

Environmental Impact Statement released concurrently with the publication of the proposed rule. This grizzly bear reintroduction does not conflict with existing or anticipated Federal agency actions or traditional public uses of wilderness areas or surrounding lands.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service has scheduled hearings on October 1, 2, and 3, 1997, with registration beginning 1 hour prior to each hearing (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** above). Anyone wishing to make an oral statement for the record is encouraged to provide a written copy of their statement to be presented to the Service at the start of the hearing. In the event that there is a large audience, the time allotted for oral statements may have to be limited.

Oral and written statements concerning the proposed rule will receive equal consideration by the Service. There are no limits to the length of written comments presented at the hearing or mailed to the Service. News releases announcing the date, time, and location of the hearings are being published in newspapers concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice.

The previous comment period on this proposal is scheduled to close on October 9, 1997. To accommodate these hearings, the Service extends the comment period. Written comments may now be submitted until November 1, 1997, to the Service office identified in the **ADDRESSES** section above. All comments must be received before the close of the comment period to be considered.

Author

The author of this notice is Chuck Davis, Regional Environmental Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225-0486; telephone 303-236-7400 extension 235.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 8, 1997.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 090897E]

New England Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, at 10 a.m. and on Thursday, October 2, 1997, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Colonial Hilton, 427 Walnut Street (Route 128 South), Wakefield, MA; telephone (781) 245-9300. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

October 1, 1997

At the recommendation of the Monkfish Committee, the Council may request that the Secretary of Commerce implement interim management measures for the monkfish fishery. The Council also will continue work on the monkfish amendment to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Following this discussion, there will be reports from the Council Chairman, Executive Director, NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Groundfish issues to be discussed during the afternoon session include the timetable in the Northeast Multispecies FMP that requires an annual review and evaluation of plan measures. Currently, any modifications or new measures considered necessary to meet the plan objectives must be developed as a framework adjustment to the plan and must be submitted to

NMFS by February 1 of each year. There also will be an update on progress to develop whiting management measures.

Prior to adjourning for the day both the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the New England Council will hold a joint scoping hearing to solicit comments on the management of spiny dogfish.

October 2, 1997

The morning session will begin with a presentation of the results of the most recent Stock Assessment Workshop, with an advisory on the status of summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and Gulf of Maine northern shrimp. The Marine Mammal Committee will recommend that the Council endorse its comments on the interim final rule implementing the Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and the proposed rule to implement a take reduction plan for harbor porpoise in the Gulf of Maine. The Scallop Committee will report on its discussions about an alternative approach to the development of Amendment 7 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (Sea Scallop FMP). The amendment was initially proposed only to address effort consolidation (transfer of days-at-sea between vessels with sea scallop permits), but may now include a framework adjustment process to open and close areas to enhance scallop conservation as well as revisions to other Sea Scallop FMP provisions so as to be in compliance with the Sustainable Fisheries Act. The Chairman of the Herring Committee will update the Council on the recent scoping hearings and plans for the development of a Herring Fishery Management Plan.

Dr. Pamela Mace, Ocean Fishery Resources Division, NMFS, will provide a briefing on an initiative by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization to address management of fishing capacity, seabird bycatch and mortality in longline fisheries, and shark conservation and management. The Interspecies Committee will recommend approval of measures to eliminate inconsistencies in vessel permit, upgrading, and replacement provisions in different fishery management plans for purposes of preparing a public hearing document. The Chairman also will review the committee's discussion of criteria for exempted fisheries. Finally there will be a report on the measures adopted by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for inclusion in Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan. The Council will adjourn the meeting after the

conclusion of any other outstanding business.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be

restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

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 date.

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

Dated: September 9, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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