

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN: 0648-XP07

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The Outreach and Education AP meeting is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 and end by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton, 2225 N. Lois Ave. Tampa, FL 33607.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charlene Ponce, Public Information Officer; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: During this Advisory Panel meeting, the Outreach and Education AP will hear a presentation by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on its Marine Resource Education Program. The Panel will also review and prioritize its list of recommendations to the Council on improving outreach and education efforts, as well as develop a list of issues to consider and discuss during its next meeting. The AP may develop recommendations to the Council regarding Outreach and Education.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Outreach and Education AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Outreach and Education AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina O'Hern at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 5, 2009.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. E9-10835 Filed 5-8-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN: 0648-XP10

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Advisory Panel and Recreational Advisory Panel will hold meetings to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meetings will be held in May 2009. For specific dates and times, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Sheraton Colonial, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300. For specific locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill #2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The panel's schedule and agenda for the following two meetings are as follows:

Council Meetings: Locations, Schedules, and Agendas

1. Tuesday, May 26, 2009, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) will meet to review Draft Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the accompanying Draft Environmental

Impact Statement (DEIS). Amendment 16 adjusts management measures as necessary to continue rebuilding groundfish stocks. It includes measures to implement Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures, revised effort controls for the commercial fishery, changes to sector management policies, measures for the recreational fishery, and other changes to the management program. The GAP will review the amendment and will develop recommendations for which measures the New England Fishery Management Council should choose, focusing on, but not limited to, measures that affect the commercial groundfish industry. GAP recommendations will be provided to the Groundfish Oversight Committee on June 17, 2009, and will be reported to the full Council at its meeting June 23 25, 2009.

2. Wednesday, May 27, 2009, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) will meet to review Draft Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Amendment 16 adjusts management measures as necessary to continue rebuilding groundfish stocks. It includes measures to implement Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures, revised effort controls for the commercial fishery, changes to sector management policies, measures for the recreational fishery, and other changes to the management program. The RAP will review the amendment and will develop recommendations for which measures the New England Fishery Management Council should choose, focusing on, but not limited to, measures that affect recreational fishermen (including party/charter vessel operators). GAP recommendations will be provided to the Groundfish Oversight Committee on June 17, 2009, and will be reported to the full Council at its meeting June 23 25, 2009.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require 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 Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 5, 2009.

William D. Chappell,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E9-10838 Filed 5-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN: 0648-XP09

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold five public hearings to solicit Public comments on Draft Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

DATES: Written public comments must be received on or before 5 p.m. EST, June 8, 2009. The meetings will be held in May and June, 2009. For specific dates and times, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The Public document can be obtained by contacting the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Meeting addresses: The meetings will be held in Wakefield, MA, Portsmouth, NH, Portland, ME, New London, CT, and So. Kingstown, RI. For specific locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Public comments: Mail to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "DEIS for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP". Comments may also be sent via fax to (978) 281-9207 or submitted via e-mail to multisamendment16@noaa.gov with "DIES for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP" in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agendas for the following six hearings are as follows: New England Fishery Management Council staff will brief the public on the herring amendments and the contents of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) prior to opening the hearing for public comments and the schedules are as follows:

Public Hearings: Locations, Schedules, and Agendas

1. *Tuesday, May 26, 2009, from 5:30-9 p.m.;* Sheraton Colonial, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

2. *Wednesday, May 27, 2009, from 6-9 p.m.;* Sheraton Harborside, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-2300.

3. *Thursday, May 28, 2009, from 5-8 p.m.;* Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101; telephone: (207) 775-2311.

4. *Monday, June 1, 2009, from 1-3:30 p.m.;* Radisson, 35 Governor Winthrop Blvd., New London, CT 06320; telephone: (860) 443-7000.

5. *Monday, June 1, 2009 from 6-9 p.m.;* Holiday Inn, 3009 Tower Hill Road, So. Kingstown, RI 02674; telephone: (401) 789-1051.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 working days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 5, 2009.

William D. Chappell,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E9-10837 Filed 5-8-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN: 0648-XP08

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public hearings on Reef Fish Amendment 31.

DATES: The public hearings will be held on May 26, 2009 through June 8, 2009 at six locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. For specific dates, times and subjects, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The public hearings will be held in the following locations: Madeira Beach, Marathon and Panama City, FL, Biloxi, MS, LaMarque, TX, Galliano, LA. For specific locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Fishery Biologist; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) has scheduled six public hearings on Amendment 31 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that addresses bycatch of hardshell sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico bottom longline reef fish fishery. The Council operates under mandates to minimize bycatch to the extent practicable and to protect endangered and threatened species. National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), requires that conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the morality of such bycatch. The bycatch reduction and monitoring requirements in the Magnuson-Stevens Act apply to a broad range of living marine species, including sea turtles.

Observer data from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) indicated a high level of bycatch in the bottom longline component of the fishery, which exceed the anticipated take in the 2005 Biological Opinion. In September 2008, NMFS released an observer report that examined sea turtle takes by the bottom longline reef fish fishery from July 2006 through 2007. In April 2009 an updated report from the SEFSC was published with information collected in 2008 based on revised effort and observer data.

The Council is considering a range of actions and alternatives outlined in Public Hearing draft of Amendment 31 to the Reef Fish FMP to mitigate