

p.m., through Wednesday March 31, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, approximately.

The Administrative Committee will meet on Monday, March 29, 1999, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to discuss administrative matters regarding Council operation.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. However, simultaneous interpretation (Spanish-English) will be available during the Council meeting (March 30-31, 1999). Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

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 specifically identified in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, PR 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 11, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-4001 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020899C]

#### 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 during March 8-12,

1999. The Council meeting will begin on Tuesday, March 9, at 8 a.m., reconvening each day through Friday. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Columbia River DoubleTree Hotel, 1401 North Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 283-2111.

*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 November 1998 Meeting Minutes
  4. Review of Recusal Rule
- B. Salmon Management
  1. Review of 1998 Fisheries and Summary of 1999 Stock Abundance Estimates
  2. Estimation Procedures and Methodologies
  3. Experimental Fisheries in April 1999
  4. Preliminary Definition of 1999 Management Options
  5. Adoption of 1999 Management Options for Analysis
  6. Plan Amendments, Including Essential Fish Habitat
  7. Non-Retention Mortality
  8. Adopt 1999 Options for Public Review
  9. Schedule of Public Hearings and Appointment of Hearing Officers
- C. Habitat Issues
- D. Marine Reserve Issues
- E. Pacific Halibut Management
  1. Implementation of Council Recommendations for 1999
  2. Results of the International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting
  3. Status of Estimate of Area 2A Bycatch
    4. Proposed Incidental Catch in the Troll Salmon Fishery for 1999
- F. Groundfish Management
  1. Status of Federal Regulations and Activities
    2. Clarification of 1999 Measures and Review of Inseason Management Process for 1999 and Open Access Trip Limits
    3. Final Harvest Limits and Treaty Set-Aside for Pacific Whiting in 1999
    4. Consistency of California Rockfish Size Limits with Fishery Management Plan

5. Mandatory Observer Coverage for At-Sea Processors

6. Exempted Fishing Permits

G. Highly Migratory Species

Management - Status of International Management Discussions and

Coordinated Council Management

H. Administrative and Other Matters

1. Report of the Budget Committee

2. Legislative Update

3. Process for Development of

Strategic Plan

4. Appointments to Advisory Entities

5. Revisions to Statement of

Organization, Practices, and Procedures

and Council Operating Procedures

6. Report to Congress on West Coast

Seals and Sea Lions

7. Status of Research and Data

Collection Needs

8. Approve April 1999 Agenda

9. Report of Council Chairs Meeting

#### Advisory Meetings

The Habitat Steering Group meets at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 8, to address issues and actions affecting habitat of fish species managed by the Council.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene on Monday, March 8, at 11 a.m. and on Tuesday, March 9, at 8 a.m. to address scientific issues on the Council agenda.

The Salmon Technical Team will meet as necessary Monday through Friday March 8-12 to address salmon management items on the Council agenda.

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel will convene on Monday, March 8, at 9 a.m. and will continue to meet throughout the week as necessary to address salmon management items on the Council.

The Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee will meet on Monday, March 8, at 4 p.m. to begin discussing the feasibility of marine reserves as a management tool.

The Ad-Hoc Legal Gear Committee will meet on Monday, March 8 at 7 p.m. and on Tuesday, March 9 at 8 a.m. to discuss changes to groundfish legal gear specifications to reduce discard.

The Budget Committee meets on Monday, March 8 at 1 p.m. to review the status of the 1999 Council budget.

The Enforcement Consultants meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 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 specifically identified in the agenda 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 Mr. John S. Rhoton at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 11, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-4000 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 020999E]

**Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Precious Corals Plan Team.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 9, 1999, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at NMFS Laboratory, 2570 Dole Street, Room 112, Honolulu, HI; telephone: 808-983-5300.

*Council address:* Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Precious Corals Plan Team will discuss possible adjustments in established management measures, including modifying the harvest quota for gold coral, implementing a minimum size limit for black coral, applying the size limit for pink coral to all established and conditional beds, restricting the areas where the use of non-selective gear is allowed, designating the newly discovered bed near French Frigate Shoals as a conditional bed and revising data reporting requirements.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Team 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 specifically listed in this notice.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: February 11, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-3998 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 090198A]

**Recreational Fishing; Code of Angling Ethics**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Final Code of Angling Ethics

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is adopting this Code of Angling Ethics to implement the public education strategy required under the

NMFS-specific Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan.

**DATES:** Effective March 22, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the final Code of Angling Ethics are available from Richard H. Schaefer; Chief, Office of Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries; 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 425; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard H. Schaefer, 301-427-2014.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On June 7, 1995, the President signed Executive Order 12962 (EO) - Recreational Fisheries. The EO recognized the social, cultural, and economic importance of recreational fishing to the nation and directed Federal agencies to "improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities."

Further, the EO established the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council (NRFCC) consisting of Secretarial designees from the Departments of Commerce, Interior, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The NRFCC was directed under the EO to produce a Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan (National Plan). The National Plan, completed June 3, 1996, directed each Federal agency to develop an agency-specific implementation plan that identifies actions needed to meet the goals and objectives of the National Plan. The NMFS-specific Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan, unveiled December 31, 1996, dictates four Implementation Strategies as policy to achieve the goals of the National Plan. Implementation Strategy III, Public Education, states that NMFS will support, develop, and implement programs designed to enhance public awareness and understanding of marine conservation issues relevant to the well-being of marine recreational fishing. One output listed under this Implementation Strategy is "NMFS will develop, promote and distribute a "Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing"."

On October 5, 1998, a notice of proposed code of angling ethics (63 FR 53353) was published in the **Federal Register**.

The three comments received are addressed as follows:

**Comments and Responses**

*Comment 1:* One commenter asked that the proposed Code of Angling Ethics be expanded to include an enforcement ethic that would encourage anglers to confront individuals not conforming to the Code of Ethical Angling and identify and report illegal activities.

*Response:* The intent of the proposed Code is to succinctly describe ethical conduct for the angler. Although NMFS concurs with the public's involvement and responsibility suggested by the commenter, such enforcement issues are outside of the intent of the Code of Angling Ethics.

*Comment 2:* One commenter, while supporting the proposed Code as written, resented the Government proposing anything to guide the personal behavior of anglers.

*Response:* The Code is intended to inform the angling public of NMFS's views regarding what constitutes ethical angling behavior. The guidelines are discretionary, not mandatory.

*Comment 3:* An association of anglers stated that they fully supported the draft