

adverse environmental impacts. The three action alternatives also include mitigation measures intended to minimize potentially adverse interactions with other protected species that occur within the action area. Protected species include all marine mammals, which are covered under the MMPA, all species listed under the ESA, and bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

NMFS is also evaluating a second type of no-action alternative that considers no federal funding for fieldwork on fisheries and ecosystem research activities. This is called the No Research Alternative to distinguish it from the No-Action/Status Quo Alternative. The No-Action/Status Quo Alternative will be used as the baseline to compare all of the other alternatives.

Potential direct and indirect effects on the environment are evaluated under each alternative in the DPEA. The environmental effects on the following resources are considered: Physical environment, special resource areas, fish, marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, invertebrates, and the social and economic environment. Cumulative effects of external actions and the contribution of fisheries research activities to the overall cumulative impact on the aforementioned resources is also evaluated in the DPEA for the geographic regions in which NEFSC surveys are conducted.

NMFS requests comments on the DPEA for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Please include, with your comments, any supporting data or literature citations that may be informative in substantiating your comment.

Dated: December 22, 2014.

William Karp,

*Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2014-30346 Filed 12-22-14; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD684

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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) Fixed Gear Electronic Monitoring (EM) workgroup will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held January 12–13, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., respectively.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Aspen/Spruce Room, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda is to finalize the 2015 EM Cooperative Research Plan and discuss funding and timelines for the research plan, pre-implementation, and the Council analysis to integrate EM into the observer program.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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 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 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 Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 22, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-30315 Filed 12-24-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD678

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Friday, January 16, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-2300; fax: (603) 431-7805.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion on the agenda are:

The committee will receive a report from the January 15, 2015 Herring Advisory Panel (AP) meeting and consider the AP recommendations. The committee will also review Action Plans for the 2016–2018 Atlantic herring fishery specifications and an amendment to the Atlantic Herring FMP to consider control rules for the Atlantic herring fishery that account for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem (Amendment 8). They plan to discuss possible cooperative research priorities for any research set-aside that may be allocated in 2016–18 during the Atlantic herring fishery specifications process and develop Committee recommendations. They will also review/approve a draft scoping document for an amendment to the Herring FMP to consider control rules for the Atlantic herring fishery that account for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem. The committee will review/discuss options under consideration in the NMFS-led omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring

Amendment to address observer coverage on Atlantic herring vessels and develop Committee recommendations. The committee will discuss other business as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice 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 final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 22, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-30306 Filed 12-24-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD685

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is developing an Amendment to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (called "Measures to Protect Deep Sea Corals from Impacts of Fishing Gear") that will address minimizing the impacts of fishing gear on deep sea corals in the Mid-Atlantic.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Five public hearings will be held during this comment period. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates, times, and locations.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

- Email to the following address: kdancy@mafmc.org; Include "Deep Sea Corals Amendment Comments" in the subject line;
- Mail or hand deliver to Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, Delaware 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope "Deep Sea Corals Amendment Comments"; or
- Fax to (302) 674-5399.
- A web form for submitting comments is available on the Council's Web site: <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/deep-sea-corals>. The draft Amendment document may be obtained from the Council office at the previously provided address, or by request to the Council by telephone (302) 674-2331, or via the Internet at <http://www.mafmc.org>.
- Comments may also be provided verbally at any of the five public hearings. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates, times, and locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331. The Council's Web site, www.mafmc.org also has details on the meeting location, webinar listen-in access, and public hearing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Council has initiated an amendment to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP in order to minimize the impacts of fishing gear on deep sea corals in the mid-Atlantic. The Council has approved a range of alternatives proposing designation of deep sea coral protection zones, under the discretionary authority described in section 303(b)(2)(b) of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). These zones would consist of areas where use of certain gear types (all bottom-tending gear or all mobile bottom-tending gear) would be restricted in order to protect deep sea corals from physical damage caused by fishing gear. Although this action is being taken through the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP, these measures could apply to any federally regulated fishing activity occurring within the proposed areas in the Mid-Atlantic Council region. Additionally, this amendment proposes to modify the framework provisions of the FMP and require Vessel Monitoring

Systems (VMS) for all Illex squid vessels. For more information and to access the public hearing document, visit: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/msb/am16>.

Public Hearings

The dates and locations of the public hearings are as follows.

- **Monday, January 12, 2015, 7 p.m.,** Hyatt Place Long Island/East End, 451 East Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, telephone: (631) 208-0002;
- **Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 7 p.m.,** The Grand Hotel, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204, telephone: (609) 884-5611;
- **Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 7 p.m.,** Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street NW., Washington, DC 20005, telephone: (202) 737-2200;
- **Thursday, January 15, 2015, 7 p.m.,** Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 3001 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, telephone: (866) 460-7456;
- **Friday, January 16, 2015, 7 p.m.,** Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Rd., Berlin, MD 21811, telephone: (410) 208-4014;
- **Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7 p.m.,** Internet webinar, Connection information to be available at <http://www.mafmc.org> or by contacting the Council (see **ADDRESSES** above).

Special Accommodations

These public hearings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 22, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-30316 Filed 12-24-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD658

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting; Correction

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

ACTION: Notice of correction of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Pacific