

recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

**Proposed Regulation Promulgation**

Accordingly, the Service hereby proposes to amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

**PART 17—[AMENDED]**

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 17.11(h) is amended by adding the following, in alphabetical

order under MAMMALS, to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife to read as follows:

**§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.**

\* \* \* \* \*  
(h) \* \* \*

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
Mammals							
* Mouse, St. Andrew beach.	* Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis.	* U.S.A.(FL) .....	* Entire .....	* E	* .....	NA	* NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*

Dated: October 2, 1997.

**Jamie Rappaport Clark,**

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Parts 285, 630, 644, and 678**

[I.D. 100897B]

**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Scoping Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Scoping meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold 21 scoping meetings to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public on Atlantic tunas, Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic shark, and Atlantic billfish fisheries. A scoping document of issues and options for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery management is available for public comment (see ADDRESSES). The purpose of this announcement is to notify the public of meetings and provide for public participation in the management process.

**DATES:** Meetings will be held October 27 through November 17, 1997. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times. Written comments on the issues must be received on or before December 1, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for meeting locations.

Written comments should be sent to Rebecca J. Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Clearly mark the outside of the envelope “Scoping Comments.” Copies of the scoping document can be requested by telephone: 301–713–2347 or fax: 301–713–1917.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Liz Lauck or Jill Stevenson, telephone: 301–713–2347.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS is considering future management measures for Atlantic tunas, Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic shark, and Atlantic billfish fisheries to be included in a comprehensive Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic tunas, swordfish and sharks, and an amendment to the Billfish FMP. Options for management may include long-term rebuilding programs, reallocation of quotas, recreational bag limits, commercial trip limits, minimum size restrictions, time/area closures, regional quotas, consistency between state and Federal regulations, gear restrictions, limited access, essential fish habitat, and permitting and reporting requirements.

Consistent with the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), NMFS established an HMS Advisory Panel (AP) and a billfish AP to assist in developing and amending FMPs for HMS species. In the case of any species identified as overfished, the APs would also assist in developing rebuilding programs.

The scoping meetings are intended to gather public input on a broad range of options to be considered in addressing HMS issues. The scoping document was developed with input from the APs and outlines major issues and options under consideration. NMFS is seeking public input on these and other issues and options for HMS fisheries.

As part of the FMP development process, NMFS intends to prepare Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents due to the potentially significant impact of upcoming regulations on the human environment, and because changes have occurred in the fisheries since the last EISs were prepared (62 FR 45614, August 28, 1997). Participants in the fishery, including processors, may be required to operate under alternative management measures that may redistribute fishing effort and/or mortality in order to facilitate recovery of HMS. The EIS documents will address the impacts of potential future management options on the natural and human environment for the Atlantic tuna, Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic shark, and Atlantic billfish fisheries.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Liz Lauck at least 5 days before the meeting date (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT). Written comments on the issues and options for future management of HMS fisheries are also welcome.

**Meeting Locations**

The meeting schedule is as follows:  
Monday, Oct 27, 1997, 7–10 p.m.

1. Holiday Inn, 290 State Highway 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753, (908) 244-4000;

*Monday, Oct 27, 1997, 6:30-9:30 p.m.*

2. SC Dept. of Natural Resources, Marine Research Institute Auditorium, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412, (803) 762-5037;

*Tuesday, October 28, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

3. City Hall, 3rd Street and Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842, (410) 289-8221;

4. Comfort Inn I-95, 5308 New Jessup Hwy., Brunswick, GA 31523, (912) 264-7268;

5. The San Luis, 5222 Sea Wall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551, (409) 744-1500;

6. Holiday Inn (site of Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting); 3900 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (757) 428-1711;

*Wednesday, October 29, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

7. Holiday Inn, 1300 North Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931, (407) 783-2271;

8. NC Aquarium Auditorium, Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954, (919) 473-3494;

9. The Hampton Inn, 32988 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, AL 36561, (334) 974-1598;

*Thursday October 30, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

10. Riverhead Town Hall, 200 Howell Ave. (corner E. Main), Riverhead, NY 11901, (516) 727-3200;

*Monday, November 3, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

11. Holiday Inn (site of U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee meeting), Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 589-0800;

*Tuesday, November 4, 1997, 4-7 p.m.*

12. Holiday Inn Beachside, Marquesas Room, 3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, FL 33040, (305) 294-2571;

*Tuesday, November 4, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

13. Holiday Inn By the Bay (site of New England Fishery Management Council meeting), 88 Spring St., Portland, ME 04101, (207) 775-2311;

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

14. Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel, Washington Room, 495 Brickell Ave., Miami, FL 33131, (305) 373-6000;

*Thursday, November 6, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

15. Game Fishing Club of the Virgin Islands (above Frigate Restaurant), Red Hook, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00802, (809) 775-9144;

16. Corliss Auditorium, Watkins Building, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, (401) 874-6222;

*Friday, November 7, 1997, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*

17. International WorkBoat Show, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center -

Room 16, New Orleans, LA 70898, (207) 842-5693;

*Friday, November 7, 1997, 2-5 p.m.*

18. NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (508) 281-9260;

19. Club Nautico, 482 Fernandez Juncos Ave., Old San Juan, PR 00905, (787) 722-0177;

*Monday, November 10, 1997, 7-9 p.m.*

20. Holiday Inn Long Boat Key (site of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting), 4949 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Long Boat Key, FL 34228, (941) 383-3771;

*Monday, November 17, 1997, 7-10 p.m.*

21. Duke University Marine Laboratory (site of South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting), 135 Duke Marine Lab Road, Beaufort, NC 28546, (919) 504-7504.

Additional meetings may be announced at a later date in the **Federal Register**.

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

Dated: October 10, 1997.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,*

*National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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