

projects proposing to use pesticide-treated wood products in habitats utilized by NOAA trust resources. The guidelines summarize information that should be considered when examining the effects determinations made by an action agency and to direct personnel to documents containing more detailed information when needed. The draft guidelines focus on copper treated wood, primarily ammoniacal copper zinc arsenate (ACZA), as this is the most prominent material used on the west coast of the United States and in Alaska, and creosote treated products.

These products are being examined by NMFS to determine the risks generated by their usage to the living marine resources which NOAA is responsible for managing, referred to as NOAA's Trust Resources. These include anadromous salmonids managed under the ESA and EFH as designated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The use of pesticide-treated wood in or near aquatic environments commonly requires a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under the ESA, Federal agencies must consult with NMFS to ensure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by the Federal agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. The issuance of this permit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires consultation under Section 7 of the ESA to determine whether its approval action would jeopardize federally-listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat, and requires an EFH assessment to determine whether its approval action would adversely affect EFH. Since the use of pesticide-treated wood materials in situations that may expose aquatic ecosystems is widespread along the west coast of the United States and in Alaska, development of guidelines from the information presented in these reports should help to streamline the review of permitting processes as well as the permitting processes themselves. In some instances, these reports may be used to update existing policies regarding pesticide-treated wood.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to take steps that may be appropriate to achieve this conservation. Conservation is defined in the ESA to mean using, and the use, of all methods and procedures necessary to bring any endangered or threatened

species to the point at which the protections provided by the ESA are no longer necessary. It is the policy of Congress, as declared in the ESA, that all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered and threatened species and shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the ESA.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act established procedures designed to identify, conserve, and enhance EFH for those species regulated under a Federal fisheries management plan. EFH regulates an activity with an eye toward its impact on habitat characteristics. EFH is defined as those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity. "Waters" include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" covers a species' full life cycle. EFH for salmonids includes their saltwater and fresh water ranges.

Effects of pesticide-treated wood that need to be examined during the ESA and EFH consultations include direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. An example of direct effects includes the acute and sublethal impacts of copper and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons to salmonids and the EFH of managed species. An example of an indirect effect includes the adverse impacts to the prey base upon which ESA-listed and EFH-managed species depend. An example of a cumulative effect includes the impacts of multiple structures and contaminants in an area with or without additional loading from urban sources, historic mining, smelters, ships' hulls or any other source. The synthesis of these effects to habitat and to individuals, coupled with local environmental conditions and specific species of concern, defines the risk of a project proposing the use of pesticide-treated wood.

Dated: January 6, 2009.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E9-369 Filed 1-12-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM59

International Whaling Commission; Intersessional Meeting on the Future of the International Whaling Commission; Nominations

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

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: This notice calls for nominees for one non-federal position to the U.S. Delegation to the Intersessional Meeting on the Future of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) that will be held in March 2009, in Rome, Italy. The non-federal representative selected as a result of this nomination process is responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations.

DATES: Written nominations must be received by February 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting must be addressed to Bill Hogarth, U.S. Commissioner to the IWC, and sent via post to: Ryan Wulff, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3 Room 12620, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Wulff, 301-713-2276, ext. 196.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the domestic obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. IWC Commissioner (Commissioner) has responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. The Commissioner is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative selected as a result of this nomination process is responsible for providing input and recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the positions of non-governmental organizations.

The Intersessional Meeting on the Future of the IWC will be held March

9–11, 2009, at the offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy.

Dated: January 6, 2009.

Rebecca Lent,

*Director, Office of International Affairs,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E9–370 Filed 1–12–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XM52

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council); Public Meetings; Correction

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. The original document published on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 and this document adds additional discussions that will take place at the Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 8:30 am–12:00 pm & 1:30 pm–3:00 pm meeting and is corrected in the **SUMMARY** section. All other information remains unchanged.

DATES: The meetings will be held January 26–29, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hollywood Casino, 711 Hollywood Blvd., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL, 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Leard, Interim Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813–348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of January 6, 2009, in FR Doc. E8–31438, on page 432, in the third column, the Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 8:30 am–12:00 pm & 1:30 pm–3:00 pm meeting is corrected to read as follows:

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

8:30 am–12:00 pm & 1:30 pm–3:00 pm—The Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to discuss the Options Paper on Amendment/

Regulatory Amendment and DEIS to Address Longline/Turtle Interactions; Results of Referendum and Final Action on Reef Fish Amendment 29; White Paper on Pros and Cons of Red Snapper For-Hire Sector Management; and Consideration of (re)allocation Issues for those Species in Reef Fish Amendments 30A and 30B using the Allocation Policy. The committee may also discuss and make recommendations for a Gulf of Mexico Angling Reporting System (GOMARS) to improve recreational data collection, particularly for red snapper. Finally, the committee will also receive a presentation on a device to reduce release mortality and may discuss goliath grouper activities.

Dated: January 9, 2009.

William Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. E9–608 Filed 1–12–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XM67

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a one day meeting of its Pelagics Plan Team (PPT), in Honolulu, HI, to discuss fishery issues and develop recommendations for future management.

DATES: The meeting of the PPT will be held on January 29, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PPT will meet on Thursday, January 29, 2009, at 9 a.m., to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introduction
2. Western & Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) Conservation and

Management Measure (CMM) 2008–01, requirements for USA and participating territories.

3. Potential IATTC management measures for bigeye tuna

4. Current monitoring of USA longline bigeye catch.

5. Options for improving catch monitoring of longline bigeye catches in WCPFC/IATTC areas.

6. Required research (e.g. conversion factors from processed to whole weight) for improving the accuracy of catch estimates.

7. Implementing WCPFC Conservation & Management Measure 2008–01 catch reductions for 2009.

8. Proposed Council amendments—Shortlines in Hawaii, and Purse seining in the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAs)

9. Other business

10. Public comments

11. Pelagic Plan Team Recommendations

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The PPT will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the PPT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Plan Team action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issue arising after publication of this document that requires emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522–8220 (voice) or (808) 522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 7, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E9–385 Filed 1–12–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S