

d. Signatories

36. A *Signatory to INMARSAT* is an Administration or government, or the telecommunications entity designated as sole operating entity by an Administration or government, which participates in the International Mobile Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) in order to develop and operate a global maritime satellite telecommunication system which serves maritime commercial and safety needs of the United States and foreign countries. A *Signatory to INTELSAT* is an Administration or government, or the telecommunications entity designated as sole operating entity by an Administration or government, which participates in the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) in order to develop, construct, operate, and maintain the space segment of the global commercial telecommunications satellite system established under the Interim Agreement and Special Agreement signed by Governments on August 20, 1964. For FY 1997, we are proposing that Signatories to INMARSAT and INTELSAT will be assessed an annual regulatory fee of \$326,025 in order to recover the cost of the Commission's regulatory activities associated with such entities.

e. International Bearer Circuits

37. Regulatory fees for International Bearer Circuits are to be paid by the facilities-based common carriers (either domestic or international) activating the circuit in any transmission facility for the provision of service to an end user or resale carrier. Payment of the fee for bearer circuits by private submarine cable operators is required for circuits sold on an indefeasible right of use (IRU) basis or leased to any customer other than an international common carrier authorized by the Commission to provide U.S. international common carrier services. *Compare* FY 1994 *Report and Order* at 5367. The fee is based upon active 64 Kbps circuits, or their equivalent circuits. Under this formulation, 64 Kbps circuits or their equivalent will be assessed a fee. Equivalent circuits include the 64 Kbps circuit equivalent of larger bit stream circuits. For example, the 64 Kbps circuit equivalent of a 2.048 Mbps circuit is 30 64 Kbps circuits. Analog circuits such as 3 and 4 KHz circuits used for international service are also included as 64 Kbps circuits. However, circuits derived from 64 Kbps circuits by the use of digital circuit multiplication systems are not equivalent 64 Kbps circuits. Such

circuits are not subject to fees. Only the 64 Kbps circuit from which they have been derived will be subject to payment of a fee. For FY 1997, we are proposing that the regulatory fee be \$5.00 for each active 64 Kbps circuit or equivalent. For analog television channels we will assess fees as follows:

Analog television channel size in MHz	No. of equivalent 64 Kbps circuits
36	630
24	288
18	240

f. International Public Fixed

38. This fee category includes common carriers authorized under Part 23 of the Commission's Rules to provide radio communications between the United States and a foreign point via microwave or HF troposcatter systems, other than satellites and satellite earth stations, but not including service between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada using frequencies above 72 MHz. For FY 1997, we are proposing that International Public Fixed Radio Service licensees will pay a \$315 annual regulatory fee per call sign.

g. International (HF) Broadcast

39. This category covers International Broadcast Stations licensed under Part 73 of the Commission's Rules to operate on frequencies in the 5,950 KHz to 26,100 KHz range to provide service to the general public in foreign countries. For FY 1997, we are proposing that International HF Broadcast Stations will pay an annual regulatory fee of \$390 per station license.

Attachment I—Description of FCC Activities

Authorization of Service: The authorization or licensing of radio stations, telecommunications equipment, and radio operators, as well as the authorization of common carrier and other services and facilities. Includes policy direction, program development, legal services, and executive direction, as well as support services associated with authorization activities.¹³³

Policy and Rulemaking: Formal inquiries, rulemaking proceedings to establish or amend the Commission's rules and regulations, action on

¹³³ Although Authorization of Service is described in this exhibit, it is *not* one of the activities included as a feeable activity for regulatory fee purposes pursuant to Section 9(a)(1) of the Act. 47 U.S.C. § 159(a)(1).

petitions for rulemaking, and requests for rule interpretations or waivers; economic studies and analyses; spectrum planning, modeling, propagation-interference analyses, and allocation; and development of equipment standards. Includes policy direction, program development, legal services, and executive direction, as well as support services associated with policy and rulemaking activities.

Enforcement: Enforcement of the Commission's rules, regulations and authorizations, including investigations, inspections, compliance monitoring, and sanctions of all types. Also includes the receipt and disposition of formal and informal complaints regarding common carrier rates and services, the review and acceptance/rejection of carrier tariffs, and the review, prescription and audit of carrier accounting practices. Includes policy direction, program development, legal services, and executive direction, as well as support services associated with enforcement activities.

Public Information Services: The publication and dissemination of Commission decisions and actions, and related activities; public reference and library services; the duplication and dissemination of Commission records and databases; the receipt and disposition of public inquiries; consumer, small business, and public assistance; and public affairs and media relations. Includes policy direction, program development, legal services, and executive direction, as well as support services associated with public information activities.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 630 and 678

[I.D. 022897G]

Atlantic Swordfish Fishery; Atlantic Shark Fishery; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Public hearings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Highly Migratory Species Division (HMS Division) will convene 12 hearings to obtain comments from the public on Draft Amendment 1 to the

Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish (Swordfish FMP), on Draft Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean (Shark FMP) and proposed rules implementing a limited access system for each fishery. The proposed rule for the Shark FMP was published in the Federal Register on December 27, 1996 and the proposed rule for the Swordfish FMP was published on February 26, 1997. NMFS is also requesting written comments on Draft Amendment 1 to the Swordfish FMP, the Draft Amendment 1 to the Shark FMP and on the proposed rules.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until April 28, 1997. Public hearings will be held in March and April. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times of the hearings.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Dr. Rebecca Lent, Chief, HMS Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (FAX: 301-713-1917). Clearly mark the outside of the envelope "Limited Access Comments." Copies of the proposed rule and Draft Amendment 1 to the Swordfish FMP, which includes an environmental assessment and regulatory impact review, are available from James Chambers at the same address. Public hearings will be held in Maine, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for locations of the hearings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Chambers, Fishery Management Specialist, or Margo Schulze, Fishery Biologist, HMS Division, 301-713-2347.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Issues that are addressed in Draft Amendment 1 to the Swordfish FMP include: Proposed implementation of a two-tiered permit system consisting of directed and incidental permits for the commercial fishery, eligibility criteria for these permits based on historical participation, transferability provisions, the permitting process, upgrading restrictions and ownerships limits.

A complete description of the measures, including the purpose and need for the proposed action concerning Atlantic swordfish, is contained in the proposed rule published February 26, 1997 (62 FR 8672), and is not repeated here. Copies of the proposed rule and Draft Amendment 1 to the Swordfish FMP may be obtained by writing (see **ADDRESSES**) or calling one of the contact persons (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

CONTACT). Draft Amendment 1 to the Shark FMP and its proposed rule were published December 27, 1996 (61 FR 68202), and address similar issues to those in proposed rule and Draft Amendment 1 to the Swordfish FMP.

To accommodate people unable to attend a hearing or wishing to provide additional comments, NMFS also solicits written comments on the proposed rules.

The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Friday, March 21, 1997—City Hall (Commission Chambers, 1st floor), 100 North Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301, (954) 761-5002, 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

2. Monday, March 31, 1997—West Bank Regional Library Meeting Room (1st floor), 2751 Manhattan Boulevard (near Lapalco Boulevard), Harvey, LA 70058-6144, (504) 364-3972, 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

3. Tuesday, April 1, 1997—Town Hall Auditorium, 19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785, (813) 595-4020, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

4. Wednesday, April 2, 1997—Monroe County Public Library (Auditorium), 700 Flemming Street, Key West, FL 33040 (305) 292-3595, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

5. Thursday, April 3, 1997—Pan Am Dock (East), Isla Grande, San Juan, PR 00907, (803) 522-1509, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

6. Saturday, April 5, 1997—Town Hall at the Caravelle Hotel, 44A Queen Cross Street, Saint Croix, USVI 00820, (809) 773-0687, 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

7. Tuesday, April 8, 1997—Portland Public Library (Room 316), 5 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101, (207) 871-1755, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

8. Wednesday, April 9, 1997—Providence Biltmore Hotel State Suite C (2nd level), Kennedy Plaza, Providence RI 02903, (401) 455-3027, 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

9. Thursday, April 10, 1997—Montauk Fire Hall, 12 Flamingo Avenue, Montauk, NY 11954, (516) 668-5695, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

10. Friday, April 11, 1997—Barnegat Light Firehouse, 10th and Boulevard Streets, Long Beach Island, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006, (609) 494-1280, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

11. Sunday, April 13, 1997—North Carolina Aquarium (Auditorium), Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954, (919) 473-3494, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

12. Monday, April 28, 1997—NOAA, First Floor Conference Room (1W611), Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-2227, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to James Chambers or Margo Schulze (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 15 days before the hearing date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*

Dated: March 4, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 022797A]

New England Fishery Management Council; 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 March 12 and 13, 1997, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 1997, at 10 a.m. and on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the King's Grant Inn, Route 128 and Trask Lane, Danvers, MA; telephone (508) 774-6800. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (617) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (617) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

March 12, 1997

The March 12 session will begin with Enforcement Committee recommendations on cod trip limits and fishing vessels transiting closed areas. In addition to reviewing NMFS and Coast Guard reports to the Council on recent enforcement actions, the Enforcement Committee will provide an update on a Vessel Tracking System trial program and an evaluation of the current scallop regulations. The Scallop Committee will review its most recent discussion of