

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****RIN 0648-XG67****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 Scientific and Statistical Committee on April 14–15, 2008, 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 Monday, April 14 beginning at 1 p.m. and April 15 beginning at 8 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700; fax: (401) 455-3040.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will review Skate Plan Development Team analyses regarding skate catch limits and develop allowable biological catch limit recommendations that are consistent with Skate Fishery Management Plan objectives to prevent overfishing and rebuild thorny and winter skates.

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 this meeting. 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 action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul

J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 25, 2008.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. E8-6439 Filed 3-27-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****RIN 0648-XG66****New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 3-day Council meeting on April 15–17, 2008, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15 beginning at 10 a.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, April 16 and 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Tuesday, April 15, 2008**

Following introductions and any announcements, the Council will receive a series of brief reports from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel, NOAA Enforcement and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Council also will review any experimental fishery permits requests published since the last Council meeting and possibly offer comments. Following a lunch break, the Council's

Scientific and Statistical Committee will make recommendations concerning acceptable biological catch levels for winter and thorny skates while the Skate Committee will report on progress to develop winter and thorny skate rebuilding and management alternatives for inclusion in Amendment 3 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The committee will ask the Council to consider and approve precautionary annual catch limits, accountability measures and additional management measures to address recent changes in the skate fishery. The last agenda item of the day will involve an update by Virginia Institute of Marine Science staff on the institution's Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program.

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

The Council will review and approve comment letters regarding the Minerals Management Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Wind Energy Project and the Revised Framework for Developing a National System for Marine Protected Areas. A report from the Monkfish Committee will follow, during which the Council intends to take final action on Framework 6 to the Monkfish FMP. The Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils are considering eliminating backstop measures adopted in an earlier action that would reduce or eliminate days-at-sea in 2009 if landings exceeded catch targets in either or both of the two monkfish management areas during this current fishing year. The Enforcement Committee will review its recommendations concerning any changes to the running clock prohibition and review its initial discussion about sector monitoring and enforcement. During the afternoon session there will be a preliminary report on a Gulf of Maine Research Institute project to evaluate the monitoring, reporting and enforcement needs necessary to effectively track catch by sector vessels in New England. During the last agenda item, the Council's Groundfish Committee will provide an update on Amendment 16, including a review of annual catch limit and accountability measures, as well as effort control measures and sector policy issues.

Thursday, April 17, 2008

During the Herring Committee report the Council will review and approve a scoping document for Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP and review the amendment timeline. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center will provide an update on trawl survey gear and calibration exercises regarding the FSVs

Albatross and Bigelow. The Scallop Survey Advisory Panel will discuss new terms of reference and plans to calibrate the new survey dredge on the RV Sharp during the 2008 sea scallop survey. This report will be followed by a period for the public to comment on fisheries related issues that are not listed on the agenda. Any other outstanding business will be addressed before the meeting adjourns.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal 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 that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with 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.

Dated: March 25, 2008.

William D. Chappell,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E8-6440 Filed 3-27-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG75

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 141st meeting to consider and take actions on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

DATES: The 141st Council meeting and public hearings will be held at 1 p.m. (Hawaii Standard Time) on Monday, April 14, 2008 (12 noon in American Samoa and 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, in Guam and the Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands) at the Council Office in Honolulu, HI and by teleconference. For specific times and the agenda, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The 141st Council meeting and public hearings will be held at the Council's office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813. For participants residing in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii and the continental United States, the 141st Council meeting telephone conference call-in-number is: 1-888-482-3560; Access Code: 5228220. For Guam and international participants, the call-in-number is: 1-647-723-3959; Access Code: 5228220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220; FAX: 808-522-8226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council transmitted the 140th Council Meeting **Federal Register** notice to NMFS.Reg@noaa.gov on February 15, 2008, in accordance with the NMFS Regulatory Unit guidelines. NMFS failed to transmit this notice to the Office of the Federal Register for publication and the lack of publication was announced on the last day of the 140th Council Meeting. While the notice was published on the last day of the meeting, this did not fulfill the requirement of advance notification to the public pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This notice advises the public that the Council will convene its 141st Meeting at 1 p.m. (Hawaii Standard Time) Monday, April 14, 2008 (12 noon in American Samoa and 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) at the Council Office in Honolulu, HI and by teleconference. The Council will consider, and take action on, regulatory action items discussed at the 140th meeting and provide the public with an opportunity for comment on items listed as regulatory actions in the proposed 141st meeting agenda.

The documents and records for the 140th Council Meeting action items are available for public inspection on the Council's website, <http://www.wpcouncil.org> and at the Council Office at 1164 Bishop St, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

In addition to the agenda items listed here, the Council will hear recommendations from other Council advisory groups. Public comment periods will be provided near the end of

the meeting agenda before Council discussion and action. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The Council will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for Council Meeting

1 p.m. 5 p.m. Monday, April 14, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of 139th Minutes
4. Pelagics Fisheries Regulatory Actions
 - a. Hawaii Swordfish Fishery Effort
 - b. Squid Permits
 - c. American Samoa Longline Program Modifications
 - d. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Longline Exclusion Zone
 - e. American Samoa Purse-Seine Exclusion Zones
 - f. Guam Purse-Seine Exclusion Zones
 - g. CNMI Purse-Seine Exclusion Zones
5. Hawaii Bottomfish Fisheries Regulatory Actions
 - a. Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) Bottomfish Risk Analysis
6. Program Planning, Research, and Executive/Budget Actions
 - a. Annual Catch Limits
 - b. Community Development Plan (CDP) Regulatory Amendment to Allow Future CDPs
7. Public Hearing
8. Council Discussion and Action
9. Other Business

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or (808)522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 26, 2008.

William D. Chappell,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 08-1083 Filed 3-26-08; 11:16 am]

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