

and NMFS may add actions in the future, such as landing reporting requirements, after the scoping process or from future discussions on this amendment.

NMFS, in collaboration with the Council, will develop a DEIS to describe and analyze alternatives to address the management needs described above including the “no action” alternative. In accordance with NOAA’s Administrative Order 216–6, Section 5.02(c), Scoping Process, NMFS, in collaboration with the Council, has identified preliminary environmental issues as a means to initiate discussion for scoping purposes only. The public is invited to provide written comments on the preliminary issues, which are identified as actions in the Amendment 40 action guide. These preliminary issues may not represent the full range of issues that eventually will be evaluated in the DEIS. A copy of the Amendment 40 action guide is available at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/reef_fish/index.html.

After the DEIS associated with Amendment 40 is completed, it will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After filing, the EPA will publish a notice of availability (NOA) of the DEIS for public comment in the **Federal Register**. The DEIS will have a 45-day comment period. This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and to NOAA’s Administrative Order 216–6 regarding NOAA’s compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations.

The Council and NMFS will consider public comments received on the DEIS in developing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and before voting to submit the final amendment to NMFS for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation. NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register** the availability of the final amendment and FEIS for public review during the Secretarial review period, and will consider all public comments prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the final amendment. During Secretarial review, NMFS will also file the FEIS with the EPA and the EPA will publish an NOA for the FEIS in the **Federal Register**.

NMFS will announce, through a document published in the **Federal Register**, all public comment periods on the final amendment, its proposed implementing regulations, and the

availability of its associated FEIS. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the Secretarial review period, whether they are on the final amendment, the proposed regulations, or the FEIS, prior to final agency action.

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

Dated: December 18, 2013.

Sean F. Corson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013–30694 Filed 12–23–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD007

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Pacific Council) Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will hold a meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The HMSMT will meet Wednesday, January 22, 2014, to Friday, January 24, 2014. The meeting will begin each day at 8:30 a.m. and continue until close of business on each day. The meeting is expected to adjourn by midday on January 24.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting Address: The meeting will be held in the Pacific Room, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8901 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037–1509.

Council Address: Pacific Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kit Dahl, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HMSMT plans to discuss the following topics:

1. Potential changes to management measures for the west coast drift gillnet fishery.
2. Developments to improve reporting of HMS fishery performance metrics out of the Pacific Fishery Information Network (PacFIN) database.
3. Updates on recent developments at the international level affecting HMS stocks of interest.
4. Potential changes to HMS management that may be implemented

for the April 1, 2015–March 31, 2017 biennial period, which the Council will begin considering in June 2014.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at (503) 820–2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 18, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013–30551 Filed 12–23–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD045

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Monkfish Committee and Monkfish Advisory Panel on January 10, 2014 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Friday, January 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Omni Providence Hotel, 1 West Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02048; telephone: (401) 598–8000; fax: (401) 598–8200.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The New England Fishery Management Council's Monkfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel will review the analyses provided by the Monkfish Plan Development Team for trips limits, including incidental catch limits, and DAS allocations for fishing years 2014-16 as part of Framework Adjustment 8 (FW 8) to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan. The Committee may also review any alternatives included in FW 8 in developing recommendations for consideration by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils.

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 Thomas A. Nies, 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 19, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-30645 Filed 12-23-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD038

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) Ad Hoc Trawl Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee (GEMTAC) will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 22 and 23, 2014, from 9 a.m. until the earlier of 5 p.m. or when business for each day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport, Latourell Room 8439, NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 256-5000.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the November Pacific Council meeting in Costa Mesa, CA, the Pacific Council adopted for further analysis a range of alternatives for electronic monitoring (EM) of the West Coast groundfish trawl catch share program and announced that, at its April 2014 meeting, it will consider draft Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) applications submitted for the purpose of allowing the use of EM in place of observers for vessels participating in the trawl rationalization program. In a letter to the industry, the Pacific Council encouraged applicants to provide draft EFP applications to the Pacific Council's GEMTAC before submission of a complete EFP application to the Pacific Council for its April meeting. The GEMTAC will hold a work session January 22 and 23 in Portland to discuss development of an impact analysis for the Council's adopted alternatives (January 22) and to review draft EFP applications (January 23). The GEMTAC may comment on completeness of the study design, feasibility of implementation, or other elements of the draft EFP applications that might be considered for adjustment. No management actions will be decided at this meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the GEMTAC for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. The meeting 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 GEMTAC'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 Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 18, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-30552 Filed 12-23-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD040

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Issuance of a scientific research permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued Permit 16344 to Dr. Jerri Bartholomew, Oregon State University, Corvallis Oregon.

ADDRESSES: The application, permit, and related documents are available for review by appointment at: Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Ashton at 707-825-5185, or email: diane.ashton@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

The issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) Would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) Are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations (50 CFR parts 222-226) governing listed fish and wildlife permits.