

in April, 2001 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 on Monday, April 16, 2001, and Tuesday, April 17, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Monday, April 16, 2001, 9:30 a.m.—
Joint Groundfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting

The Groundfish Oversight Committee & Advisory Panel will continue development of management alternatives for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which will achieve biological goals of the Amendment. The panel and committee will also consider the recommendations of the Plan Development Team (PDT). PDT options include measures that, if adopted, may reduce days-at-sea and may control latent or unused days-at-sea. The Committee will also further develop measures in the alternatives, such as developing a flexible closure system, days-at-sea counting and allocation alternatives, closed areas and other issues. The Committee may discuss recreational fishing measures. The Committee intends to present these alternatives to the Council at the May 2-3, 2001 Council meeting.

Tuesday, April 17, 2001, 9:30 a.m.—
Habitat Oversight Committee Meeting

The agenda will include a discussion of habitat measures, alternatives and analyses to be included in the Groundfish FMP Amendment 13 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The committee will consider preliminary information on required essential fish habitat (EFH) components of proposed Skate and Red Crab FMPs. They will also review EFH consultation activities, including a proposed General Concurrence for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District's Nationwide Permit Program. The Committee will review applications to the Advisory Panel in a closed session.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, 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 and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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: March 23, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032201C]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Hawaii members of the Commercial, Recreational, Subsistence/Indigenous, and Ecosystem and Habitat Advisory Panels (Hawaii AP), in Honolulu, HI. The Council will also hold a meeting of its Bottomfish Plan Team (BPT), in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The meeting of the Hawaii AP will be held on April 13, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The BPT will be held on April 17 and 18, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day.

ADDRESSES: The Hawaii AP and BPT will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: 808-522-8220.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 13, 2001, the Hawaii Advisory Panel

members will meet to discuss fishery issues of concern in Hawaii, brief new advisors on Council issues and identify agenda items for a full Advisory Panel meeting to be held in June, 2001.

Friday, April 13, 2001

The agenda for the Hawaii Advisory Panel meeting will include the items listed below:

1. Introduction;
2. Orientation including overview of the Magnuson Stevens Act, Council decision making process and fishery management plans (FMPs);
3. Summary of current fishery issues including, but not limited to, the Council's FMPs, draft environmental impact statements, biological opinions, indigenous initiatives, coral reef fishery management, and other issues affecting the management of fisheries in the Western Pacific Region;
4. Discussion of Hawaii local fishery issues;
5. Recommended agenda items for full Advisory Panel meeting to be held in June 2001;
6. Outreach efforts including supporting fishermen's forums in each island area and Council participation in organized public events; and
7. Other issues.

Tuesday, April 17, 2001

The BPT will meet to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introduction;
2. Annual Report review;
 - a. Review Status of 1999 Annual Report Recommendations
 - b. Identify problems and possible solutions for uncompleted recommendations
 - c. Review 2000 Annual Report modules and recommendations
 - American Samoa
 - Guam
 - Hawaii
 - Northern Mariana Islands
 - d. 1999 Annual Report region-wide recommendations
3. Review Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Reserve conservation measures for bottomfish; and
 - a. Measures
 - b. Impacts from closures
 - c. Discussion and recommendations
4. Status of pending amendments/framework adjustments;
 - a. Addition of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Pacific Remote Island Areas to Bottomfish FMP
 - b. Mau Zone new entry criteria

Wednesday, April 18, 2001

1. Bottomfish Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS);

- a. Review alternatives and findings
- b. Comments on DEIS
- c. Discussion and recommendations
- 2. Status of Biological Opinion;
- 3. Monk Seals;
 - a. Status of Litigation
 - b. Recommendations from the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team
- c. Proposed methods to avoid interactions with Hawaiian Monk Seals
- d. Discussion and recommendations
- 4. Observer Program
 - a. NMFS plan for observer coverage
 - b. Council recommendation regarding observers from 108th meeting
 - c. New technology options to monitor bottomfish vessels and policy needs
 - d. Discussion and recommendations
- 5. Research priorities for Western Pacific Region bottomfish fisheries; and
 - a. Bottomfish research needs
 - i. American Samoa
 - ii. Guam
 - iii. Hawaii
 - iv. CNMI
 - b. Prioritize research needs and recommendations
- 6. Other Business.

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The Hawaii AP and BPT will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Hawaii AP and BPT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Advisory Panel and Plan Team action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issue arising after publication of this document that requires 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.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 the meeting date.

Dated: March 23, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032201D]

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 (Council) will hold a meeting of its Coral Reef Ecosystem Plan Team (CREPT), in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The meeting of the CREPT will be held on April 11-12, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: 808-522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 11-12, 2001, the CREPT will continue its discussion of comments received during the public comment period on the draft Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (CREFMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and make recommendations to the Council. Copies of the draft CREFMP/DEIS are available from the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council office.

The agenda for the CREPT meeting will include the items listed below (the order in which items are addressed may change):

Wednesday, April 11, 2001

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Discussion of public comments on draft CREFMP/DEIS
 - A. Marine Protected Areas
 - (1) Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)
 - (2) Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI)
 - (3) Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA)
 - (4) Guam
 - (5) Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands (CNMI)
 - (6) American Samoa
 - B. Permits and Reporting
 - (1) General permit
 - (2) Special permit
 - (3) Prohibited Management Unit Species (MUS) (exemptions)
 - (4) Reporting

C. Fishing Gear and Methods

- (1) Allowable gear list
- (2) Prohibited methods (e.g. scuba-spearfishing)

D. Framework Actions

E. Non-regulatory Actions

F. Research, Monitoring and Assessment

G. Enforcement

H. Overfishing/Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

I. Essential Fish Habitat/Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH/HAPC)(designation, identifying adverse effects, minimizing adverse fishing effects)

J. Other

Thursday, April 12, 2001

1. Discussion and Recommendations (on above comments)

2. Other business

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Plan Team for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Plan Team action during this meeting. Plan Team action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issue arising after publication of this document that requires 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.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 the meeting date.

Dated: March 23, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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