

Type of Review: Regular Submission.
Affected Public: Individuals, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, the Federal government, and state, local, and tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 431.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 456.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 (no capital expenditures are required).

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 25, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-8322 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032398A]

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 of the Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The AP meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20,

1998, and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. The SSC meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 1998, and adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, 701 Convention Center Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70130; telephone: 504-524-8200.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC will review the 1998 stock assessments for both king and Spanish Mackerel, the Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel report, and the report of the Socioeconomic Panel that includes economic and social information related to the range of acceptable biological catch and bag limits for mackerels in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Based on this review, the SSC may recommend to the Council levels for total allowable catch, bag limits, size limits, commercial quotas, and other measures for these species for the 1998-99 fishing season. The Mackerel AP will review the same information and formulate their recommendations based on their perspectives as users of these resources.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815. Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this AP/SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed 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 Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by April 13, 1998.

Dated: March 23, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-8290 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032498B]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting on April 15 and 16, 1998, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 1998, at 9 a.m. and on Thursday, April 16, 1998, at 8:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Inn Plymouth, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; telephone(508) 747-4900. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Wednesday, April 15, 1998

Following introductions by the Council Chairman, the Groundfish Committee will report on and seek Council approval of measures to be discussed at public hearings and in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Amendment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Measures to be voted on for purposes of preparing the public hearing document are associated with new overfishing definitions and the specification of optimum yield consistent with the revised National Standards in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), rebuilding winter flounder stocks and conserving Atlantic halibut. Mesh size changes to reduce the bycatch of juvenile flounders, a prohibition on streetsweeper trawl gear, and alternative management strategies for Gulf of Maine cod proposed by the Gulf of Maine Fishermen's Alliance will also be included.

The Aquaculture and Scallop Committees will report during the afternoon session. The Scallop Committee will seek Council approval of measures to be included in a public hearing document and DSEIS for Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. Measures to be voted on will end overfishing and establish a major sea scallop rebuilding program. They include days-at-sea (DAS) reductions, scallop area management (including closures), and DAS leasing. The Aquaculture Committee will recommend objectives and language for inclusion in all fishery management plans that would provide for approval of aquaculture projects in the EEZ through a framework adjustment process. The Council will also consider initial action on a framework adjustment to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan that would extend the closure of the Westport Scallop Project (renamed the Seastead Site) for 3 years.

Following adjournment of the meeting at 5 p.m., the Council will convene a monkfish public hearing. Proposed monkfish management measures will be discussed for the purpose of seeking additional public comment before the Council approves the final measures to be included in the Monkfish FMP on Thursday, April 16.

Thursday, April 16, 1998

The morning session will begin with a request from the Council's Monkfish Committee to approve final recommendations on management measures for the Monkfish FMP. The Herring Committee will review and ask for approval of measures for purposes of preparing a public hearing document and DSEIS for the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. Measures to be voted on include controlled access, spawning area closures, vessel/dealer/operator permit requirements, area management, target total allowable catches (TACs) and TACs that trigger a management action, vessel size limits, a prohibition on fishing for the purpose of meal production, limits on fishing time and restrictions on fishing for roe. The Habitat Committee will seek approval of Essential Fish Habitat designations for monkfish, haddock, and yellowtail flounder for purposes of preparing a public hearing document. They also will provide an update on progress to develop alternatives for other Council-managed species. The Whiting Committee will ask for approval of management measures for purposes of preparing a public hearing document for a whiting amendment and DSEIS to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. Measures

slated for consideration include a moratorium on commercial permits, whiting trip limits, mesh size restrictions, 3-inch mesh areas, modifications to regulations for the Cultivator Shoal whiting fishery and a limit on the amount of whiting that can be caught with mesh less than the minimum mesh size. Discussion of any other business will take place before the close of the meeting.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

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.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-8428 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032398E]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held during the week of April 20, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: All meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council executive sessions, which may be held during the noon hour during the meeting week, if necessary, to discuss personnel, international issues, or litigation.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W.

4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, continuing through at least Wednesday, April 22, and possibly into Thursday morning, April 23.

The Advisory Panel (AP) will begin meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, and continue through Friday, April 24.

The Council's regular plenary session will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, and continue through Monday, April 27, 1998.

Other workgroup or committee meetings may be held during the week. Notices of these meetings will be posted at the hotel.

The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports from NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the current status of the fisheries off Alaska, and enforcement reports from the U.S. Coast Guard and NMFS Enforcement.

2. Initial review of analysis for the allocation of pollock between inshore and offshore fisheries and direction to staff before releasing for public review and comment.

3. Initial review of an amendment to the fishery management plans to incorporate essential fish habitat information as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; release to public comment and review.

4. Initial review of an analysis for an amendment to close a 4-mile by 4-mile area off Sitka (Cape Edgecombe Pinnacles) to protect habitat important for juvenile rockfish and lingcod.

5. Initial review of an amendment to extend the existing vessel moratorium; direction to staff before releasing to public review and comment.

6. Initial review of an amendment to roll over the current pollock community development (CDQ) program in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI), and a status report on the implementation of the multispecies CDQ program.

7. Council review and comment on NMFS implementation plan for the Fishing Vessel Registration and Fisheries Information Management System.

8. Discussion of Council initiative for social and economic data collection,