

England Fishery Management Council; (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee will review alternatives for designating essential fish habitat for deep-sea red crab, to be incorporated in the proposed Red Crab Fishery Management Plan. The Committee may select preferred alternatives to recommend to the full Council.

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 listed in this notice 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 final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

This 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.

Dated: October 15, 2001.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 01-26456 Filed 10-18-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101201B]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Monkfish Oversight and Skate Oversight Committees in November 2001 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on November 5, 2001. The Monkfish Oversight Committee will meet at 9:30

a.m. The Skate Oversight Committee will meet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the King's Grant Inn, Trask Road, Route 128, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 774-6800.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Meeting Agendas The Monkfish Oversight Committee will review the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for 2000, incorporating the Monkfish Monitoring Committee Report. Based on this review, the committee will develop recommendations to the Council for adjustments to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the 2002 fishing year, in accordance with the framework adjustment procedures in the FMP. Options under consideration include, but are not limited to: taking no action and allowing the Year 4 default measures to take effect (eliminating the directed fishery); postponing for one year the Year 4 default measures and adjusting trip limits to achieve current landings levels after accounting for the effect of the recent court decision eliminating gear-based differential trip limits; and, adjusting management measures to reduce catches to the Years 2 and 3 total allowable catch (TAC) targets. The committee will also develop recommendations to the Council for research priorities under cooperative programs with the industry. At the end of the meeting the committee will hold a closed session to review applications and make recommendations for membership on the Monkfish Advisory Panel.

The Skate Oversight Committee will review guidance on skate overfishing definitions from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Skate Plan Development Team. They will also develop recommendations as to which overfishing definition alternatives should be fully analyzed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and public hearing document. They will also review a timeline for DEIS development.

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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 final action to address the emergency.

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Dated: October 15, 2001.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-26457 Filed 10-18-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100101A]

#### Marine Mammals; Pinniped Removal Authority

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

**ACTION:** Proposed extension of a Letter of Authorization (LOA) and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS solicits public comments on a request from the State of Washington and a proposal by NMFS to extend, for 5 years, an LOA for the lethal removal of individually identifiable California sea lions that are having a significant negative impact on the status and recovery of winter steelhead that migrate through the Ballard Locks in Seattle, WA. No changes to the existing terms and conditions of the authorization are proposed beyond extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2006. This action is authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 19, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this action should be submitted to Chief, Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via email or the Internet. However, comments may be sent via fax to (503) 230-5435.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Garth Griffin, NMFS, Northwest Region,