

whale watch companies who have volunteered to participate in this monitoring program. The USCG Auxiliary will also use other platforms, such as USCG Auxiliary vessels and aircraft to observe the activities of recreational and commercial whale watch vessel operators on Stellwagen Bank and in other waters off New England during the 1999 season.

The results of the USCG Auxiliary monitoring program are expected to help NOAA determine whether the voluntary guidelines are sufficient or whether additional measures, such as regulations, need to be implemented to prevent harassment or injury of whales in coastal waters of the Northeastern United States.

Dated: May 24, 1999.

Andrew Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-13663 Filed 5-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052499G]

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 (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Committee (joint with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Herring Section); Mid-Atlantic Plans Committee, Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel, Interspecies Committee, Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel, and Habitat Committee and Advisory Panel in June, 1999 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held between Monday, June 14, 1999 and Monday, June 28, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Peabody, Saugus and Wakefield, MA; and Portsmouth, NH. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

*Monday, June 14, 1999, at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, June 15, at 9 a.m.—*Joint NEFMC Herring Committee and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Herring Section Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street (Route 1), Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

The committee and section will review the draft Atlantic Herring Stock Assessment and Fisheries Economics (SAFE) Report and recommend specifications for the 2000 fishing year. They also will develop recommendations for management measures for the 2000 fishing year (such as total allowable catch (TAC) set-asides, changes to the spawning closures in federal waters, or other framework adjustments). After reviewing the Herring Advisory Panel's recommendations on the subject, the committee and section will begin development of a limited entry or controlled access system for Management Area 1A in the Gulf of Maine. They will consider the Advisory Panel recommendation to establish an August 1, 1999 control date for the Atlantic herring fishery. There also will be a discussion of the 1999 large vessel annual specification.

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—*Mid-Atlantic Plans Committee Meeting

Location: New England Fishery Management Council Office, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

The committee will review a Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council proposal for tilefish closures and proposed mackerel management measures. The committee also will discuss coordinating the Atlantic herring and mackerel fishery management plans.

*Thursday, June 17, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—*Groundfish Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel Joint Meeting

Location: Sheraton Colonial Hotel, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01960; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

The committee and panel will discuss and prepare a draft management policy

for closed areas, including a statement of purpose and consideration of exceptions, for commercial and recreational fisheries for possible inclusion in Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The committee and panel will discuss the current cod stock boundaries and its effects on management policy, and advise the Council on possible alternative management area boundaries. The committee and panel also will review Amendment 13 scoping comments and industry proposals for management alternatives. It will continue the development of recommendations to the Council on issues and measures to be included in a public hearing document for Amendment 13, including but not limited to: management of the recreational and party/charter fishery, management policy and strategy for the commercial fishery, action to rebuild all stocks in the fishery management unit as needed under the Council's new overfishing definitions; management of fleet fishing capacity, including possible implementation of a two-tiered permit system to address latent fishing permits; proposals for industry support of scientific research and conservation engineering programs; modification of the annual adjustment schedule and possible change to the timing of the fishing year; the use of electronic vessel monitoring systems; and other issues that may be identified during the scoping process.

*Monday, June 21 at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday, June 22 at 9 a.m.—*Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

Location: New England Fishery Management Council Office, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

Review of scientific information and analyses for the Herring (SAFE) Report and discussion of meeting procedures and protocols.

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999, 10 a.m. and Wednesday, June 23, 1999, at 9 a.m.—*Interspecies Committee Meeting

Location: Sheraton Colonial Hotel, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781)245-9300.

The committee will receive a presentation on U.S. Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics (GLOBEC) Program experiments and discuss managing capacity and latent effort, changing fishing years, small vessel permit upgrading restrictions and other relevant business.

*Thursday, June 24, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—*Joint Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting

Location: New England Fishery Management Council Office, 5

Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906;
telephone: (781) 231-0422

The committee and panel will review draft enforcement guidelines for Council consideration.

Monday, June 28, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—
Habitat Committee and Advisory Panel Joint Meeting

Location: Sheraton Plymouth Inn, 180 Water Street Plymouth, MA 02360;
telephone: (508) 747-4900.

The committee and panel will review the 1999 Habitat Annual Review Report and consider recommending additional Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, in addition to measures to protect essential fish habitat (EFH). The committee also will consider habitat-related issues to be addressed during development of the next Groundfish and Sea Scallop Amendments. They will review NMFS's EFH consultation process and coordination criteria.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

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 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: May 25, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-13827 Filed 5-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052499F]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council and its advisory entities will meet June 20-25, 1999. The Council meeting will begin on Tuesday, June 22, at 8 a.m., reconvening each day through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 8 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 24 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 281-2500.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order:

- A. Call to Order
 1. Opening Remarks, Introductions, Roll Call
 2. Approve Agenda
 3. Approve March and April Meeting Minutes
- B. Coastal Pelagic Species Management
 1. Status of Approval of Fishery Management Plan
 2. Anchovy Biomass Estimate and Quotas for 1999-2000 Season
- C. Highly Migratory Species Management - Determine Need for Council Fishery Management Plan
- D. Salmon Management
 1. Sequence of Events and Status of Fisheries
 2. Revisions to the Preseason Process
 3. Non-Retention Mortality in Ocean Salmon Fisheries
 4. Options to Recover Snake River Chinook Salmon
- E. Marine Reserves - Council Direction to Committee
- F. Habitat Issues
 1. Groundfish Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 2. Other Issues
- G. Groundfish Management
 1. Status of Federal Regulations and Activities and Applications for Exempted Fishing Permits
 2. Status Reports on Review of Groundfish Priorities, Recreational Fishery Data Collection Issues, the Fixed Gear Sablefish Industry Meeting, the Ability to Address Permit Stacking in 1999, Experimental Setnet Landings as Qualification for Sablefish Tier Assignment, Industry Survey of Buyback Program, Process Required to Allow Use of Open Access Hook-and-Line Gear by Fixed Gear Limited Entry

Permit Holders, Harvest Policy Review, Rockfish Stock Status, and Bycatch Issues

3. Strategic Planning
4. Stock Assessment Priorities for 2000
5. Consistency of California Rockfish Size Limits with Groundfish Plan
6. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments
7. Observer Program
8. Control Date for Potential Limited Access in the Open Access Fishery
9. Rebuilding Plans for Lingcod, Bocaccio, and Pacific Ocean Perch, Including Allocation and Bycatch Reduction
10. Rockfish Allocation
11. Groundfish Priorities and Schedules
 - H. Administrative and Other Matters
 1. Report of the Budget Committee
 2. Status of Legislation
 3. Appointments to Advisory Groups
 4. Revisions to Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures
 5. Draft Agenda for September 1999

Advisory Meetings

The Groundfish Management Team will convene on Sunday, June 20, at 2 p.m. and on Monday, June 21, at 8 a.m. to address groundfish issues on the Council agenda.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene on Monday, June 21, at 8:30 a.m. and on Tuesday, June 22, at 8 a.m. to address scientific issues on the Council agenda.

The Habitat Steering Group meets at 9 a.m. on Monday, June 21, to address issues and actions affecting habitat of fish species managed by the Council.

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel will convene on Monday, June 21, at 1 p.m. and will continue to meet throughout the week as necessary to address groundfish management items on the Council.

The Ad-Hoc Salmon Mortality Committee will meet on Monday, June 21, at 1 p.m. to discuss estimation of hook-and-release mortality for ocean salmon fisheries.

The Budget Committee meets on Monday, June 21 at 3 p.m. to review the status of the 1999 Council budget.

The Enforcement Consultants meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, to address enforcement issues relating to Council agenda items.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues