

ADDRESSES: Hawthorn Suites, Ltd, 1110 West 8th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501
Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be to discuss the Board of Fisheries proposal #455 (state water pollock fisheries within Steller Sea lion critical habitat). This will be an initial organizational meeting to discuss information needs, process and timing relative to potential actions by the Board of Fisheries or Council.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 4, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E5-2227 Filed 5-6-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050405C]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Scoping Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public scoping meeting.

SUMMARY: There are two shark tour operations based in Haleiwa. The operations are banned from operating in Hawaii State Waters. The staff of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public scoping meeting to: (1) gather comment on shark viewing operations in Federal waters, and (2) to disseminate and gather information on the Council's Community Based Management initiatives.

DATES: The public scoping meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Haleiwa Alii Beach Park, John Kalili Surf Center, Oahu, HI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director;

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting will be advertised in the local newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until May 30, 2005. They may be sent to Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813 or via fax to (808) 522-8226.

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: May 4, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E5-2226 Filed 5-6-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032805A]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS has decided not to proceed at this time with issuing exempted fishing permits (EFPs) for conducting bycatch reduction research in the following regions of the Atlantic Ocean: North of Cape Hatteras, South of Cape Hatteras, and Gulf of Mexico (GOM) until such time as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) can be prepared to further assess the impacts associated with fishing in existing pelagic longline closed areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Stirratt, 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EFPs are requested and issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational

activity with respect to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS).

Six Atlantic pelagic longline vessels requested exemptions from certain regulations applicable to the harvest and landing of Atlantic HMS in order to conduct bycatch reduction research in the following regions of the Atlantic Ocean: North of Cape Hatteras, South of Cape Hatteras, and GOM. Specifically, the permitted pelagic longline vessels proposed to test gear modifications and/or various fishing techniques to avoid incidentally-caught white marlin, blue marlin, bluefin tuna, and sea turtles, while allowing for the targeted catches of allowed species. The proposal included research in areas currently closed to pelagic longline fishing.

NMFS has considered the public comments received, as requested in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 17069) on April 4, 2005, and has decided not to proceed with issuing exempted fishing permits until such time as an EIS can be prepared to further assess the impacts associated with fishing in existing pelagic longline closed areas. NMFS believes that bycatch reduction research in the pelagic longline fishery is important to compare or evaluate different bycatch reduction fishing methodologies, explore new bycatch reduction gear technologies, and investigate ways to tailor and refine existing time/area closures. Thus, NMFS will proceed with bycatch reduction research in areas currently open to pelagic longline fishing. Bycatch reduction information will be gathered via research efforts conducted outside of closed areas, consistent with a NMFS-issued cooperative research grant. Further consideration of bycatch reduction research inside of closed areas may occur upon completion of an EIS.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 3, 2005.

John H. Dunnigan

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

[FR Doc. 05-9147 Filed 5-3-05; 4:16 pm]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Rescheduling of Consideration of Requests for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports from China and Solicitations of Public Comments

May 5, 2005.

AGENCY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (the Committee)