

3. Paragraph (k) is added to § 17.40 and reads as follows:

**§ 17.40 Special rules—mammals.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(k) *Vicuña* (*Vicugna vicugna*)—(1) *Prohibitions.* All provisions of § 17.31 (a) and (b) and § 17.32 of this part shall apply to vicuña and vicuña products from both populations listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Appendix II semi-captive populations of Catamarca, Jujuy, La Rioja, Salta, and San Juan Provinces in Argentina. Except as provided in paragraph (k)(2) of this section, it is unlawful for any person to commit, attempt to commit, solicit to commit, or cause to be committed any acts described in paragraphs (k)(1)(i)–(ii) of this section with vicuña from all other populations listed in Appendix II of CITES:

(i) Import, export, and re-export.

(ii) Sell or offer for sale, deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity.

(2) *Exceptions.* The import, export, or re-export of, or interstate or foreign commerce in vicuña products, consisting of either raw wool or items and cloth made, or partially made, from vicuña wool, may be allowed without a threatened species permit issued pursuant to 50 CFR 17.32 when the provisions in parts 13, 14, and 23 and the applicable paragraphs set out below have been met:

(i) The vicuña product must comply with all CITES product annotations as given in the CITES Secretariat's official list of the CITES Appendices and found at 50 CFR 23.23, and be identified as follows:

(A) *Cloth and cloth products:* The reverse side of cloth and cloth products must bear the logo adopted by countries signatory to the "Convenio para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña", and the words "VICUÑA-(Country of Origin)-ARTESANIA", where country of origin is the name of the original exporting country where the vicuña wool in the products originated.

(B) *Finished vicuña products (including luxury handicrafts and knitted articles) and any bulk shipments of raw wool:* The product or shipment must have a seal or identification tag with codes describing the origin of the vicuña product, the trademark or label ("VICUÑA-(Country of Origin)-ARTESANIA") and the CITES export permit number, where country of origin is the name of the original exporting

country where the vicuña wool in the products originated.

(ii) The accompanying CITES permit or certificate must contain the following information:

(A) The country of origin, its export permit number, and date of issuance.

(B) If re-export, the country of re-export, its certificate number, and date of issuance.

(C) If applicable, the country of last re-export, its certificate number, and date of issuance.

(iii) At the time of import, for each shipment covered by this exception, the country of origin and each country of re-export involved in the trade of a particular shipment must not be subject to a Schedule III Notice of Information pertaining to all wildlife or to all CITES-listed wildlife that may prohibit or restrict imports. A listing of all countries that are subject to such a Schedule III Notice of Information will be available by writing: The Office of Management Authority, ARLSQ Room 700, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia, 22203.

(3) *Notice of Information.* Except in rare cases involving extenuating circumstances that do not adversely affect the conservation of the species, the Service will issue a Schedule III Notice of Information that identifies a restriction on trade in specimens of vicuña addressed in this paragraph (k) if any of the following criteria are met:

(i) The country is listed in a Notification to the Parties by the CITES Secretariat as lacking both designated Management and Scientific Authorities that issue CITES documents or their equivalent.

(ii) The country is identified in any action adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Convention's Standing Committee, or in a Notification issued by the CITES Secretariat, whereby Parties are asked to not accept shipments of specimens of any CITES-listed species from the country in question.

Dated: August 23, 1999.

**Donald J. Barry,**

*Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 083099A]

### New England Fishery Management Council; Public 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 3-day public meeting on September 21, 22, and 23, 1999, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, September 22 and 23, at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Seaport Inn Conference Center, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719; telephone (508) 997-1281. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Tuesday, September 21, 1999

After introductions, the meeting will begin with reports on recent activities from the Council Chairman, Executive Director, the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Following reports, the Chairman of the Groundfish Committee will recommend approval of final action on Framework Adjustment 31 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The framework includes mid-season adjustments to the Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod fishery that also could carry forward to the 2000-2001 fishing year and modification of the Georges Bank cod trip limit adjustment mechanism. After a noon break, the Groundfish Committee and Council will continue their discussions until the meeting is adjourned for the day.

**Wednesday, September 22, 1999**

The Scallop Plan Development Team Chairman will make a presentation on the Sea Scallop Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report. The report will include an update of the 1998 stock assessment with 1999 fishing year data and projections, as well as recommended management options. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will then provide its review of the assessment and analyses contained in the SAFE Report. After a noon break, the Sea Scallop Committee will recommend management alternatives and approval of initial action on Framework Adjustment 12 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP (the annual framework adjustment), based on the information in the SAFE report and recommendations from industry advisors. Framework Adjustment 12 will specify scallop management measures for the 2000 fishing year (March 2000 through February 2001). The day will conclude with a review and approval of a scallop research proposal to be funded through the 1-percent scallop total allowable catch set-

aside established for the Georges Bank Sea Scallop Exemption Program.

**Thursday, September 23, 1999**

The Whiting Committee will approve initial action on a framework adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP to address unresolved small mesh multispecies management issues. Measures may include options for a mesh size/possession limit call-in enrollment system and options for the use of a net strengthener with 2.5-inch (6.4-cm) mesh size. The committee also will review its discussions about limited entry in the whiting fishery. There will be general discussion of issues to be addressed in an upcoming amendment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP, which will remove whiting, red hake, offshore hake, and ocean pout from the Multispecies FMP and establish a separate Small Mesh Species FMP. The Capacity Committee will ask the Council for preliminary identification of issues and options for future consideration. Following a noon break, the Habitat Committee will report on ongoing issues. The meeting will conclude after the Council addresses 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 listed in this notice.

Documents pertaining to framework adjustment actions are available for public review 7 days prior to a final vote by the Council. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

**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.

Dated: September 1, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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