts on low income and minority segments of the identified groups and impacts on small entities.

Scoping and Public Involvement

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to proposed alternatives (including status quo). A principal objective of the scoping and public input processes is to identify a reasonable set of alternatives that, with adequate analysis, sharply define critical issues and provide a clear basis for distinguishing among those alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative. The public scoping process provides the public with the opportunity to comment on the range of alternatives and specific options within the alternatives. The scope of the alternatives to be analyzed should be broad enough for the Council and NMFS to make informed decisions on whether

an alternative should be developed and, if so, how it should be designed, and to assess other changes to the FMP and regulations necessary for the implementation of the alternative.

Dated: July 13, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-16358 Filed 7-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Integrated Ocean Observing System; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given to those interested of a public meeting on the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), in New York, New York. The meeting is focused on the needs and questions from the maritime navigational services community as a participant/user in IOOS, but will address IOOS development and implementation and NOAA's role and responsibilities as part of IOOS. Attendees are asked to register for the meeting on-line no later than Monday July 26, 2004, with the National Ocean Service (*see Supplementary Information*, below).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, July 30, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Times Square, 1605 Broadway, Manhattan, New York, (212) 977-4000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike Szabados, Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, mike.szabados@noaa.gov, (301) 713-2981.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to public participation. Morning sessions are briefings about IOOS. The afternoon sessions beginning at 1:30 p.m. will be for comments, issues and concerns, with interactive, facilitated discussions, including time for direct verbal comments or questions from the public. Each individual or group making a verbal comment will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments may be submitted on-line or at the meeting. Approximately 75 seats

will be available for the public. Seats will be available on a first-come, first served basis. To assist in the management of the meeting, all participants are asked to register for the meeting on the NOAA/NOS Web site, found at: <http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/ioos/> no later than close of business July 26, 2004.

Matters to be Considered: The meeting will include discussion on the following topics: (1) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS); (2) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) contribution to the IOOS National Backbone; (3) IOOS Recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy; and, (4) IOOS Regional Associations stakeholder outreach.

Dated: July 14, 2004.

Mike Szabados,

Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic, Products and Services (CO-OPS), National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-16402 Filed 7-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-JE-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071304B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee in August, 2004 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: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Colonial, 1 Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.