

possible actions on herring, groundfish, monkfish, red crab, scallops, skates, and whiting.

On Wednesday, January 30, there will be a scoping meeting for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils propose to amend the Monkfish FMP. The amendment process will serve two purposes: it will enable the Councils to modify the FMP rules as needed and to update the analysis of the cumulative impact of the FMP on the human environment. In the process, the Councils will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) as described in the National Environmental Policy Act for the amendment. This notice is to inform you that the Councils will gather information for the preparation of the SEIS and to ask for your input on the range of issues to be addressed and alternatives to be considered. The Councils are taking this action for the following reasons: (1) to address updated scientific information on the status of the stocks, (2) to address problems with the implementation and enforcement of the current management program, (3) to evaluate the impact of the rebuilding program on the human environment, (4) to consider proposals for providing controlled access to the monkfish resource south of the North Carolina/Virginia border to vessels from that area that are currently excluded, and (5) to comply with a federal Court Order to update the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) elements of the FMP. You may comment at any of the public Council or committee meetings where Amendment 2 is on the agenda, or you may submit written comments by February 11, 2002 to:

Paul J. Howard, Executive Director,
New England Fishery Management
Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport,
MA 01950; telephone: 978-465-0492,
fax: 978-465-3116.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council 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 actions to address such emergencies.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for

sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council (see **ADDRESSES**) least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 8, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010302F]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will hold a working meeting to plan the annual management cycle and strategize on 2002 Council initiatives. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The GMT working meeting will convene on Monday, February 4, 2002 at 1 p.m. and may go into the evening until business for the day is completed. The GMT meeting will reconvene from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, February 5 through Thursday, February 7 until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The GMT working meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council office, West Conference Room, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220; 503-326-6352.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384, 503-326-6352.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John DeVore, Fishery Management Staff Officer for Groundfish, 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the GMT working meeting is to plan the GMT's annual schedule and strategies to effectively aid the Council in managing 2002 West Coast groundfish fisheries and Council initiatives expected to arise in 2002. Additionally, the GMT will discuss groundfish management measures in place for the winter and spring months, respond to assignments relating to implementation of the Council's

groundfish strategic plan, consider technical aspects of draft stock rebuilding plans and analyses, review new groundfish stock assessments and survey results, and address other assignments relating to groundfish management.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the GMT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal GMT action during this meeting. GMT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the GMT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at 503-326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 4, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121901A]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing and Scientific Research Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of 2002 Exempted Fishing and Scientific Research Permits; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) and Scientific Research Permits (SRPs) for the collection of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS). These EFPs/SRPs would authorize collections of a limited number of tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico for the purposes of scientific data collection and public display. Generally, the EFPs will be valid