

email to comment@nefmc.orgmailto:amendment15@noaa.gov with "Comment on Small Mesh Multispecies Amendment 19" in the subject line. Requests for copies of the public hearing document and other information should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492. The public hearing document is also accessible electronically via the Internet at <http://www.nefmc.org/mesh/index.html>.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Council staff will provide information on the status of Amendment 19 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. The draft alternatives include annual limits on catch and landings by fishery program and/or stock, in-season and post-season accountability measures including incidental possession limits, year round red hake possession limits, and monitoring and specification setting procedures. Final alternatives will be recommended for approval at the April 24-26 Council meeting. There will be time available for questions and answers.

Written comments on the draft amendment must be received by 12 p.m. EST, Monday, April 16, 2012 and may be mailed to the Council office at the address above, faxed to (978) 465-3116 or emailed to: comment@nefmc.org (attention/subject line: Comment on Small Mesh Multispecies Amendment 19).

The dates, times, locations and telephone numbers of the hearings are as follows:

Monday, April 9, 2012 at 5 p.m.—Hilton Garden Inn, 1885 Route 70, Lakewood, NJ 08701; telephone: (732) 262-5232;

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 5 p.m.—Hotel Indigo East End, 1830 West Main Street, Route 25, Riverhead, NY 11901; telephone: (631) 369-2200;

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 5 p.m.—Radisson Hotel, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; telephone: (508) 747-4900;

Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 5 p.m.—Sheraton Harborside, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-2300;

Monday, April 16, 2012 at 5 p.m.—Hotel Providence, 139 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 861-8000.

Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with physical 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 date.

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

Dated: March 19, 2012.

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

RIN 0648-XB108

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Executive Committee, its Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee, and its Research Set-Aside (RSA) Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held Tuesday, April 10, 2012 through Thursday, April 12, 2012. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The Sanderling, 1461 Duck Road, Duck, NC 27949; telephone: (252) 261-4111.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

1 p.m. until 3 p.m.—The Executive Committee will meet in a closed session.

3 p.m. until 5 p.m.—The Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee will meet.

5 p.m. until 6 p.m.—There will be a public listening session.

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

9 a.m. until 11 a.m.—The Executive Committee will meet.

11 a.m. until 12 p.m.—The RSA Committee will meet.

1 p.m.—The Council will convene. Swearing in of the new member will be at 1 p.m.

1 p.m. until 2 p.m.—The Council will discuss Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs.

2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.—Finalization of Tilefish Management Measures for 2013-15 will be held.

3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.—An Atlantic sturgeon discussion will be held.

Thursday, April 12, 2012

9 a.m. until 10 a.m.—Approval of Spiny Dogfish alternatives will be held.

10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.—Framework 5 to Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish will be discussed.

10:30 a.m. until 11 a.m.—Framework 6 to Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish will be discussed.

11 a.m. until 1 p.m.—The Council will hold its regular Business Session to approve the February minutes, receive Organizational Reports, the South Atlantic Liaison Report, Executive Director's Report, Science Report, Committee Reports, and conduct any continuing and/or new business.

Agenda items by day for the Council's Committees and the Council itself are:

On Tuesday, April 10—The Executive Committee will meet in a closed session. The Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee will receive a presentation from the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) on Deep Sea Coral and discussion of Mid-Atlantic Council action will follow. The public listening session will focus on BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management—formerly BOEMRE) and wind power.

On Wednesday, April 11—The Executive Committee will discuss an Ecosystem/Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) document, finalize goals and objectives, purpose and need, discuss transition strategies to move EBFM, and Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) next steps. The RSA Committee will review a response letter from NOAA General Counsel, discuss integration of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) into the RSA research prioritization process, and discuss alternatives to improve the RSA program and develop recommendations to the Council. The Council will convene to swear in a new Council member. The Council will discuss

reopening Georges Bank, identify any harvest restrictions, and discuss PSP testing. The Council will finalize and adopt Tilefish Management Measures for 2013–15 by reviewing the SSC and the Tilefish Monitoring Committee’s recommendations for 2013–15 harvest levels and management measures. The Council will discuss potential actions to reduce Atlantic sturgeon bycatch in the Mid-Atlantic fisheries.

On Thursday, April 12—The Council will approve alternatives for analysis to Spiny Dogfish Amendment 3. The Council will take action to modify vessel hold certification requirements in Framework 5 to the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish FMP (Meeting 2). The Council will take action to revise a provision of Council risk policy on Framework 6 to the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish FMP (Meeting 2). The Council will hold its regular Business Session to approve the February 2012 minutes, receive Organizational Reports, the South Atlantic Liaison Report, the Executive Director’s Report, Science Report, Committee Reports, and conduct any continuing and/or new business.

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 these meetings. 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 19, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–6905 Filed 3–21–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XB099

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of SEDAR 29 assessment webinars for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*).

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 29 assessment of HMS blacktip shark will consist of a workshop and series of webinars. This notice is for webinars associated with the workshop portion of the SEDAR process.

DATES: The SEDAR 29 webinars will be held between April 12th and May 24th, 2012. Please see list below for exact dates and times. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from, or completed prior to the times established by this notice.

| Webinar | Date | Day | Time (central) |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | April 12, 2012 | Thursday | 10 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| 2 | April 26, 2012 | Thursday | 10 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| 3 | May 24, 2012 | Thursday | 10 a.m.–1 p.m. |

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (See Contact Information Below) to request an invitation providing webinar access information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571–4366; email: *Julie.neer@safmc.net*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-

step process including: (1) Data/ Assessment Workshop, and (2) a series of webinars. The product of the Data/ Assessment Workshop is a report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses, and describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency

representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO’s; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

SEDAR 29 Assessment webinar series:

Using datasets and initial assessment analysis recommended from the Workshop, Panelists will employ assessment models to evaluate stock status, estimate population benchmarks and management criteria, and project future conditions. Panelists will recommend the most appropriate methods and configurations for determining stock status and estimating population parameters.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids