

effective U.S. laboratory accreditation infrastructure. This infrastructure will foster national and international recognition and will effectively reduce the current duplication and unnecessary costs of laboratory accreditation.

DATES: The meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 7, 1997, at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Green Auditorium at the national Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

To obtain a registration form to attend the meeting, or for further information, interested parties are requested to contact Mrs. Judith Baker at NIST, telephone (301) 975-4000, facsimile (301) 963-2871, e-mail baker@nist.gov. The registration fee is expected to be \$60.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical content contact Belinda Collins, Director, Office of Standard Services, telephone (301) 975-4000, facsimile (301) 963-2871, e-mail bcollins@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The LAWG, consisting of the three original sponsoring organizations joined by other representatives of government and private sector users of laboratory accreditation, accreditors and laboratories, undertook preliminary planning for NACLA based on inputs from a variety of sources concerned with laboratory accreditation. After evaluating problems, surveying needs, and identifying key issues, the LAWG drafted a "Proposed Structure for the National Council for Laboratory Accreditation" which contains a plan for establishing and implementing NACLA. It is anticipated that NACLA will be established and incorporated by representatives of the U.S. private sector, but that governmental agencies will subsequently participate actively to derive benefit for themselves and for the nation's economic well-being.

The "Proposed Structure for the National Council for Laboratory Accreditation," which will be published in a later Federal Register notice prior to the meeting, includes organizational and operational concepts to satisfy the needs identified by public and private sector organizations.

An earlier public forum was held in October 1995 and reported in NIST Special Publication 902, "Proceedings of the Open Forum on Laboratory Accreditation at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, October 13, 1995." At that meeting, representatives of accreditors, laboratories, and users of laboratory accreditation from industry

and government agreed that a unified national system is essential to satisfy domestic economic requirements and to facilitate trade. It was agreed that any infrastructure, to be successful, must be acceptable to all affected parties. It was also agreed that, for any given product, the goal is one test by a laboratory accredited by a competent authority, with the results accepted nationally, and even globally. The essential concept was put forth in the challenges raised by the National Research Council study of Standards, Conformity, Assessment and Trade, " * * * domestic policies and procedures for assessing conformity of products and processes to standards require urgent improvement." The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Pub.L. 104-113), charges NIST with coordinating Federal, state and local conformity assessment activities with those of the private sector to eliminate unnecessary duplication and complexity. The planned NACLA activities respond to this challenge.

ACIL, ANSI, and NIST are cosponsoring another Public Forum on January 7, 1997, on establishing the National Council for Laboratory Accreditation; to describe the initial plans; discuss issues for implementing efficient and appropriate accreditation procedures; and to provide for reciprocity in mutual recognition of laboratory competence. NACLA aims to address the widely recognized need to eliminate unnecessary burdens of laboratory accreditation by a streamlined system that eliminates current duplication in laboratory accreditation and to reduce costs. The LAWG seeks to achieve consensus on the planning documents so that an organization which reflects national priorities and needs can be established by the private sector parties at interest with broad governmental participation and support. All organizations and individuals concerned with laboratory accreditation are invited to attend and to express their views.

On January 7, 1997, participants are encouraged to join in an open exchange of ideas and to comment on the proposed establishment of NACLA. Specific topics include discussion of NACLA purposes and functions, operational procedures and processes, composition of a Board of Directors, Stakeholder(s) Committees and their scope, Secretariat, membership, and other issues leading to "one-stop-shopping" in testing and laboratory accreditation.

Dated: November 12, 1996.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

[FR Doc. 96-29378 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110596A]

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 (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 9, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on December 10, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel, 4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-873-8675.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Reef Fish SSC will review Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) reports regarding a new stock assessment for vermilion snapper, an update of the 1995 stock assessment for red snapper, a stock assessment for greater amberjack, and discussions regarding biological information and landings data for other amberjack species. The SSC will review any recommendations of the RFSAP and SEP regarding allowable biological catch (ABC) ranges for these species, and they may develop recommendations of ABC or total allowable catch (TAC) for submission to the Council. The SSC may also recommend future data gathering and research needs.

Under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan's (FMP) framework procedure for setting TAC, when an ABC range has been specified, the Council may implement through a regulatory amendment a TAC, which is then allocated between the recreational

and commercial sectors, and quotas, bag limits, size limits, and other measures needed to attain TAC. If an ABC range and TAC are not specified, the Council must use the more lengthy process of a full plan amendment to implement any changes to management measures.

The SSC will also review an options paper for development of an amendment to the FMP for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico, regarding development of a red snapper license limitation system. The issues include basic initial allocation and bycatch provisions, licenses issued to persons or vessels, historical captains, transferability of licenses, number of licenses that can be owned by one entity, transferability of landing records related to initial eligibility for licenses, fishing season dates, duration of license limitation system, allocation of a portion of the commercial quota for bycatch during closed season, and appeals board for license eligibility. The options paper also contains alternatives regarding the harvest of reef fish in traps other than fish traps.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by December 2, 1996.

Dated: November 7, 1996.

Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-29244 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 110596B]

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 (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Red Snapper Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: This meeting will be held on December 11, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel, 4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-873-8675.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401

West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) reports regarding a new stock assessment for vermilion snapper, an update of the 1995 stock assessment for red snapper, and discussions regarding biological information and landings data for amberjack species. The AP will review any recommendations of the RFSAP and SEP regarding allowable biological catch (ABC) ranges for these species, and they may develop recommendations of ABC or total allowable catch (TAC) for submission to the Council. The AP may also recommend future data gathering and research needs.

Under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan's framework procedure for setting TAC, when an ABC range has been specified, the Council may implement through a regulatory amendment a TAC, which is then allocated between the recreational and commercial sectors, and quotas, bag limits, size limits, and other measures needed to attain TAC. If an ABC range and TAC are not specified, the Council must use the more lengthy process of a full plan amendment to implement any changes to management measures.

The AP is comprised of fishermen and other user groups who advise the Council on fishery issues.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by December 4, 1996.

Dated: November 7, 1996.

Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-29245 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Fiji

November 8, 1996.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 14, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, 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: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

The current limit for Categories 338/339/638/639 and sublimit for 338-S/339-S/638-S/639-S are being increased for carryover and carryforward, respectively.

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 60 FR 65299, published on December 19, 1995). Also see 61 FR 3003, published on January 30, 1996; and 61 FR 15925, published on April 10, 1996.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of their provisions.

Troy H. Cribb,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

November 8, 1996.

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