

On page 70830, in the third column, correct the fourth full paragraph by adding a sentence at the end of the paragraph to read "If both parties agree, they may also continue mediation efforts during the administrative proceeding."

On Page 70831, in the first column, the third full paragraph, correct the web page cite to read "<http://ori/hhs.gov>."

On page 70831, in the second column, correct the second and third sentences of the first full paragraph to read "The decisionmaker must order an institutional remedy if the whistleblower meets the burden of proof and proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the act of good faith whistleblowing was a contributing factor in the alleged adverse action taken by the institution or one of its members against the whistleblower. However, even if the whistleblower meets this burden, the burden of proof shifts to the institution, and the decisionmaker may not order an institutional remedy if the institution then proves by clear and convincing evidence that it would have taken the action at issue even in the absence of the whistleblower's allegation or cooperation with an investigation."

On page 70832 in the second column, correct the second full paragraph by adding a sentence at the end of the paragraph to read "As most retaliation occurs shortly after the whistleblower alleges misconduct, the regulation would require that the adverse action happen within one year of the allegation. We request comments on this time frame."

On page 70832 in the third column, correct the last paragraph of the Supplementary Information section by adding a sentence at the end of the paragraph to read "However, we request comments on whether to extend coverage of this proposed regulation to pending cases."

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Brian P. Burns,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Resources Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 120600B]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Technical Gear Workshop

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

ACTION: Notification of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the rescheduling of the public workshop to discuss potential gear modifications for the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery aimed at reducing the incidental take and mortality of threatened and endangered sea turtles. The workshop is intended to synthesize available information and discuss research objectives. A report of the workshop will be made available to interested parties.

DATES: The workshop will take place January 17, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and January 18, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Notice of attending the meeting should be provided by January 8, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The location for the workshop is: Holiday Inn Hotel, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margo Schulze-Haugen or Tyson Kade at (301) 713-2347. Also, if you are planning to attend the workshop, please

contact these individuals by January 8, 2001. Attendees will be provided briefing materials prior to the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Biological Opinion (BO) issued on June 30, 2000, by NMFS' Office of Protected Resources found that the continued operation of the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles. Since the BO was issued, NMFS has concluded that further analyses of observer data and additional population modeling of loggerhead sea turtles are needed to determine more precisely the impact of the pelagic longline fishery on turtles. NMFS reinitiated consultation to consider these factors, and anticipates issuance of a new BO in March 2001. This workshop will allow fishermen, gear experts, sea turtle experts, and fishery managers to discuss possible measures, including gear and fishing method modifications, to reduce the incidental take and mortality of sea turtles in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery in the future. Information developed at the workshop will be incorporated into a workshop report that will be considered in the ongoing fishery consultation. The report will also be made available to the public.

Special Accommodations

The public workshop is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Margo Schulze-Haugen or Tyson Kade (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

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

Dated: December 20, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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