

company seeks to export are either produced in the U.S. or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least fifty-one percent U.S. content.

In addition, each applicant must:

Certify that the products and services that it wishes to market through the mission would be in compliance with U.S. export controls and regulations;

Certify that it has identified to the Department of Commerce for its evaluation any business pending before the Department that may present the appearance of a conflict of interest;

Certify that it has identified any pending litigation (including any administrative proceedings) to which it is a party that involves the Department of Commerce; and

Sign and submit an agreement that it and its affiliates (1) have not and will not engage in the bribery of foreign officials in connection with a company's/participant's involvement in this mission, and (2) maintain and enforce a policy that prohibits the bribery of foreign officials.

#### Selection Criteria for Participation

Targeted mission participants are U.S. companies and trade associations/organizations providing or promoting products and services that have interest in entering or expanding their business in markets of Mozambique, Kenya and South Africa. The following criteria will be used in selecting participants:

Suitability of a company's (or in the case of a trade association/organization, represented companies') products or services to these markets.

Company's (or in the case of a trade association/organization, represented companies') potential for business in the markets, including likelihood of exports resulting from the mission.

Consistency of the applicant company's (or in the case of a trade association/organization, represented companies') goals and objectives with the stated scope of the mission.

Referrals from political organizations and any documents, including the application, containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and not considered during the selection process.

#### Timeframe for Recruitment and Application

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the **Federal Register**, posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar (<http://www.export.gov/trademissions/>) and other Internet Web sites, press releases to general and trade

media, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows.

Recruitment for this mission will begin immediately and conclude April 17, 2015. We will inform applicants of selection decisions as soon as possible after April 17, 2015. Applications received after April 17, 2015 will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

U.S. Commercial Service, Johannesburg, South Africa, Brent Omdahl, Deputy Senior Commercial Officer, Phone: 27-11-290-3227, Email: [Brent.Omdahl@trade.gov](mailto:Brent.Omdahl@trade.gov).  
Trade Missions Office, Washington, DC, Anne Novak, Phone: (202) 482-8178, Email: [Anne.Novak@trade.gov](mailto:Anne.Novak@trade.gov).

**Frank Spector,**

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XD770**

##### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Meeting of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting and webinar/conference call.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold a 3-day Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) meeting in March 2015. The intent of the meeting is to consider options for the conservation and management of Atlantic HMS. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The AP meeting and webinar will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2015; from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2015; and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2015. There will be an introduction for new AP members at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814. The meeting presentations will also be available via WebEx webinar/conference call.

On Tuesday, March 10, 2015, the conference call information is phone number 1-800-857-6552; Participant Code: 8099565; and the webinar event address is: <https://noaaevents2.webex.com/noaaevents2/onstage/g.php?d=393951018&t=a>; event password: NOAA.

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, the conference call information is phone number 1-800-857-6552; Participant Code: 8099565; and the webinar event address is: <https://noaaevents2.webex.com/noaaevents2/onstage/g.php?d=395887510&t=a>; event password: NOAA.

On Thursday, March 12, 2015, the conference call information is phone number 1-800-857-6552; Participant Code: 8099565; and the webinar event address is: <https://noaaevents2.webex.com/noaaevents2/onstage/g.php?d=394954698&t=a>; event password: NOAA.

Participants are strongly encouraged to log/dial in fifteen minutes prior to the meeting. NMFS will show the presentations via webinar and allow public comment during identified times on the agenda.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Cooper or Margo Schulze-Haugen at (301) 427-8503.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, provided for the establishment of an AP to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or FMP amendment for Atlantic HMS. NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of AP members when preparing and implementing FMPs or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks.

The AP has previously consulted with NMFS on: Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999); the HMS FMP (April 1999); Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2003); the Consolidated HMS FMP (October 2006); and Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a, 5b, 6, 7, 8, and 9 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (April and October 2008, February and September 2009, May and September 2010, April and September 2011, March and September 2012, January and September 2013, April and September 2014), among other things.

The intent of this meeting is to consider alternatives for the conservation and management of all Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and shark fisheries. We anticipate discussing

the following Amendments to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP: Draft Amendment 6 on the future of shark fishery, providing updates on Amendment 5b on dusky shark management and Amendment 9 on smoothhound shark management and ongoing stock assessment, reviewing Final Amendment 7 on bluefin tuna management measures, as well as discussing the HMS Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review. The meeting will also include discussion of the Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan for Atlantic HMS, implementation of 2014 ICCAT recommendations, and updates on the Atlantic HMS Management-Based Research Priorities document and other research activities, among other updates.

Additional information on the meeting and a copy of the draft agenda will be posted prior to the meeting at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/advisory\\_panels/hms\\_ap/meetings/ap\\_meetings.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/advisory_panels/hms_ap/meetings/ap_meetings.html).

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Peter Cooper at (301) 427-8503 at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Dated: February 20, 2015.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XD791**

#### Caribbean Fishery Management Council: Scoping Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of scoping meetings on Caribbean Federal permits.

**SUMMARY:** The harvest activities of all fishing sectors must be understood to the greatest degree possible to assure that societal goals encompassed in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act are met. Thus, the need for timely, effective, and efficient means to monitor harvest from all sectors is fundamental. The goal of this Scoping Hearing is to allow the public to comment on the scoping

document and to provide alternative options and ideas not yet considered by the Council and NMFS.

#### Dates and Addresses:

Written comments can be sent to the Council not later than April 10th, 2015, by regular mail to the address below, or via email to [graciela\\_cfmc@yahoo.com](mailto:graciela_cfmc@yahoo.com) or [Miguel.lugo@noaa.gov](mailto:Miguel.lugo@noaa.gov).

#### In Puerto Rico

March 11, 2015—7 p.m.–10 p.m.—

Verdanza Hotel, Tartak St. Isla Verde Puerto Rico

March 25, 2015—7 p.m.–10 p.m.—

Mayaguez Holiday Inn, 2701 Hostos Avenue, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico

#### In the U.S. Virgin Islands

March 16, 2015—7 p.m.–10 p.m.—The

Buccaneer Hotel, Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

March 18, 2015—7 p.m.–10 p.m.—

Windward Passage Hotel, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council is considering establishing federal permits for fishing in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and is conducting scoping meetings to obtain public comments regarding this matter.

#### Background

A permitting system provides a comprehensive method to achieve this goal. Permitting supports professionalization of individual fisheries, identifying and acknowledging those fishers dedicated to and reliant upon a specific component of the commercial fishery. Permits also allow for direct communication with fishing entities, enabling focused outreach and education opportunities.

A permitting system allows fishery scientists and managers to gather more accurate data, decreasing both scientific and management uncertainty. Scientific uncertainty can be mitigated to some degree by increasing knowledge of the fishery and the health of the fish populations that support that fishery. A permit system that identifies the universe of fishers operating within a fishing sector and allows tracking of the disposition and characteristics of harvested resources would substantially enhance knowledge of the fishery. Data derived from a comprehensive permit

system would also contribute to reducing management uncertainty by providing better estimates of harvesting effort and the timing of harvest, thereby improving management design and responsiveness. More accurate and reliable catch data allows for more informed management.

The absence of a federal permit system, or mandatory federal reporting requirements, has been identified as a major contributor to the lack of fishing effort information in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. A permitting system would allow better estimates for measuring fishing effort for the Council-managed fisheries while shedding light on the effectiveness of regulations implemented to manage that effort.

Some of the needs and Issues that a permitting system could address in the EEZ:

1. Provide accurate and timely data on landings.
2. Allow estimation of catch per unit of fishing effort.
3. Identify spatial and temporal trends in effort, including the relative importance of fishing to individual communities.
4. Manage competing interests for the resource.
5. Identify trends in the health of targeted fish stocks.
6. Quantify the socioeconomic importance of permitted fishing sectors and mitigate negative impacts of management to fishing communities.
7. Provide permitted fishers with a better understanding of their fishery and the opportunities and implications of management to that fishery.

There are many aspects to implementing fishing permits in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and many options regarding the design of a permit system. Options for developing and designing a permit system include, but are not limited to:

1. Require commercial fishers to obtain a federal permit to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
2. Require commercial fishers to obtain a commercial fishing license from either Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
3. Require commercial fishers to obtain a federal permit or a commercial fishing license from either Puerto Rico or the USVI to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
4. Require a species/species group/fishery-specific permit in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
5. Require a gear-specific permit in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
6. Require a dealer permit to purchase fish harvested from the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;