

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571-4366; Email: [julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:julie.neer@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-step process including: (1) Data Workshop, (2) a series of assessment webinars, and (3) A Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The assessment webinars produce a report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The product of the Review Workshop is an Assessment Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion during the Assessment Webinar are as follows:

1. Using datasets and initial assessment analysis recommended from the in-person workshop, panelists will employ assessment models to evaluate stock status, estimate population benchmarks and management criteria, and project future conditions.
2. Participants will recommend the most appropriate methods and configurations for determining stock status and estimating population parameters.

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 identified 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each webinar.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: April 4, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 2019-07014 Filed 4-8-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG939**

#### North 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Crab Plan Team will meet in April, in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, April 29, 2019 through Friday, May 3, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alaska Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Susitna Room, at the Coast International Inn, 3450 Aviation Ave., Anchorage, AK 99502. Teleconference number is (907) 271-2896.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Armstrong, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Agenda

*Monday, April 29, 2019 Through Friday, May 3, 2019*

The agenda will include: (a) Final 2019 stock assessments for Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab and Pribilof Island Blue King Crab; (b) discussions and stock assessment modeling scenarios for Snow Crab, Tanner Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab, and Pribilof Island Red King Crab; (c) stock assessment and rebuilding plan for St. Matthew Blue King Crab; (d) planning discussions on the use of GMACS and VAST; (e) review of the Economic SAFE; and (f) other business.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at [meetings.npfmc.org](http://meetings.npfmc.org) prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

### Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted either electronically via the eCommenting portal at: [meetings.npfmc.org](http://meetings.npfmc.org) or through the mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252. In-person oral public testimony will be accepted at the discretion of the chair.

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 4, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG941**

#### South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council)—Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public hearings via webinar pertaining to Regulatory Amendment 29 to the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper

Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The amendment addresses best fishing practices and powerhead regulations.

**DATES:** The public hearings will be held via webinar on April 30 and May 1, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The public hearings will be conducted via webinar beginning at 6 p.m. Registration for the webinars is required. Registration information, public hearing documents, and other materials will be posted on the Council's website at <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/public-hearings-scoping-meetings/> as they become available. An online public comment form will also be available and information on how to submit written comments posted to the website. Public comments must be received by 5 p.m. on May 10, 2019.

#### Regulatory Amendment 29 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan

The draft amendment currently addresses the use of best fishing practices intended to improve survivorship of species in the snapper grouper management complex released due to regulatory requirements and other factors. Best practices under consideration include: The use of descending devices and/or venting devices to release fish experiencing barotrauma (injury due to expansion of gas when reeled up from depth), and modifications to current non-stainless steel circle hook requirements. Additionally, the draft amendment considers modifying powerhead regulations in the exclusive economic zone in the Council's area of jurisdiction.

During the public hearings, Council staff will present an overview of the amendment and will be available for informal discussions and to answer questions via webinar. Members of the public will have an opportunity to go on record to record their comments for consideration by the Council.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meeting.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: April 4, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG932**

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Comprehensive Fishery Management Plans for the Exclusive Economic Zones of Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, St. Croix

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

**ACTION:** Notice; Withdrawal of notice of intent to prepare draft environmental impact statements (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The NMFS Southeast Region, in collaboration with the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council), is preparing a draft EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for each of the following fishery management plans (FMP): The Comprehensive FMP for the Puerto Rico Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Puerto Rico FMP), the Comprehensive FMP for the St. Thomas/St. John EEZ (St. Thomas/St. John FMP), and the Comprehensive FMP for the St. Croix EEZ (St. Croix FMP). The respective plans would transition the management of Federal fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ from a species-based approach to an island-based approach. This notice is intended to inform the public of the change from the preparation of a draft EIS to a draft environmental assessment (EA) for each FMP.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Stephenson, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305; or email: [sarah.stephenson@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.stephenson@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Currently, the Council manages Federal fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean under four species-based FMPs: The FMP for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) (Reef Fish FMP); the FMP for the Spiny Lobster Fishery

of Puerto Rico and the USVI (Spiny Lobster FMP); the FMP for the Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the USVI (Queen Conch FMP); and the FMP for Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the USVI (Coral FMP). The fishers, fishing community representatives, and the local governments of Puerto Rico and the USVI requested that the Council consider the differences between the islands or island groups when addressing fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to recognize the unique attributes of each U.S. Caribbean island. By developing island-based FMPs, NMFS and the Council would better account for differences among the U.S. Caribbean islands with respect to culture, markets, gear, seafood preferences, and the ecological impacts that result from these differences.

At its March 2013 meeting, the Council began the process of developing island-based FMPs. The Council preliminarily determined to proceed with FMPs applicable to three U.S. Caribbean EEZ management areas: (1) Puerto Rico; (2) St. Thomas/St. John, USVI; and (3) St. Croix, USVI. If approved, a comprehensive FMP for each of the identified island management areas would replace the existing species-based FMPs. This change in U.S. Caribbean fishery management strategy provides a means to increase the flexibility of fisheries management to the individual characteristics of each of the island management areas.

On June 6, 2013, NMFS published in the **Federal Register** a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a draft EIS for each of the three proposed island-based FMPs, the Puerto Rico FMP (78 FR 34041), St. Thomas/St. John FMP (78 FR 34042), and St. Croix FMP (78 FR 34044). Supplemental NOIs were subsequently published on March 11, 2014, and May 12, 2014, for the Puerto Rico FMP (79 FR 13624 and 79 FR 26946), on March 12, 2014, and May 12, 2014, for the St. Thomas/St. John FMP (79 FR 13988 and 79 FR 26949), and on March 10, 2014, and May 12, 2014, for the St. Croix FMP (79 FR 13280 and 79 FR 26947). The supplemental NOIs announced additional opportunity for public comment.

Developing and implementing the Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix FMPs would transition Federal management in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ from a species-based approach to an island-based approach. Each FMP would incorporate and replace those components of the Caribbean-wide Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster, Queen Conch, and Coral FMPs that pertain to the EEZ