

products with the funding provided under this program.

7. *Preaward activities.* If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of Commerce to cover preaward costs.

8. *False statements.* A false statement on the application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notification concerning grants, benefits, and contracts.

Furthermore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The collection of this information has been approved by OMB under control numbers 0348-0040, 0348-0043, 0348-0046, and 0648-0135.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

A solicitation for applications will also appear in the "Commerce Business Daily."

Dated: February 20, 1998.

Rolland A. Schmitt,

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

[FR Doc. 98-5184 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.012798B]

Highly Migratory Species and Billfish Advisory Panels; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and Billfish Advisory Panels (APs) will hold a joint meeting to discuss issues in, and future management options for, the fisheries for Atlantic HMS.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 17, and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 18, 1998. A public comment period is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 1998, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the meeting location.

ADDRESSES: The APs will meet at the Radisson Bay Harbor Inn, 7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL. Written comments should be submitted to, and informational materials related to the AP meeting are available from, Jill Stevenson, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Stevenson, telephone: (301) 713-2347, fax: (301) 713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HMS and Billfish APs have been established under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* The APs will assist the Secretary of Commerce in collecting and evaluating information relevant to the development of a fishery management plan (FMP) for Atlantic tunas, swordfish and sharks and an amendment to the Billfish FMP. All AP meetings are open to the public and will be attended by members of the AP, including appointed members, representatives of the five Fishery Management Councils that work with HMS, and the Chair, or his representative, of the U.S. Advisory Committee to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. A public comment period is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 1998 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the meeting location. Comments are solicited on overfishing definitions and rebuilding analyses that will be

presented at the AP meeting on Tuesday. To request informational materials related to the AP discussion or to submit public comments on overfishing definitions and rebuilding analyses, see **ADDRESSES**. Agenda items for the joint AP meeting include discussion of:

1. Objectives for the HMS FMP and Billfish FMP amendment;
2. Rebuilding scenarios for overfished stocks of Atlantic HMS;
3. Development of overfishing criteria and definitions for Atlantic HMS;
4. Research and monitoring requirements in HMS fisheries;
5. Permitting and reporting requirements in HMS fisheries; and
6. Enforcement issues in HMS fisheries.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jill Stevenson, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone (301) 713-2347, at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-5182 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021798C]

New England Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Closed Meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a one-day closed meeting, with a session open to the public before and after the closed meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tara Ferncroft Conference Resort, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New

England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will convene this previously unscheduled meeting specifically to address a number of administrative and personnel issues. Decisions on fishery management plan measures will not be considered. The meeting will be open to the public before and after the closed session for the purposes of providing the public with overviews of the closed meeting discussions.

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 listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 24, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-5321 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398A]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting notice amendment.

SUMMARY: The agenda for the meetings of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, which are scheduled for March 17-19, 1998, in Honolulu, HI, was published on February 20, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for amendment to the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The initial agenda was published in the **Federal Register** on February 20, 1998 (63 FR 8612). The notice stated that only the Crustaceans Plan Team meeting would be held on March 17-19, 1998. This document amends that notice by announcing that the the Crustaceans Plan Team will be meeting jointly with the Crustaceans Advisory Panel. All other information previously published remains unchanged.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty Simonds at (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 24, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-5186 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022498D]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Ecosystem and Habitat Advisory Panel (EHAP), in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The EHAP meeting will be held on March 20, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council office conference room, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EHAP will discuss and may make recommendations to the Council on a draft comprehensive amendment to implement new Sustainable Fishery Act requirements (bycatch, fishing sectors,

fishing communities, overfishing, essential fish habitat), primarily with regard to possible ecological impacts; the Essential Fish Habitat section of the amendment will receive special consideration.

Other agenda items that the EHAP will discuss and may take action on include:

1. Draft outline and concept for Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan;
2. Final Environmental Impact Statement (if available) for military use of Farallon de Mendinilla, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
3. Other business as required.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Advisory Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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 Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: February 24, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-5322 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022398B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of four applications for scientific research permits (1119, 1134, 1135, 1136) and an application for a scientific research/enhancement permit (1118).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mid-Columbia River Fishery Resource Office at Leavenworth, WA (FWS), the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at Portland, OR (CRITFC),