

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,

including reports from NMFS, the SSC, Socioeconomic Committee, and direction to staff for a proposed plan amendment for data collection.

9. A report on the progress of the Halibut Guideline Harvest Level Committee.

10. Under the Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program, the Council will consider several amendments to release for public review, receive a report on the "transfer to heirs" amendment and provide further guidance to NMFS, receive a status report on the IFQ fee and loan program, a proposal for a weighmaster program, and discuss a request from Gulf of Alaska communities for allocation of halibut.

11. Groundfish amendments scheduled for action are as follows:

a. Final action on a regulatory amendment to streamline the annual setting of total allowable catch for the groundfish fisheries.

b. Initial review of revisions to the BSAI chinook prohibited species catch.

c. Initial review of an amendment to ban bottom trawling in the BSAI pollock fishery.

d. Initial review of the amendments for revised overfishing definitions for the groundfish, salmon, scallop, and BSAI crab fisheries.

e. Initial review of an amendment to separate Atka mackerel by season and subarea.

12. Other groundfish issues scheduled for discussion, and possible direction to staff, are:

a. Western/Central Gulf of Alaska management: Committee report and further tasking.

b. NMFS report on pollock density specifications; Council recommendation to NMFS.

c. Implementation issues update for the Improved Retention/Improved Utilization program; Committee report.

d. Status report on the draft groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during the meeting. 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 Helen Allen, 907-

271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 25, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-8429 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China

March 25, 1998.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs reducing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being reduced for carryforward used.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Also see 62 FR 67827, published on December 30, 1997.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 25, 1998.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 22, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in China and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 1998 and extending through December 31, 1998.

Effective on April 1, 1998, you are directed to reduce the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the terms of the current bilateral agreement between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
Sublevels in Group I	
200	695,664 kilograms.
338/339	2,322,334 dozen of which not more than 1,710,282 dozen shall be in Categories 338-S/339-S ² .
434	12,870 dozen.
634	616,473 dozen.
647	1,509,065 dozen.
651	752,440 dozen of which not more than 134,891 dozen shall be in Category 651-B ³ .
670-L ⁴	15,574,738 kilograms.
Group IV	
832, 834, 838, 839, 843, 850-852, 858 and 859, as a group.	11,368,204 square meters equivalent.
Level not in a group	
870	32,770,353 kilograms.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1997.

² Category 338-S: all HTS numbers except 6109.10.0012, 6109.10.0014, 6109.10.0018 and 6109.10.0023; Category 339-S: all HTS numbers except 6109.10.0040, 6109.10.0045, 6109.10.0060 and 6109.10.0065.

³ Category 651-B: only HTS numbers 6107.22.0015 and 6108.32.0015.

⁴ Category 670-L: only HTS numbers 4202.12.8030, 4202.12.8070, 4202.92.3020, 4202.92.3031, 4202.92.9025 and 6307.90.9907.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 98-8433 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F