

**Authority**

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

Dated: January 18, 2000.

**Jamie Rappaport Clark,**

*Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 622**

[I.D. 012100C]

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene two public hearings regarding draft options for Amendment 1 to the

Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The amendment addresses gear restrictions, permitting processes, vessel size limits, crew safety and zoning/participation conflicts in the golden crab fishery.

**DATES:** The Council will accept written comments on the draft options paper through March 1, 2000. The public hearings will be held in February. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times of the public hearings.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Bob Mahood, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699. Copies of the draft options paper are available from Kim Iverson, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; telephone: 843-571-4366. The public hearings will be held in Florida and South Carolina. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific hearing locations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; telephone: 843-571-4366; fax: 843-769-4520; E-mail address: kim.iverson@safmc.noaa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Time and Location for Public Hearings**

Public hearings for the draft options paper for Amendment 1 to the Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan will be held at the following locations, dates, and times.

1. February 22, 2000, 6:00 p.m., Best Western Hotel, 111 South Crome Ave., Florida City, FL 33034; telephone: 305-451-0056.

2. February 23, 2000, 6:00 p.m., Town & Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: 843-571-1000.

Copies of the draft options paper can be obtained from the Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by March 15, 2000.

Dated: January 24, 2000.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

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