

Dated: February 27, 2001.

William T. Hogarth,

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-5131 Filed 3-1-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021301D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of rescheduling and cancellation of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has rescheduled a March meeting of its Skate Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel and changed the location of the meeting, and has cancelled a meeting of its Habitat Oversight Committee.

DATES: The Skate Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel meeting will be held on March 13, 2001, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 35 Governor Winthrop Boulevard, New London, CT 06320; telephone: (860) 443-7000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original notice (66 FR 11001, February 21, 2001) stated that the Skate Oversight meeting would be held on March 6, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. It also stated that the location was the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick, RI. The meeting of the Habitat Oversight Committee scheduled for March 7, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. is cancelled.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

All other previously published information remains unchanged.

Dated: February 27, 2001.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 01-5149 Filed 3-1-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 010222048-1048-01]

RIN 0660-XX11

Notice, Request or Comments on Section 105(a) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments on the Section 105(a) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) invites interested parties to review and comment on section 105(a) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act ("ESIGN" or "the Act") (Pub. L. 106-229, 114 Stat. 464). Section 105(a) requires the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an inquiry and report to Congress on the effectiveness of delivery of electronic records to consumers using electronic mail as compared with the delivery of written records via the United States Postal Service and private express mail services. In connection with this report, this **Federal Register** notice is intended to solicit comments from interested parties. NTIA invites the public to submit comments on section 105(a) of the ESIGN Act in paper or electronic form. All comments submitted in response to this Notice will be posted on the NTIA website.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit comments no later than April 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Josephine Scarlett, Office of the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Room 4713 HCHB, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230. Paper submissions should include a diskette in ASCII, WordPerfect (please specify version) or Microsoft Word (please specify version) format. Diskettes should be labeled with the name and organizational affiliation of the filer, and

the name version of the word processing program used to create the document.

In the alternative, comments may be submitted electronically to the following electronic mail address: <esign105a@ntia.doc.gov>. Comments submitted via electronic mail should be submitted in one or more of the formats specified above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Josephine Scarlett, Office of the Chief Counsel, telephone: (202) 482-1816; or electronic mail:

<jscarlett@ntia.doc.gov>. Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, at (202) 482-7002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Advances in information technology and increased Internet usage in domestic and international business transactions have produced significant benefits to U.S. businesses and consumers. Electronic commerce or "e-commerce" has contributed significantly to the growth of the U.S. economy in recent years. Census Bureau statistics show that total retail e-commerce sales for 2000 reached an estimated \$25.8 billion, and accounted for .08 percent of the total retail sales. Although commercial transactions over the Internet have increased over previous years, one of the greatest burdens to the growth of Internet commerce has been the lack of consistent, national rules that govern the use of electronic documents and signatures in electronic business transactions.

In order to promote continued growth in electronic commerce, Congress enacted ESIGN on June 30, 2000. ESIGN facilitates the use of electronic documents in domestic and international commerce and reinforces the validity and enforceability of electronic contracts and signatures. The Act gives businesses the option of transmitting electronic copies of documents that are legally required to be provided to consumers in written form, and provides consumers with the option of receiving electronic copies of these documents. ESIGN does not apply, however, to all documents and notices that are required to be presented in writing.¹

¹ Section 103 of ESIGN provides exceptions for testamentary and domestic relations documents, court orders, notices of cancellation for utility services and health benefits, housing or rental foreclosure and default notices, and product safety and hazardous material notices. ESIGN does not affect state or federal laws that require a writing for these types of documents and notices.