

have contributed to the decline and loss of populations of the Carolina heelsplitter and threaten the remaining populations. These factors include pollutants in wastewater discharges (sewage treatment plants and industrial discharges); habitat loss and alteration associated with impoundments and other stream alteration activities; and increased stormwater run-off and the run-off of silt, fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants from poorly implemented land-use activities (Service 1993, 1997, and 2001).

The Carolina heelsplitter requires cool, clean, well oxygenated water. It has been recorded from a variety of substrata (including mud, clay, sand, gravel, and cobble/boulder/bedrock) without significant silt accumulations, along stable, well-shaded stream banks (Keferl and Shelly 1988, Keferl 1991). The stability of the stream banks and stream-bottom substrata appear to be critical to the species (Service 1993, 1997, and 2001).

We listed the Carolina heelsplitter as endangered (58 FR 34926) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) on June 30, 1993. On July 11, 2001, we published in the **Federal Register** a proposal to designate critical habitat for this species (66 FR 36229). The proposal includes approximately 7.2 kilometers (km)—4.5 miles (mi)—of Goose Creek, 8.8 km (5.5 mi) of Duck Creek, and 19.6 km (12.25 mi) of Waxhaw Creek in Union County, North Carolina; 18.4 km (11.5 mi) of Flat Creek and 9.6 km (6.0 mi) of Gills Creek in Lancaster County, South Carolina; 23.6 km (14.75 mi) of the Lynches River in Lancaster, Chesterfield, and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina; 11.2 km (7.0 mi) of Mountain Creek and 10.8 km (6.75 mi) of Beaverdam Creek in Edgefield County, South Carolina; 18.4 km (11.5 mi) of Turkey Creek in Edgefield and McCormick Counties, South Carolina; and 20.8 km (13.0 mi) of Cuffytown Creek in Greenwood and McCormick Counties, South Carolina. All of the stream reaches proposed for designation as critical habitat for the Carolina heelsplitter are within the current occupied range of the species and include all known occurrences of the species.

Section 4(b)(2) of the Act requires that we designate or revise critical habitat based upon the best scientific and commercial data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact, and any other relevant impact, of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. We may exclude an area from critical habitat if we determine that the benefits of excluding the area outweigh the benefits of including the

area as critical habitat, provided such exclusion will not result in the extinction of the species. Consequently, we have prepared a draft economic analysis concerning the proposed critical habitat designation, which is available for review and comment (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit comments on the draft economic analysis described in this notice, as well as any other aspect of the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Carolina heelsplitter. Our final determination on the proposed critical habitat will take into consideration comments and any additional information received by the date specified above. All previous comments and information submitted during the comment period need not be resubmitted. Written comments may be submitted to the State Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Our practice is to make all comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. In some circumstances, we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Referenced Cited

A complete list of all references cited in this document is available upon request from the Asheville Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Author

The primary author of this document is John A. Fridell (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 26, 2002.

Craig Manson,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. 02-5275 Filed 3-5-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 022502A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: On March 4, 2002, NMFS published a notification announcing that the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day Council meeting on March 19 and 20, 2002, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This document republishes the March 4th document in its entirety and supplements the notification by providing additional information concerning a presentation by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center concerning the Northeast multispecies groundfish reference points. In addition, this document provides additional information concerning Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19 and 20, 2002. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mystic Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355; telephone (860) 572-0731. 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: On March 4, 2002, NMFS published a notification in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 9646) of the Council's 2-day meeting scheduled for March 19 and 20, 2002, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the EEZ. This action republishes the March 4, 2002, notification in its entirety and provides additional information concerning the Northeast multispecies groundfish reference points and Amendment 10 to the

Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Following introductions, the Council will consider fishing effort capacity reduction proposals for inclusion in draft Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Council will consider proposals for modifying permit transfer provisions, reducing latent effort (unused groundfish days-at-sea) and the consolidation of fishing effort.

Following this report, the Council will provide time on the agenda for public comments on any issues that are relevant to fisheries management and Council business. The Groundfish Committee will discuss progress on the development of Amendment 13. They will also recommend and possibly approve changes to the groundfish status determination criteria for inclusion in Amendment 13. The NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center will present results of the most recent analyses of reference points for groundfish stocks in the multispecies fishery. The Council may consider appropriate changes in reference points for use in upcoming groundfish rulemakings.

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

The meeting will reconvene with reports on recent activities from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard,

NMFS Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. A discussion of implementation issues concerning the U.S./ Canada Shared Resources Agreement is then scheduled, followed by a vote on whether to adopt the agreement, the contents of which were presented at the January Council meeting. There will be a discussion of possible future action related to the annual evaluation of whiting management measures. The Council will discuss whether it will complete a Framework Adjustment to implement alternatives to the year 4 default measures for whiting scheduled to become effective on May 1, 2003. During the Monkfish Committee Report the Council will consider approval of goals and objectives for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP for the purpose of providing a basis for the development of management measures. There also will be an update on a timetable for the amendment and progress to develop management alternatives. The Scallop Committee will consider, and possibly approve, additional management alternatives relating to minimizing bycatch and adverse impacts on habitat for inclusion in Draft Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for the amendment. The committee also will provide an overview of all alternatives under consideration for inclusion in the Amendment. In addition, the Council will address any unresolved issues relating to Amendment 10 development.

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 that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

The New England 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 the Regional Administrator concurs with the adjustment proposed by the Council, the Regional Administrator may 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: March 1, 2002.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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