

fish" traps are commercially available designs made of 0.25-inch (0.6-cm) or 1-inch (2.5-cm) galvanized wire mesh. "Habitat" traps, which are designed to target benthic fishes, are made of 4-inch (10.2-cm) high sections of 20-inch (50.8-cm) diameter PVC pipe which is sealed off at both ends. Each trap has one 3-inch (7.6-cm) diameter hole in one side. The traps are weighted using approximately 3.5-lb (1.6-kg) of cement, and deployed on longlines or hand placed by divers. The second trap type is designed to target octopus. These traps are made of 18-inch (45.7-cm) lengths of 4-inch (10.2-cm) diameter black corrugated drainage pipe. Cement is used to seal one end to a depth of approximately 2.5-inches (6.4-cm). "Habitat" and "octopus" traps have unblocked openings and no internal compartments, so animals may come and go at will. Sea bass pots, spiny lobster traps, and golden crab traps will be deployed for no more than 5 hours at a time. No more than five traps or pots of each type will be deployed at one time. These traps or pots will be set on individual lines. "Bait fish" traps will only be deployed during scuba dives for a maximum of 5 hours and will be retrieved when divers exit the water. "Habitat" and "octopus" traps will be deployed on a 500-ft (152-m) longline with an anchor and buoy at each end. "Habitat" traps may also be hand placed by divers. "Habitat" and "octopus" trap sets will not exceed 14 days.

NMFS finds this application warrants further consideration. Based on a preliminary review, NMFS intends to issue an EFP. Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is indeed granted, include but are not limited to: Reduction in the number or species of fish to be collected; restrictions on the placement of traps, especially with respect to fragile habitat; restrictions on the size of fish to be collected; prohibition of the harvest of any fish with visible external tags; and specification of locations, dates, and/or seasons allowed for collection of particular fish species. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on a NMFS review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the affected states, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that it is consistent with all applicable laws. The applicant requests a 5-year (60-month) effective period for the EFP.

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

Dated: May 7, 2007.

James P. Burgess

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[XRIN: 0648-XA12]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Special Reef Fish SSC.

DATES: The SSC and Special Reef Fish SSC meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Monday June 4 and conclude no later than 12 noon on Tuesday, June 5, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the W New Orleans, 333 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130; telephone: (504) 525-9444.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stu Kennedy, Fishery Biologist; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC will address these issues:

1. Elect a new chair and vice-chair.
2. Review and provide guidance on the provisions of Reef Fish Amendment 27 and Shrimp Amendment 14 which set manage measures to rebuild the red snapper resource in the Gulf of Mexico.
3. Review the SEDAR re-evaluation of the assessment of gag in the Gulf of Mexico. The SSC will determine if the Review Panel reports are based on the best available information and reasonable. The SSC may provide guidance to the Council about the results of the assessment and research recommendations made by the SEDAR panels.
4. Review the analyses used to build the alternatives for Reef Fish Amendment 30A which includes greater amberjack and gray triggerfish management measures to determine if they are scientifically sound.
5. Receive a report on the development of guidelines for

implementing Annual Catch Limits as specified in the re-authorization of the MSA; and

6. Review terms of reference for SEDAR 16 stock assessment of King Mackerel.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the SSC will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 action to address the emergency.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 7, 2007.

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

[XRIN: 0648-XA10]

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's (Council) Groundfish Advisory Panel will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 30 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.