

species, amounts, locations, and rules governing these NAFO fish quota allocations were published in the **Federal Register** on December 23, 1999 (64 FR 72035). No U.S. fishermen have thus far expressed interest in the 2000 U.S. fish quota allocations from NAFO.

In addition to fish quota allocations, the United States received an effort allocation of 100 fishing days for the fishing year 2000 available to one vessel for harvesting shrimp in Division 3M of the NAFO Regulatory Area. Although no U.S. fishermen have recently expressed interest in the U.S. 3M shrimp effort allocation, NMFS has received inquiries regarding the possibility of making U.S. fishing opportunities available to U.S. fishing interests using foreign vessels under chartering arrangements.

Under a NAFO Pilot Project in effect for 2000, a vessel registered to another NAFO Contracting Party may be chartered to fish the U.S. allocation provided that consent for the charter is obtained from the vessel's flag State and the U.S. effort allocation is transferred to that flag State. Such a transfer must be adopted by NAFO Parties through a mail voting process. More details on U.S. and NAFO requirements for chartering operations are available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

Due to the lack of interest expressed thus far by U.S. fishermen in harvesting 2000 NAFO fish quota allocations, and recent information indicating that NAFO may adopt a TAC based system for the 3M shrimp fishery for 2001, expressions of interest from U.S. fishing interests intending to make use of foreign vessels under chartering arrangements to fish the U.S. 2000 3M shrimp effort allocation will be considered (see **DATES**). Such expressions of interest should be directed to the Director, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries (see **ADDRESSES**).

All expressions of interest should include the following information required by NAFO regarding the proposed chartering operation: the name, registration and flag of the intended vessel; a copy of the charter; the fishing opportunities granted; the date from which the vessel is authorized to commence fishing on these opportunities; and the duration of the charter.

In addition, expressions of interest should be accompanied by a detailed description of anticipated benefits to the United States. Such benefits might include (but are not limited to): the use of U.S. processing facilities/personnel; the use of U.S. fishing personnel; other specific positive effects on U.S. employment; evidence that fishing by the chartered vessel would actually take

place; and a willingness to document the physical characteristics and economics of the fishery for future use by the U.S. fishing industry.

In the event that multiple expressions of interest are made by U.S. fishing interests proposing the use of chartering operations from more than one NAFO Contracting Party, the information submitted regarding benefits to the United States will be used in determining which, if any, NAFO Contracting Party will receive the transfer of the U.S. 3M shrimp effort allocation.

If multiple proposals are submitted by U.S. fishing interests expressing interest in chartering operations with the same NAFO Contracting Party, the United States may transfer its 3M shrimp effort allocation to that Party for distribution as that Party sees fit (pending approval by NAFO).

All individuals/companies submitting expressions of interest to NMFS will be contacted within seven business days of the end of the comment period and apprised of the status of their proposal. Should an expression of interest be made on behalf of a U.S. registered vessel or vessels, such proposal will be given first consideration. If more than one expression of interest is made on behalf of a U.S. registered vessel or vessels, however, it may be necessary to promulgate regulations to determine how applicants would be chosen. It is unlikely that such regulations could be promulgated in time for the 2000 effort allocation of 3M shrimp to be used by a U.S. registered vessel. In the case that no interest is expressed on behalf of U.S. vessels, NMFS will determine whether to initiate the necessary steps to transfer the U.S. 3M shrimp effort allocation to another NAFO Contracting Party for use in a chartering operation.

Dated: June 18, 2000.

Penelope D. Dalton,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-15977 Filed 6-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061900C]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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 will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held July 10-14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Westin Beach Resort, 97000 South Overseas Highway, Key Largo, Florida; telephone: 305-852-5553.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, July 10, 2000

9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.—Convene the Stone Crab Management Committee to discuss Stone Crab Amendment 7. The Stone Crab amendment proposes to extend the trap certificate program for the commercial stone crab fishery adopted by the state of Florida into the federal waters off west Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, after working with the stone crab industry and the Council over the past 4 years, has adopted by rule a trap certificate program that will gradually reduce the number of traps over a 30-year period. The Florida legislature has approved the portion of this program pertaining to licenses and fees. The committee will make recommendations for the full Council to take final action on Thursday morning.

1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to review an options paper for an amendment to require vessel and operator permits, and receive a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report on the status of the shrimp stocks.

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.—Convene the Sustainable Fisheries Committee to discuss resubmission of the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) Amendment Bycatch Reporting Measures.

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.—Convene the Budget Committee to review the status of the CY2000 budget and CY1999 budget extension.

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

8 a.m.-12 noon—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to receive a report on the status of the jewfish stock, to review and discuss red snapper and grouper stock restoration scenarios, and to select stock assessments to be completed by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center in FY 2001.

1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.—Convene the Joint Marine Reserves/Reef Fish Management Committees to discuss a Generic Amendment Addressing the Establishment of Tortugas Marine Reserves, which proposes to establish the Tortugas South marine reserve that will encompass the Riley's Hump mutton snapper spawning aggregation site established by the Council in 1994. The total area of the proposed Tortugas South marine reserve is 60 square nautical miles. The amendment also proposes to create the Tortugas North marine reserve cooperatively with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary program, the state of Florida, and the National Park system, which will encompass an area of 120 square nautical miles. The portion proposed to be established by the Council is 13 square nautical miles. The Committees' recommendations on this amendment will be considered by the full Council on Thursday morning.

3:30 p.m.–5 p.m.—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to hear a presentation on the Williams Gas Pipeline Project and the Gulfstream Gas Pipeline Project.

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—Convene the Mackerel Management Committee to approve a letter to the states and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) on the sale of fish, and to approve the Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan for public hearings.

1 p.m.—The Council will convene.

1:15 p.m.–5 p.m.—Receive public testimony on Stone Crab Amendment 7, Resubmission of the Section on Bycatch Reporting in the SFA Amendment, and the Generic Amendment Addressing Establishment of the Tortugas 2000 Marine Reserve.

Thursday, July 13, 2000

8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m.—Continue public testimony if necessary.

9:30 a.m.–10 a.m.—Receive a report of the Stone Crab Management Committee.

10 a.m.–10:30 a.m.—Receive a report of the Joint Marine Reserves and Reef Fish Management Committees.

10:30 a.m.–12 noon—Receive a report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

1:30 p.m.–2 p.m.—Receive a report of the Mackerel Management Committee.

2 p.m.–2:30 p.m.—Receive a report of the Shrimp Management Committee.

2:30 p.m.–3 p.m.—Receive a report of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Committee.

3 p.m.–3:15 p.m.—Receive a report of the Habitat Protection Committee.

3:15 p.m.–3:30 p.m.—Receive a report of the Budget Committee.

3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.—Receive a report of the Council Chairman's Meeting.

3:45 p.m.–4 p.m.—Receive the SAFMC Liaison report.

4 p.m.–4:15 p.m.—Receive a report on the Marine Recreational Symposium.

4:15 p.m.–4:30 p.m.—Receive a report on the Joint U.S./Canadian Observer Workshop.

4:30 p.m.–4:45 p.m.—Receive enforcement reports.

4:45 p.m.–5 p.m.—Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

5 p.m.–5:15 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

5:15 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—Other Business.

5:30 p.m.–5:45 p.m.—Election of Temporary Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during these meetings. Council 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final actions to address such emergencies. A copy of the Committee schedule and agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 228-2815.

These meetings are 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) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: June 19, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 00-15974 Filed 6-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061900F]

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 joint public meetings of its Groundfish Oversight Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel, and separate public meetings of its Capacity, Scientific and Statistical and Herring Committees, 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 from July 6 to July 19, 2000. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific agendas, dates and times.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific meeting locations.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates, Locations and Agendas

Thursday, July 6, 2000, 9:30 a.m.—Joint Groundfish Oversight Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel

Location: Trade Winds Motor Inn, 2 Park View Drive, Rockland, Maine 04841; telephone (207) 596-6661.

The committee and advisors will conduct a joint meeting to continue development of management options for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). These groups will continue their discussion of alternatives within the framework of the status quo management measures currently in the FMP. They also may review information on the current four, year-round area closures and develop preliminary options for changes to those areas. The committee will receive the report of the June 27 Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting; review, and possibly act on, suggestions from the advisors, including identification of an additional approach to management that should be considered for Amendment 13. If time permits, the committee may continue development of area management and sector allocation alternatives.