

and written authorization, and therefore require EFH consultation if they may adversely affect EFH. The proposed General Concurrence would fulfill the EFH consultation requirement for these activities. Examples of Category II activities include minor maintenance dredging and installation of certain recreational docks and piers. The COE solicits comments on the appropriate categorization of activities covered by PGPs prior to reissuing each PGP, and at that time would be required to conduct a separate EFH consultation with NMFS on the anticipated effects of issuing each PGP.

The actions that would be covered by the proposed General Concurrence include all activities listed as Category II within PGPs issued by the COE for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Pursuant to 50 CFR 600.920(f)(4), NMFS would request notification in advance of COE authorization of Category II activities so that NMFS can make a case-by-case determination on the applicability of this General Concurrence. Those actions that NMFS determines would result in more than minimal adverse effects to EFH would require individual EFH consultation and would not be covered by this General Concurrence. Although NMFS would continue to review all Category II actions, as it does presently, the General Concurrence would result in workload savings for NMFS and the COE for actions with no more than minimal adverse effects to EFH individually and cumulatively. For such actions, the General Concurrence would obviate the need for NMFS to provide EFH Conservation Recommendations and for the COE to provide written responses to those recommendations.

NMFS has coordinated with the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils regarding the development of the proposed General Concurrence. NMFS discussed the proposed General Concurrence with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils during public meetings, which afforded an opportunity for public review as required by 50 CFR 600.920(f)(5). However, since the published agendas for these meetings did not include a clear description of the scope and purpose of the proposed General Concurrence, NMFS is publishing this notice to allow an additional opportunity for public review.

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

Dated: February 11, 2000.

Andrew J. Kemmerer,

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020900A]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPT) will hold a work session which is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will be held on Monday, March 13, 2000, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; on Tuesday, March 14, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and on Wednesday, March 15, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Holiday Inn Sea-Tac, Laguardia Room, 17338 International Blvd., Seattle, WA, 98188. Phone: 206-248-1000; Fax: 206-242-7089.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the work session is to prepare and review draft sections of the fishery management plan (FMP) for highly migratory species (HMS) and related documents for HMS fisheries off the West Coast.

Management measures that may be adopted in the FMP for HMS fisheries off the West Coast include permit and reporting requirements for commercial and recreational harvest of HMS resources, time and/or area closures to minimize gear conflicts or bycatch, adoption or confirmation of state regulations for HMS fisheries, and allocations of some species to non-commercial use. The FMP is likely to include a framework management process to add future new measures, including the potential for collaborative management efforts with other regional fishery management councils with

interest in HMS resources. It would also include essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern, including fishing and non-fishing threats, as well as other components of FMPs required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The proposed FMP and its associated environmental impact statement would be the Council's fourth FMP for the exclusive economic zone off the West Coast. Development of the FMP is timely, considering the new mandates under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, efforts by the United Nations to promote conservation and management of HMS resources through domestic and international programs, and the increased scope of activity of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in HMS fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Comments regarding the draft FMP will not be accepted if sent via the e-mail or the Internet.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the HMSPT meeting agenda may come before the HMSPT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal HMSPT action during these meetings. HMSPT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the HMSPT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. John Rhoton at 503-326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 9, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 00-3859 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Grant of Certificate of Interim Extension of the Term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449; roboxetine mesylate

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Interim Patent Term Extension.