

time and retrospective management purposes.

Response: Text has been added, and the section has been updated, to reflect the change in status and role of the NEIT.

Comment 81: One commenter questioned the effectiveness of the SEIT and NEIT, and recommended that NMFS pursue an independent evaluation of the NEIT and SEIT. The commenter felt that this assessment would be helpful in advancing the team process to accomplish more for right whales.

Response: NMFS agrees that these teams can and should be effective. Objective 5.3 indicates that the effectiveness of the teams will be periodically evaluated, and ways to make them more effective will be identified.

Miscellaneous Comments

Comment 82: One commenter requested clarification of whether the terms “adequacy” and “effectiveness” are equivalent. “Effectiveness” is used in objective 1.1.16 - Assess effectiveness of ship strike measures and adjust, as necessary.

Response: The section mentioned by the commenter use the term “effectiveness”. No reference to “adequacy” was found in the section; therefore no changes were made to the plan.

Comment 83: One commenter expressed concern about the plan’s message on right whale recovery that it gives the impression that what is most needed is monitoring the effectiveness of existing measures and taking further steps as may become necessary and possible. NMFS is currently commencing an in-depth process of developing major new management initiatives for both entanglement and ship collision risks. However, the commenter noted that the draft plan does not mention the need for or the existence of these major initiatives.

Response: NMFS believes that the Plan does an adequate job explaining the lack of recovery of right whales, the severity of threats from human activities and the need for aggressive steps to reduce the threats. With regard to this comment, no changes were made to the Plan.

Comment 84: One commenter recommended that NMFS adopt, urgently implement, and rigorously enforce the revised Recovery Plan.

Response: NMFS appreciates this comment and is moving to do so. No changes were made to the Plan.

Comment 85: One commenter expressed support for the ship strike

strategy, and the imposition and enforcement of speed restrictions in areas where right whales are located.

Response: NMFS appreciates this comment although it does not appear to pertain directly to the Plan. The agency is moving as swiftly as possible to reduce the threat of ship strikes.

Comment 86: Two commenters expressed concern that lack of scientific information or certainty as to the effects of human activities on right whales would become an excuse for delaying regulation of such activities. The commenters recognized that science was essential, but that the lack of science should not delay measures to protect the species and its habitat, given the critical status of this species.

Response: NMFS appreciates these comments and recognizes the need to move decisively and without delay to reduce threats and the agency is attempting to do so. At the same time it is committed to using the best scientific data available in defining management measures.

Comment 87: One comment was received on 3.3.10 - Take steps to minimize identified adverse effects from oil, gas, and hard mineral exploration and development - reinforcing that in the Southeast U.S. this is an extremely vital objective due to the presence of mothers and highly vulnerable calves in the coastal waters during winter months. No changes were recommended.

Response: No changes were made to the Plan.

Comment 88: One commenter expressed concern regarding the statement reading “Navy has consulted with NMFS under section 7 of the ESA on the potential effect of some of its operations on protected species” on page IG-4. The commenter noted that the Plan omits that the Navy has refused to consult with NMFS on its operations out of Norfolk, which result in over 3,000 transits per year and dwarf the commercial operations in that area. The commenter stated that the ESA legally mandates section 7 consultations, and that NMFS should contact the Navy about engaging in consultation immediately.

Response: As noted earlier, NMFS inserted objective 3.3.17, which calls for section 7 consultations on all Federal activities.

Comment 89: One comment was received that strongly agreed with action 1.2.1 - Develop and implement strategies to modify fishing operations and gear to reduce the likelihood of entanglement, mitigate the effect of entanglements and enhance the possibility of disentanglement, and

assess the effectiveness of such strategies. The commenter supported the idea that NMFS should pursue and implement universal gear requirements for high-risk fisheries and expand time/area closures and/or restrictions. It was also recommended that NMFS consider fisheries closures where feasible.

Response: No changes were made to the Plan.

Comment 90: One comment expressed concern regarding section 3.2 - Assess the need for modifying critical habitat boundaries. The commenter was concerned that overlap of critical habitat in the Southeast with the Navy’s Jacksonville Operating Area and its implications on potential restrictions to the Navy’s training or operations in open ocean areas. No recommended changes were presented.

Response: No changes were made to the plan, as this comment did not appear to pertain directly to modifications to the Recovery Plan. NMFS notes however, that critical habitat assessments and determinations are underway at the time of this writing. Determinations will be made based on the needs of the endangered population.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Dated: May 25, 2005.

P. Michael Payne,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 05–10987 Filed 6–1–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052505B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Herring Oversight Committee along with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, June 20, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Eastland Park Hotel, 157 High Street, Portland, ME.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

Agenda for Monday, June 20, 2005

- Review and consider management alternatives to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Amendment 1 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP).
- Consider and approve the Amendment 1 DSEIS for public hearings and recommend preferred management alternatives/ measures for Council consideration.

- Review and approve for public comment Draft Amendment 2 to the ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring.

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 identified 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

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.

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

Dated: May 27, 2005.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 05-10989 Filed 6-1-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of State Coastal Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to evaluate—rescheduled public meeting.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) announces a revised time and location for a public meeting previously included in an announcement of intent to evaluate the performance of the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program. Notice was previously given in the **Federal Register** on March 9, 2005, of the date of the site visit for the evaluation of the Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program and the date, local time, and location of the public meeting. Notice is hereby given of the revised local time and revised location of the public meeting during the site visit.

The Puerto Rico Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held June 20-24, 2005. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, at 6 p.m. at the Puerto Rico Environmental Agencies Building, Road 8838, Km 6.3, Sector El Cinco, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-3155, extension 118.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419. Coastal Zone Management Program Administration.

Dated: May 24, 2005.

Mitchell Luxenberg,

Acting Director, Management and Budget, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 05-10985 Filed 6-1-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-P

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Sunshine Act Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for 16 June

2005 at 10 a.m. in the Commission's offices at the National Building Museum, Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 401 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001-2728. Items of discussion affecting the appearance of Washington, DC, may include buildings, parks and memorials.

Draft agendas and additional information regarding the Commission are available on our Web site: www.cfa.gov. Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Thomas Luebke, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address or call 202-504-2200. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated in Washington, DC, 27 May 2005.

Thomas Luebke,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-11036 Filed 5-31-05; 10:36 am]

BILLING CODE 6330-01-M

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Commission Agenda and Priorities; Public Hearing

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Commission will conduct a public hearing to receive views from all interested parties about its agenda and priorities for Commission attention during fiscal year 2007, which begins October 1, 2006. Participation by members of the public is invited. Written comments and oral presentations concerning the Commission's agenda and priorities for fiscal year 2007 will become part of the public record.

DATES: The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on June 21, 2005. Written comments, requests from members of the public desiring to make oral presentations, and the written text of any oral presentations must be received by the Office of the Secretary not later than June 14, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be in room 420 of the Bethesda Towers Building, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Written comments, requests to make oral presentations, and texts of oral presentations should be captioned "FY 2007 Agenda and Priorities" and e-mailed to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov, mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, or