

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042605E]

Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Marine Mammal Advisory Committee (MMAC) to discuss issues relating to the interactions of marine mammals with pelagic fisheries in the Hawaiian Islands.

DATES: The meeting of the MMAC will be held on May 11–12, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMAC will meet on May 11–12, 2005, at the Council Conference Room to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introductions
2. Hawaii longline fishery, current status
3. Pending plan to address category 1 classification of the Hawaii longline fishery
4. Update on observer data records of marine mammal interactions with Hawaii-based longliners
5. Statistical aspects of estimating fleet wide interactions between marine mammals and Hawaii-based longline vessels
6. Studies of odontocete population size and structure in the main Hawaiian Islands
7. Stock assessment reports for marine mammals in the Western Pacific Region
8. Opportunistic information on False Killer Whales from the SPLASH program
9. Recreational fisheries and interactions with marine mammals
10. Longline—depredation research on toothed whales
11. Behavioral aspects of toothed whale depredation on longlines
12. Fleet communication strategies to avoid protected species interactions with longlines

13. Other business

14. Recommendations

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The MMAC will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business. Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the MMAC for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Plan Team action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issue arising after publication of this document that requires 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 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.

Dated: April 27, 2005.

Tracey Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E5–2068 Filed 4–29–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042605D]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold hearings on fishery data collection management options in Hilo, HI and Honolulu, HI. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific times, dates, and agenda items).

ADDRESSES: The hearings will be held at the Hawaii Naniloa Hotel, 93 Banyan Dr., Hilo, HI 96720 and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

DATES: The hearings will be held in Hilo, HI on May 13 2005, from 6 p.m.

to 9 p.m. and Honolulu, HI on May 19, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In December of 2004, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) was advised by NMFS that overfishing of Pacific-wide bigeye tuna was occurring and requested the Council take appropriate action to end overfishing. At its 126th meeting, March 14–17, 2005, in Honolulu, the Council took action and unanimously voted to develop initiatives to address overfishing of bigeye tuna in Hawaii. One initiative is to require permits and catch reports for Hawaii small pelagic fishing boats in order to provide scientists with complete fishery information.

Bottomfish resources in the main Hawaiian islands have been locally depleted and an overfishing situation similar to bigeye tuna may be occurring. The Council will begin to assess and develop measures to address overfishing in the main Hawaiian islands by collecting data from the fishery and establishing measures to reduce fishing mortality. Options for collecting data on the bottomfish and pelagic fisheries in Hawaii will be presented to the Council in June.

The Council is seeking comments and opinions on these initiatives and will present management options for fishery data collection for Pelagic and Bottomfish fisheries in Hawaii at the following hearings:

Friday, May 13, 2005, at the Hawaii Naniloa Hotel in Hilo, HI, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 19, 2005, at the Council Office in Honolulu, HI, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

These hearings 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 hearing date.

Dated: April 27, 2005.

Tracey Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E5-2112 Filed 4-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042605H]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has determined that an application for revised Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The Assistant Regional Administrator is considering the impacts of the activities to be authorized under the EFPs with respect to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue EFPs. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Assistant Regional Administrator proposes to issue revised EFPs in response to an application submitted by the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fisherman's Association (CCCHFA), in collaboration with Maine Division of Marine Resources (MEDMR), and Research, Environmental and Management Support (REMSA).

Previous public comment was solicited on these EFPs, which would allow up to 20 commercial vessels to conduct an experimental demersal longline fishery for haddock in Georges Bank (GB) Closed Area (CA) II and portions of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. This action would revise these EFPs by including an exemption from the May GB Seasonal Closure Area. This fishery would take place at various times from May 2005 through February 2006. The purpose of the proposed study is to determine if hook-and-line

gear could be used to target haddock with minimal bycatch of cod in order to establish potential future Special Access Programs (SAPs) in these areas as allowed under Amendment 13 to the FMP.

DATES: Comments on this action must be received (see ADDRESSES) on or before May 17, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, NE Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Haddock CA II SAP EFP Proposal." Comments may also be sent via fax to 978-281-9135, or submitted via e-mail to the following address: da735r@noaa.gov. Copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) are available from the NE Regional Office at the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Tasker, Fishery Management Specialist, phone: 978-281-9273, fax: 978-281-9135, e-mail: karen.tasker@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CCCHFA, in collaboration with the MEDMR and REMSA, submitted a request for an EFP on November 16, 2004. Public notification of the proposal and request for comments was published in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 2005 (70 FR 10074).

The proposed EFP would enable researchers to conduct a study targeting GB haddock within GB CA II and a portion of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area outside of CA II. The purpose of the proposed study is to determine if demersal longline gear could be used to target GB haddock with minimal bycatch of GB cod. This proposal expands upon a study that began on June 10, 2004, and ended on January 31, 2005, that examined the feasibility of using demersal longline gear to target haddock with minimal cod bycatch in several closure areas in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and GB.

The CCCHFA's November 17, 2004, proposal requests authorization for a total of 160 trips by 20 commercial longline vessels to fish for and possess haddock in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, including CA II, during various times from May 2005 through February 2006. In order to accomplish this work, the CCCHFA requested an exemption from the CA II restrictions on the haddock trip limit for all participating vessels, and an exemption from the 3,600-hook limit for participating non-Sector vessels in their initial application. At a later date, it also requested an exemption from the GB

Seasonal Closure Area restrictions for participating non-Sector vessels. The notice and request for comments published on March 2, 2005, addressed the exemptions requested in the initial proposal but did not address the exemption to the GB Seasonal Closure Area. This proposed revision would exempt participating non-Sector vessels from the GB Seasonal Closure Area during the month of May 2005.

The applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and result in only a minimal change in the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. The EFP could be made effective following publication of the EFP application in the **Federal Register**, with a 15-day public comment period.

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

Dated: April 27, 2005.

Anne M. Lange

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

[FR Doc. 05-8697 Filed 4-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for 19 May 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.go. 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, 26 April 2005.

Thomas Luebke,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-8650 Filed 4-29-05; 8:45 am]

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