

of comments and rebuttals, the Department requests that a submission in electronic form accompany the required paper copies. Comments filed in electronic form should be on CD-ROM in either WordPerfect format or a format that the WordPerfect program can convert into WordPerfect.

Comments received on CD-ROM will be made available to the public on the Web at the following address: <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/>. In addition, upon request, the Department will make comments filed in electronic form available to the public on CD-ROMs (at cost) with specific instructions for accessing compressed data (if necessary). Any questions concerning file formatting, document conversion, access on the Web, or other electronic filing issues should be addressed to Andrew Lee Beller, IA Webmaster, at (202) 482-0866 or via e-mail at andrew.beller@mail.doc.gov.

Dated: February 28, 2006.

David M. Spooner,
Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration.

[FR Doc. 06-2134 Filed 3-3-06; 1:14 pm]

Billing Code: 3510-DS-R

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022806D]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held March 20 – 23, 2006. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel, 251 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36602.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

1:30 p.m. – Convene.

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Hear a Monitoring Report on the Madison/Swanson Marine Reserves.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Receive public testimony on (a) Final Reef Fish Amendment 26 [Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)]; and (b) Exempted fishing permits (if any).

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Open public comment period regarding any fishery issue or concern.

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – NOAA Fisheries Service will hold a public workshop to provide a general demonstration of the on-line capabilities to implement the Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System. This presentation is solely for the purpose of soliciting input from the Council and potential users of the system in an effort to make the tool user friendly, concise and responsive to Reef Fish Amendment 26.

Thursday, March 23, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. – Receive the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Selection Committee Report on appointment of shrimp effort working group (CLOSED SESSION).

9 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Receive the joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees Report.

11:15 a.m. – 12 noon – Receive the Administrative Policy Committee Report.

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. – Report the Council action on the SSC Selection Committee Report.

1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. – Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee Report.

3:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. – Receive the Council Chairs Budget Meeting Report.

4 p.m. – 5 p.m. – Other Business (Includes miscellaneous reports filed under Tabs O, P, Q, and R of briefing book).

Committee

Monday, March 20, 2006

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. – The Standing SSC will meet to discuss and take action on attendance/operations issues. The Standing SSC will then review and take action on the Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) Report on grouper allocation issues.

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – The Administrative Policy Committee will meet jointly with the Standing SSC to review the Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs) provisions on SSC operations.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – The joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees will meet with the Standing SSC to review an options paper for Joint Draft Amendment Reef Fish 27/Shrimp 14 to consider changes to regulations for the directed red snapper fishery and shrimp trawl fishery for reducing bycatch in the directed red snapper fishery and shrimp fishery; and effort limitation alternatives for the shrimp fishery. The Committees and the SSC will also review a scoping document for a Draft Shrimp Amendment 15 that considers limits on trawling gear, restrictions on the transfer of vessel permits, bycatch quotas, and possible area closures. Public comments from the scoping meetings will be reviewed for both proposed amendments. The SSC will provide their review, and the Committees will make recommendations for Council.

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 12 noon – The joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees will reconvene with the Standing SSC to continue their work.

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – The joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees will convene without the Standing SSC to continue their discussions.

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. – After an update on the red snapper IFQ referendum, the Reef Fish Management Committee will take final action on Reef Fish Amendment 26 for a Red Snapper IFQ program. They will then review public comments/letters and develop committee recommendations. The Committee will then discuss issues pertaining to the Grouper IFQ Amendment and review recommendations of the Ad Hoc Grouper IFQ Advisory Panel and make recommendations to Council. Finally, the Committee will review the SEP report and the SSC Recommendations on Grouper Allocation Amendment issues and make recommendations to Council.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency. The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: March 1, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-3100 Filed 3-3-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022806B]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat/Marine Protected Area (MPA)/Ecosystem Committee in March, 2006 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: The meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2006, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; telephone: (508) 747-4900; fax: (508) 746-5386.

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 review and recommend for Council consideration Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designation alternatives for inclusion in Phase 1 of the EFH Omnibus Amendment. In addition, the committee will be briefed on any proposed non-fishing projects that may adversely affect EFH in the northeast U.S. and will discuss the EFH consultation elevation process, and they may also be briefed on the progress and status of ecosystem-based fisheries management within the National Marine Fisheries Service. Other topics may be covered at the committee'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: February 28, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-3098 Filed 3-3-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022806C]

North 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Charter Halibut Stakeholder Committee will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 21-23, 2006. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Dillingham Room, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane DiCosimo, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Halibut Stakeholder Committee will identify common principles and goals to develop a problem statement and define two alternatives for a future analysis. One alternative would be an allocation based program. Elements to be included in the plan should include, but not be limited to:

1. A percentage based allocation that would float up and down with abundance in a fashion similar to the commercial longline Total Allowable Catch (TAC);

2. Subdivision of Area 2C and 3A into smaller geographic sub-districts, including time certain establishment of local area management plans (LAMPs) and super-exclusive registration areas;

3. Management measures that will be used to enforce the allocation, including:

- a. the current suite of measures to reduce harvests under the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) (i.e., one trip per vessel per day, no harvest by skipper and crew, and annual limit of 5 or 6 fish per person (for Area 2C only);

- b. Measures being pursued by the State of Alaska in 2006, including:

- i. a halibut reporting requirement in charter boat logbooks with methodology to ensure accuracy;

- ii. a proposed regulation to the Board of Fish to prohibit retention or harvest of fish by skipper and crew members when clients are on board; and
- iii. limit the number of lines fished to the number of clients;

- c. Other annual bag limits;

- d. Limitations on days fished (either total number of days or by excluding specific days of the week);

- e. Reduced daily limits including size limitations for the second fish caught;

- f. Subtraction of any allocation exceedance from the following year's allocation;

- g. Federal moratorium or control date of December 9, 2006 and/or a State limited entry program with delayed transferability;

- h. Mechanisms which, if the charter harvest continues to grow, would allow