

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1000 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 436-2121; fax: (603) 430-7666.

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; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will consider Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) feedback on the Swept Area Seabed Impact (SASI) model, which will be used to evaluate the adverse effects of fishing on Essential Fish Habitat. The Committee will also review the most current SASI model results, including the realized fishing effort evaluation requested by the SSC as well as review progress towards completion of the committee's October 2009 tasking. Lastly, the Committee will review draft comments on the Federal Ocean Policy Task Force's Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. Other topics may be discussed at the Chair's discretion.

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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 22, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E9-30614 Filed 12-24-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XT46

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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will hold a meeting that is open to the public.

DATES: The CPSMT will meet on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 and Wednesday, January 13, 2010, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and again on Thursday, January 14, 2010, from 8 a.m. until business for that day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The CPSMT meeting will be held at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Green Room, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037; telephone: (858) 546-7000.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Burner, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to develop alternative amendments to the Pacific Council's Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in response to new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) including, overfishing levels (OFLs), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limits (ACLs). The CPSMT will discuss CPS FMP amendment alternatives and develop a work plan for completing review materials for the March 2010 meeting of the Pacific Council. The CPSMT will also elect officers for 2010, discuss the 2010 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document, and address other issues relating to CPS management.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the CPSMT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal CPSMT action during this meeting. CPSMT 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the CPSMT'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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 22, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E9-30613 Filed 12-24-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XT45

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will hold a working meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The GMT meeting will be held Monday, January 11, 2009 from 1 p.m. until business for the day is completed. The GMT meeting will reconvene Tuesday, January 12 through Friday, January 15, from 8:30 a.m. until business for each day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The GMT meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council office, Large Conference Room, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kelly Ames or Mr. John DeVore, Groundfish Management Coordinators; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the GMT working meeting is to (1) develop models and recommendations for analyzing harvest specifications and management measures for 2011-12 west coast

groundfish fisheries and (2) review and further develop analyses relating to Amendment 23: annual catch limits and accountability measures. The GMT may also address other assignments relating to groundfish management. No management actions will be decided by the GMT. The GMT's role will be development of the environmental analyses and recommendations for consideration by the Council at its March meeting in Sacramento, CA and at its April meeting in Portland, OR.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the GMT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal GMT action during this meeting. GMT 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the GMT'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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 22, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E9-30612 Filed 12-24-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XT44

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Scoping Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene Scoping Meetings on proposed Amendment 32, dealing primarily with gag and red grouper.

DATES: The scoping meetings will be held on January 11, 2010 through January 19, 2010 at eight locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. For

specific dates, times and subjects, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The scoping meetings will be held in the following locations: St. Petersburg, Key West, Ft. Myers and Panama City, FL, Biloxi, MS, Galveston, TX, New Orleans, LA and Orange Beach, AL. For specific dates, times and subjects see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamic Statistician; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled eight scoping meetings on proposed Amendment 32, dealing primarily with gag and red grouper.

A SEDAR Assessment Workshop was convened during March 30 - April 2, 2009 at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami, FL to update the benchmark assessments of Gulf of Mexico gag and red grouper conducted in 2006 as SEDAR 10 and SEDAR 12 respectively. Two reports detailing the results of the workshop, one for each stock, were published on August 3, 2009. The red grouper update assessment found that the stock was neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing. However, the 2008 spawning stock biomass had declined to just above its minimum stock size threshold, and the current fishing mortality rate was above the rate associated with fishing at optimum yield. As a result, the Scientific and Statistical Committee recommended an Acceptable Biological Catch to a level that is below the current annual catch limit. Consequently, a reduction in the annual catch limit and annual catch target is needed to bring management into compliance with the new Acceptable Biological Catch. The gag update assessment found that the gag stock was overfished and undergoing overfishing, with the 2008 spawning stock size at 47 percent of the minimum stock size threshold, and a current fishing mortality rate 2.47 times greater than the maximum fishing mortality threshold. A rebuilding plan is necessary to end overfishing of gag and to rebuild the stock.

Potential actions for scoping include establishing a rebuilding plan for gag, revising annual catch limits and optionally annual catch targets for gag and red grouper, revising accountability

measures for gag and red grouper, making adjustments to the multi-use shares in the individual fishing quota system for the commercial grouper fishery, addressing commercial bycatch issues including consideration of fish traps as an allowable gear to reduce bycatch in the red grouper fishery, addressing recreational bycatch issues including a keep the first gag caught strategy, recreational data collection and monitoring programs such as a fish tag program or a fish stamp program, and time and area closures to direct fisheries away from gag concentrations and toward red grouper. Potential actions for scoping will also include a number of public-proposed initiatives to improve management and data collection of grouper fisheries including recreational sector separation of the for-hire and private recreational sectors, vessel monitoring systems for for-hire recreational vessels, a telephone or web based reporting system for recreational fisheries, electronic logbooks, and grouper endorsements. The public is welcome to suggest other actions for management or data collection and monitoring of gag and red grouper fisheries that are not listed in the scoping document.

The eight scoping meetings will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at the end of public testimony or no later than 9 p.m. at the following locations:

****Monday, January 11, 2010,** Monroe County Harvey Government Center, 1200 Truman Avenue, Key West, FL 33040;

Monday, January 11, 2010, Holiday Inn, 5002 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77550, telephone: (409) 740-3581;

***Tuesday, January 12, 2010,** Hilton, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, telephone: (727) 540-0050;

Tuesday, January 12, 2010, Best Western, 7921 Lamar Poole Road, Biloxi, MS 39532, telephone: (228) 875-7111;

Wednesday, January 13, 2010, Fairfield Inn and Suites, 3111 Loop Road, Orange Beach, AL 36561, telephone: (251) 513-4444;

****Wednesday, January 13, 2010,** Ramada, 4760 S. Cleveland Avenue, Ft. Myers, FL 33907, telephone: (239) 275-1111;

***Thursday, January 14, 2010,** The Boardwalk, 9600 S. Thomas Drive, Panama City, FL 32408, telephone: (850) 234-2154;

Tuesday, January 19, 2010, Crowne Plaza, 2829 Williams Blvd., Kenner, LA 70062, telephone: (504) 467-5611.

*** NOTE** a scoping meeting format change for these meetings. Two rooms will be used - one room where participants can get answers to