

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 21, 2006.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112006E]

Mid-Atlantic Regional 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 Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council (Council); its Joint Dogfish Committee; its Ecosystems Committee; and, its Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 through Thursday, December 14, 2006. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times and a meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Skyline Hotel, 725 10th Ave, New York, New York 10019; telephone: (212) 586-3400.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 674-2331, extension 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. - The Joint Dogfish Committee will meet to review actions taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) regarding dogfish management and their impacts on federal management of dogfish.

9:30 a.m. until 12 noon - The Council will convene jointly with the ASMFC's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board. They will review and discuss the Monitoring Committee's and the Advisory Panel's recommendations on summer flounder recreational management measures, and develop and approve management measures for the

2007 summer flounder recreational fishery.

1 p.m. until 3 p.m. - The Council and the ASMFC will review and discuss the Monitoring Committee's and the Advisory Panel's recommendations on scup recreational management measures and develop and approve management measures for the 2007 scup recreational fishery.

3 p.m. until 5 p.m. - The Council and the ASMFC will review and discuss the Monitoring Committee's and the Advisory Panel's recommendations on black sea bass recreational management measures and develop and approve management measures for the 2007 black sea bass recreational fishery.

7 p.m. until 9 p.m. - The Council will host a public hearing to be convened by the New England Regional Fishery Management Council regarding its Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. - The Ecosystems Committee will meet to: review an initiative to develop a national system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), discuss a proposed NMFS Workshop on reducing post-release mortality in recreational fisheries, discuss the ASMFC's establishment of a Multispecies Technical Committee, discuss the Ecosystem-Based Management Tool Network, and discuss the U.S. Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) regarding testing of active sonar in federal waters.

9:30 a.m. until 12 noon - The Council and ASMFC will discuss Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP issues. An update will be received on the status of Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP (scup rebuilding plan), they will review the revised list of remaining potential management measures to be addressed in Amendment 15 to the FMP to determine the need for future action, and they will discuss and address the implications and effects of any potential disconnect between specifications set by the Council under Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) authority and those set by the ASMFC under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) authority.

1 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. - There will be an awards presentation to recognize the 2006 Fisheries Achievement Award and Ricks E Savage Award winners.

1:15 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. - Meeting two of Framework 1 to the Surfclam / Ocean Quahog FMP will convene to review, select, and approve an

alternative for implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

2:15 p.m. until 3 p.m. - A presentation will be received regarding the New England Council's Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment and its relationship to and effects on Framework 4 to the Joint Monkfish FMP. Following this presentation the Council will approve an appropriate range of Monkfish EFH designations.

3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. - The Council will meet to review and approve final actions on Framework 4 to the Monkfish FMP, and review and approve the Monkfish incidental catch limits in the scallop closed areas.

7 p.m. until 9 p.m. - The Council will host a public hearing to be convened by the NMFS regarding its Omnibus Amendment for Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM). Note: This hearing was originally scheduled for December 12, 2006 at the same location and time, but was rescheduled to this date, place, and time.

Thursday, December 14, 2006

8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. - The Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee will meet regarding Amendment 10 to the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish FMP to review and adopt management alternatives for purposes of rebuilding the butterfly stock.

9:30 a.m. - The Council will convene.

9:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. - The Council will receive a presentation regarding a vessel cost survey on fixed costs that is to be incorporated on a voluntary basis in the 2007 vessel permit renewal cycle.

10 a.m. until 2 p.m. - The Council will conduct its regular business session to approve August and October Council meeting minutes, approve actions from the October meeting, receive various organizational reports, receive Committee reports and address any new or continuing business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council and its Committees for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council or Committee action during this meeting. Council and Committee 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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Bryan at (302) 674-2331 extension 18 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 20, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101106F]

Schedule for Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS will conduct an additional Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop in December, 2006 in Madeira Beach, FL. These workshops are mandatory for vessel owners and operators who use bottom longline, pelagic longline, or gillnet gear, and have also been issued shark or swordfish limited access permits. Vessel owners and operators whose permits expire in January 2007 must attend a workshop in 2006. Additional workshops will be held throughout 2007; however, vessel owners and operators whose permits expire in the winter or spring of 2007 are welcome to attend workshops in 2006.

DATES: The added workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 27, 2006. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for a list of all workshops in December 2006.

ADDRESSES: The added workshop will be held at the City of Madeira Beach Town Hall, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for a list of all workshops in December 2006.

The workshop schedule and a list of frequently asked questions regarding these workshops are posted on the internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the workshop requirement, please contact

Greg Fairclough by phone:(727) 824-5399, or by fax: (727) 824-5398.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 2007, shark limited access and swordfish limited access permit holders that use longline or gillnet gear must submit a copy of their Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop certificate in order to renew either permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). As such, vessel owners whose permits expire in January 2007 must attend one of the seven free workshops offered in 2006. Vessel owners and operators whose permits expire after January 2007 may attend a workshop to be scheduled in 2007 or one of the workshops offered in 2006 (see schedule below). Vessel owners and operators must attend a workshop and submit a copy of their certificates at the time of permit renewal. New shark and swordfish limited access permit applicants must attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop and submit a copy of their workshop certificate before such permits will be issued.

In addition to certifying permit holders, all longline and gillnet vessel operators fishing with a limited access swordfish or limited access shark permit are required to attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop. Vessels that have been issued a limited access swordfish or limited access shark permit and that have longline or gillnet gear onboard may not fish unless both the vessel owner and operator have valid workshop certificates. Vessel operators must possess on board the vessel valid workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and the operator at all times.

To ensure the workshop certificate is linked to the correct permit, you will need to bring the following items with you to the workshop.

Individual vessel owners must bring: proof of identification, a copy of the appropriate permit(s), and a copy of the vessel registration or documentation.

Representatives of a business owned or co-owned vessel must bring: proof that the individual is an agent of the business, a copy of the applicable permit(s), and proof of identification.

Vessel operators must bring: proof of identification.

Participants in the industry-sponsored workshops concerning the safe handling and release of sea turtles that were held in Orlando, FL (April 8, 2005), and New Orleans, LA (June 27, 2005), will be issued a workshop certificate in December 2006 that will be valid for three years. Grandfathered permit

holders must include a copy of this certificate when renewing limited access shark and limited access swordfish permits each year. Failure to provide a valid workshop certificate may result in a permit denial.

The Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops are designed to teach longline and gillnet fishermen the required techniques for the safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish. Identification of protected species will also be taught at these workshops in an effort to improve reporting. Additionally, individuals attending these workshops will gain a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries. The overall goal for these workshops is to provide participants the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species, which may prevent additional regulations on these fisheries in the future. The workshops on December 6, 8, and 14 were previously announced on October 2, 2006 (71 FR 58057).

Workshop Dates, Times, And Locations

1. December 6, 2006, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Seminole Community Library at St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus, 9200 113th Street N., Seminole, FL 33772.

2. December 8, 2006, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Aquatic Release Conservation, 1870 Mason Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

3. December 14, 2006, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. New Orleans Airport Garden Inn, 4535 Williams Blvd., Kenner, LA 70065.

4. December 27, 2006, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. City of Madeira Beach Town Hall, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708.

Registration

To sign up for a scheduled workshop, please contact Aquatic Release Conservation (877) 411-4272, 1870 Mason Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 20, 2006.

James P. Burgess,

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