

pools supporting the Riverside fairy shrimp have occurred throughout these areas due to urban and water development, flood control, highway and utility projects, as well as the conversion of wildlands to agricultural and other human uses.

The species was Federally listed as endangered throughout its range on August 3, 1993 (58 FR 41384), and its continued survival is reduced by habitat loss and degradation. On September 21, 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Service published a rule proposing critical habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 57136). We proposed designation of approximately 4,880 hectares (12,060 acres) as critical habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Proposed critical habitat is in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Ventura Counties, California, as described in the proposed rule.

Section 4(b)(2) of the Act requires that the Secretary shall designate or revise critical habitat based upon the best scientific and commercial data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. Based upon the previously published proposal to designate critical habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp and comments received during previous comment period, we have prepared a draft economic analysis of the proposed critical habitat designation, which is available at the above Internet and mailing address.

Public Comment Solicited

We have reopened the comment period at this time in order to accept the best and most current scientific and

commercial data available regarding the proposed critical habitat and the draft economic analysis. Previously submitted written comments on this critical habitat proposal need not be resubmitted. The current comment period on this proposal closes on March 30, 2001. Written comments may be submitted to the Service office in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Douglas Krofta (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 20, 2001.

David Patte,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 022001A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public 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 Council meeting, on March 14 and 15, 2001, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, March 14 and 15, at 9 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Radisson Hotel New London, 35 Governor Winthrop Boulevard, New London, CT, 06320; telephone (860) 443-7000. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone (978) 465-0492.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

After introductions, the meeting will begin with a report from the Council's Groundfish Committee on alternatives for draft Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Prior to that discussion, the Council will receive two reports. The first will summarize fishing industry comments on the social impacts of groundfish management measures since 1994. The second will present information on changes in groundfish vessel gross revenues since 1994. A discussion of the biological objectives for the amendment is also scheduled. The alternatives discussion will be based on the broad concepts of refinements to the status quo measures, area-based management and sector allocation by gear type.

Thursday, March 15, 2001

The second day of the Council meeting will begin with reports on recent activities from the Council Chairman, Executive Director, the NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel and representatives of the Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. These reports will be followed by a brief period for public comments on any topic relevant to Council business. The Council will revisit its priorities for 2001 in view of the need to develop a Red Crab FMP. Based on Council approval of a change in priorities, the Red Crab Committee will be prepared to recommend goals and objectives for the Red Crab FMP. The Scallop Committee will seek approval of goals and objectives for

Amendment 10 to the Scallop FMP as well as a draft outline of management alternatives. The Council meeting will adjourn after addressing any other outstanding business.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. 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 action to address the emergency.

The Council will consider public comments at a minimum of two Council meetings before making recommendations to the NMFS Regional Administrator on any framework

adjustment to a fishery management plan. If she concurs with the adjustment proposed by the Council, the Regional Administrator has the discretion to publish the action either as proposed or final regulations in the **Federal Register**. Documents pertaining to framework adjustments are available for public review 7 days prior to a final vote by the Council.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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 date.

Dated: February 22, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-4893 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

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