

(f) by revising the introductory text and paragraph (f)(i) to read as follows:

253.213 Simplified acquisition procedures (SF's 18, 30, 44, 1165, 1449, and OF's 336, 347, and 348).

(f) DoD uses the DD Form 1155, Order for Supplies or Services, instead of OF 347; and Optional Form 336, Continuation Sheet, instead of OF 348.

(i) Use the DD Form 1155 as prescribed in 213.307(b)(i) and in accordance with the instructions at 253.213-70.

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[FR Doc. 98-12268 Filed 5-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 042898B]

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 2-day public meeting on May 20 and 21, 1998, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 1998, at 10 a.m. and on Thursday, May 21, 1998, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Seaport Inn, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719; telephone (508) 997-1281. 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, May 20, 1998

After introductions, the Council will discuss and seek approval of the final Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) prepared jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. During the Groundfish Committee Report to follow, the committee will

recommend approval of the public hearing document for Amendment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and the accompanying Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). Measures in the document include revised overfishing definitions and the specification of optimum yield to be consistent with the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), a prohibition or possession limit for Atlantic halibut, a possession limit for winter flounder in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic stock areas, limits on the use of square mesh in the Gulf of Maine and on Georges Bank to reduce juvenile flounder bycatch, a 1-inch increase in the winter flounder minimum size, a postponement of the use of electronic vessel monitoring systems while resolving outstanding related issues, prohibition of the use of "streetsweeper" trawl gear, modification of the Gulf of Maine cod trip limit requirement that a vessel remain in port to account for an overage, and application of the Gulf of Maine cod trip limit "running clock" system to all fisheries managed under a per-day trip limit.

During the afternoon session, the Habitat Committee will seek approval of proposed essential fish habitat designations and alternatives for red hake, cod, witch flounder, ocean pout, and Atlantic herring for purposes of preparing a public hearing document. The committee chairman will also provide an update on progress to develop alternatives for other Council-managed species. Before adjourning for the day, the Aquaculture Committee will recommend final action on a framework adjustment to the Sea Scallop FMP that would extend the Westport Scallop Project closure for 18 months.

Thursday, May 21, 1998

The Council will seek approval of the Sea Scallop Amendment 7 public hearing document and DSEIS. Measures to be included in the document are: Days-at-sea (DAS) reductions, scallop area management, and a DAS leasing to be implemented by a future framework adjustment to the FMP. An industry-funded vessel buyout program will also be discussed. During the Whiting Committee Report, the Council will seek approval of measures for preparing a public hearing document and DSEIS for a whiting amendment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. Major measures under consideration include a moratorium on commercial permits, whiting trip limits, closed areas, mesh

size restrictions, 3-inch mesh areas, changes to the Cultivator Shoal fishery regulations, and limits on the amount of fish that can be brought in with a mesh less than the minimum size.

The Council will seek approval of a public hearing document and DSEIS for the Atlantic Herring FMP. Measures will include controlled access to the fishery, spawning area closures, vessel/dealer operator permit requirements, area management, both a target total allowable catch (TAC) and TAC that triggers a management action, vessel size limits, a prohibition on fishing for the purposes of meal production, limits on fishing time, and restrictions on fishing for roe. The Dogfish Committee will review recent committee discussions. The meeting will conclude with reports from the Council Chairman, Executive Director, Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Announcement of an Experimental Fishery Application

The Regional Administrator is considering the authorization of an experimental fishery for silver hake (whiting) in the Gulf of Maine. The experimental fishery would help to determine appropriate gear type, area, and season for a small mesh fishery that would meet the bycatch criteria of the Northeast multispecies exempted fishery program. This experimental fishery would include modifications of the separator trawl experimental fishery conducted in the summers of 1995, 1996, and 1997. Exempted fishing permits to conduct experimental fishing would be issued to participating vessels to exempt them from DAS, mesh size, and other gear restrictions of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

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: May 4, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-12255 Filed 5-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F