

night). When marine mammals are observed entering or within the exclusion zone, observers must call for the shut down of the airgun array; seismic operators must shut down the seismic array when instructed by an observer. Ramp-up and seismic activities may be reinitiated only when the observer has: (a) determined that the marine mammal(s) has departed the exclusion zone, and (b) visually monitored the exclusion zone for at least 20 minutes since the mammal sighting within the exclusion zone.

Comments

NMFS requests public comments on the range of alternatives and the scope of issues that should be considered in the EIS. NMFS recommends participants review the MMS PEA prior to submitting comments.

At the public scoping meeting a brief presentation may precede a request for public information and comments. Those who intend to submit verbal comments will be asked to submit a speaker card (available at the meeting). Depending on how many cards NMFS receives, speakers may be required to limit their verbal comments to a specified period of time so that all persons wishing to comment may have an equal opportunity to do so. NMFS encourages members of the public who provide verbal comments to also submit them in writing, along with any associated graphics, so as to ensure accuracy. All comments, written or verbal, will become part of the public record on this matter.

The public scoping meetings will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ken Hollingshead (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Photo identification will be required to attend these meetings.

Information and questions regarding the proposed action and/or scoping may be obtained by writing to the person listed herein (see **ADDRESSES**), or by telephoning the person listed (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Additional opportunities for public review and comment will be provided when the draft EIS is completed. A notice of availability will be published in the **Federal Register**. After release of the draft EIS, NMFS intends to hold public meetings in various cities in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana.

Dated: November 12, 2004.

Laurie K. Allen,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111204D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat/Marine Protected Areas/Ecosystem Oversight Committee in December, 2004. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will held on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-2300.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will continue to work on elements of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Omnibus Amendment 2 including, but not limited to; progress on dedicated habitat research areas, EFH species reports, EFH designation working group, strategy for prioritizing protection of EFH, and non-fishing impacts workshop. The Committee will discuss the ecosystems pilot project work plan and the potential application of the proposed habitat closed areas in Lydonia and Oceanographer canyons to other fisheries. They will also develop comments contributing to a Council response to the Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Other topics may be discussed at the Committee's discretion.

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 Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: November 15, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111204B]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Notice of Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Gulf Rationalization Community Committee.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Gulf Rationalization Community Committee will meet at the Captain Cook Hotel.

DATES: The Gulf Rationalization Community Committee will be held December 3, 2004, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Captain Cook Hotel, Voyager Room, 4 and K Street, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicole Kimball, Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council tasked the committee with considering several specific design and implementation issues related to each program, including: the community eligibility criteria, determining who represents the community, determining