

Dated: August 25, 2014.

Angela Somma,

*Chief, Endangered Species Conservation
Division, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

Dated: August 25, 2014.

Richard R. Hannan,

*Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD483

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BS/AI) groundfish plan teams will meet in Seattle, WA.

DATES: The meetings will be held September 23–26, 2014. The meetings will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 23, and continue through Friday, September 26, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 4, National Marine Mammal Lab Room 2039 (GOA Plan Team) and Traynor Room 2076 (BS/AI Plan Team, Joint meeting), Seattle, WA.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell or Diana Stram, NPFMC; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Principal business is to recommend proposed groundfish catch specifications for 2015/16. The teams also will review status reports on various management actions, review the draft Ecosystems Considerations Chapter, review proposed changes to Bering Sea/Aleutian Island and Gulf of Alaska groundfish stock assessment models, as well as other reports.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version is posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen, (907) 271–2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 2, 2014.

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–XD482

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Electronic Monitoring Workgroup.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Fixed Gear Electronic Monitoring (EM) workgroup will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held September 23–24, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Avenue, Suite 205, Anchorage, AK.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Evans, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The workgroup will receive an update on fieldwork and video review, discuss a framework of analysis to support EM implementation, and review the Council's objective for SSC review, the research plan, data protocol, and budgets/funding and timelines.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at (907) 271–2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 2, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2014–21175 Filed 9–4–14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD487

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Advisory Panel 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: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Address:* The meeting will be held at the Hotel Providence, 139 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 861–8000; fax: (401) 454–4306.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisors will review 2014 scallop survey results and preliminary recommendations from the Scallop Plan Development Team for FY 2015 and FY 2016 (default) fishery specifications (Framework 26). The Advisors will also provide input on other measures under consideration in Framework 26: (1) Measures to allow fishing in state waters after federal Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) TAC is reached; (2) measures to make turtle regulations consistent in the scallop fishery; (3) measures to modify the existing area closure accountability measures in place for Georges Bank and Southern New

England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder, and develop new accountability measures for northern windowpane flounder; and (4) consider an inshore transit corridor for limited access scallop vessels to declare out of the fishery. The Advisors will also provide input on potential Council work priorities for 2015 related to the scallop management plan. The Council is expected to discuss these issues at the September Council meeting.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: September 2, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-21177 Filed 9-4-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD476

Stock Status Determination for Atlantic Highly Migratory Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action serves as a notice that NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), has determined that Atlantic sharpnose sharks (*Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*) are split into two stocks (Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico), each with a status of “not overfished, no overfishing occurring,” and bonnethead sharks (*Sphyrna tiburo*) are split into two stocks (Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico), each with a status of “unknown.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Guý DuBeck at 301-427-8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. NMFS manages all shark species under the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly

Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan and its amendments.

Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks were both previously assessed in 2007 as part of the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process. At that time, both species were determined to have the status of “not overfished, no overfishing occurring.” These species were most recently assessed again in 2013 as “standard” assessments as part of SEDAR 34. While “benchmark” assessments allow for major changes, standard assessments generally update previous benchmark assessments with additional years of data and allow for only minor changes. All documents and information regarding the most recent assessment (SEDAR 34) and the 2007 assessment (SEDAR 13) can be found on the SEDAR Web page at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/>.

On the first day of the face-to-face assessment workshop meeting in June 2013, the scientists determined that the genetic information clearly indicated both species should be split into a Gulf of Mexico stock and an Atlantic stock. However, because the assessments had been scheduled as standard assessments, the assessment process and timing would not allow the scientists to make this change. Making such a change would have required four benchmark assessments rather than two standard assessments. It would have also required additional changes to the format and structure of the data that had not been anticipated and allowed for in the overall SEDAR schedule. Based on a request from fishery managers to continue given that the previous assessments were over 5 years old and updated scientific advice was needed, the scientists agreed to continue with the standard assessment of both species as single stocks in order to provide management advice on the potential status of the stocks.

Regarding Atlantic sharpnose, there were 20 model runs for this species. Seventeen of the 18 model runs that considered the species to be a single stock found that the species as a single stock was not overfished and no overfishing was occurring (Base run: $F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.34$, $SSF_{2011}/SSF_{MSY} = 1.73$). A sensitivity run that included only those indices that were decreasing found that the species as a single stock may be overfished with overfishing occurring ($F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 1.06$, $SSF_{2011}/SSF_{MSY} = 0.40$). Additionally, the scientists at the 2013 assessment could use catch and indices of abundance data that were split between the two stocks because the scientists at the 2007 assessment had considered such a split

and therefore had split overall catch data and indices of abundance between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic regions. This split in data allowed the scientists to conduct sensitivity analyses using the biology for each stock with the respective catch data and indices. The Atlantic sensitivity run found the stock was not overfished and no overfishing was occurring ($F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.23$; $SSF_{2011}/SSF_{MSY} = 2.07$). The Gulf of Mexico sensitivity run also found the stock was not overfished and no overfishing was occurring ($F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.57$; $SSF_{2011}/SSF_{MSY} = 1.01$). Considering the assessment as a whole, including the multiple sensitivity analyses, the scientists determined that the assessment provided a consistent picture of stock status, especially in terms of the stock not being overfished. Two of the three peer reviewers agreed with the results of Atlantic sharpnose shark assessment; the third reviewer was concerned about bias in the shrimp trawl data. Based on these results, NMFS has decided to split the Atlantic sharpnose shark species into two stocks—an Atlantic stock and a Gulf of Mexico stock—and determined that the status of both stocks is not overfished and no overfishing is occurring.

Regarding bonnethead sharks, there were 19 model runs for this species. Sixteen of the 19 model runs, including the base run, found that the species—as a single stock—was not overfished and no overfishing was occurring (Base run: $F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.50$, $SSF_{2011}/SSF_{MSY} = 1.27$). The continuity run indicated that overfishing was occurring ($F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 1.01$, $SSF_{2011}/SSF_{MSY} = 1.37$). A sensitivity run that looked at only decreasing indices indicated the species may be overfished ($F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.96$, $SSF_{2011}/SSF_{MSY} = 0.58$). Two of the sensitivity runs attempted to examine the status of the Atlantic stock and the Gulf of Mexico stock. However, because the 2007 benchmark stock assessment for bonnethead sharks did not split the catch data and indices of abundance data between stocks, the 2013 assessment did not split the catch and indices of abundance data between stocks, which is different from what was done in the Atlantic sharpnose shark assessment. Thus, the sensitivity runs examining the Atlantic stock and the Gulf of Mexico stock used the respective biology for each stock but did not split the data or indices between the different stocks. Specifically, the Atlantic sensitivity analysis used the Atlantic stock biology with the combined Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic catch data and indices of abundance; the Gulf of Mexico sensitivity used the Gulf of