

in their dealings with the public. The result may therefore be a perception among some groups that the broad scope of FACA actually hinders public involvement in Federal decisionmaking.

Issues Likely To Be Addressed

The following is a partial list of some of the issues likely to be addressed in the revision. This list is not meant to limit the scope of the comments to GSA.

Scope and Applicability

- Review applicability of Act to pre-existing groups.
- Revise definition of "utilize" which currently appears in the regulations at 41 CFR 101-6.1003.
- Provide additional guidance on committees which perform primarily operational as opposed to advisory functions as currently defined at 41 CFR 101-6.1004(g).
- Explain exclusions from the Act's coverage, including new provisions based on section 204(b) of the Unfunded Mandates Act, Public Law 104-4, relating to State, local and tribal government representatives.

Status of Individuals

- Provide definition of "full-time Federal employee" under the Act.
- Clarify status of consultants to advisory committees.

Consensus

- Update and expand references to "consensus" advice as a factor in determining the Act's coverage to specific groups or meetings.

Establishment and Operation of Federal Advisory Committee

- Revise procedures for establishment, re-establishment, or renewal of advisory committees.
- Review elements of "balance" for committee membership.
- Expand discussion for closing an advisory committee meeting under the Government in the Sunshine Act and other relevant statutes.

Nature of Comments Sought by GSA

All comments about the proposed revision of the regulations are welcome. Suggested issues to address, specific recommendations about changes needed in the current regulations, and reaction to the concept of a non-regulatory guidance section are especially relevant. In addition, examples of situations where FACA was either a useful tool or a hindrance to public involvement will be helpful in providing specific guidance most useful to Federal agencies.

Comments will be available for examination at the Committee Management Secretariat office.

Dated: June 4, 1997.

G. Martin Wagner,

Associate Administrator, Office of Governmentwide Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 053097G]

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 special meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the King's Grant Inn, Route 128 and Trask Lane, Danvers, MA. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (617) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (617) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The special Council meeting will begin with agenda items concerning groundfish management. Initial action (first meeting) on a proposed framework adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to modify the Gulf of Maine cod trip limit to account for overages will be discussed. Measures may: (1) Require vessels fishing under the trip limit to call a (cod hailing) telephone number upon off-loading and also at least once every 14 days, and (2) for vessels with landings exceeding the trip limit, allow resumption of fishing only when the days-at-sea (DAS) for that trip equate to their cod landings. A measure to change the cod trip limit exemption line located east of 68° W. long. from 42° to 42°20' N. lat. would also be included in the

framework adjustment. Initial action may be taken on an additional framework adjustment that would allow vessels to carry over a maximum of 10 DAS to a following fishing year.

The Council plans to discuss and approve an alternative stock rebuilding schedule for monkfish (proposed Amendment 9 to the FMP would bring monkfish under Federal management authority). Public hearings will then be held in conjunction with New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meetings in July 1997; accordingly, the Council will revise the fishing mortality reduction schedule and stock rebuilding plan in proposed Amendment 9 to the FMP, based on the comments received.

There will be a final review of the draft public hearing document for Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 7 would allow scallop permit holders to consolidate their DAS. The discussion will include consideration of several options to accomplish the DAS transfer.

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.

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

Dated: June 4, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 053097E]

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Northern Anchovy Fishery; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Announcement of Advisory Subpanel Meeting and Status of the Northern Anchovy Fishery.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Coastal Pelagics Advisory Subpanel will meet with representatives of the Coastal

Pelagics Planning Team to discuss the biomass estimate for northern anchovy, which was last completed in 1995, and trends in the biomass, for the purpose of setting the commercial harvest quotas for the 1997 fishing season.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 18, 1997, at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James J. Morgan at (562) 980-4036.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the meeting, data showing trends in the

estimated spawning biomass will be presented with an overview of historical abundance, the quotas available for harvest will be announced, and public comments will be received. Status of an issue paper on the management of coastal pelagic fisheries by the California Department of Fish and Game also will be discussed. All materials relating to the annual quotas will be forwarded to the Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee and will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Acting Regional Administrator (see **ADDRESSES**). The interim final quotas will be published in the **Federal Register** on or about August

1 with an opportunity for public comment.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to James J. Morgan at NMFS Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) by June 13, 1997.

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

Dated: June 4, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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