

of the species; and the presence of monitoring provisions to determine effectiveness of recovery efforts and that permit adaptive management (68 FR 15100; March 28, 2003). In some cases, conservation efforts may be relatively new or may not have had sufficient time to demonstrate their biological benefit. In such cases, provisions of adequate monitoring and funding for conservation efforts are essential to ensure that the intended conservation benefits are realized. NMFS encourages all parties to submit information on ongoing efforts to protect and conserve Pacific herring in Washington and British Columbia, as well as information on recently implemented or planned activities (i.e., since the 2001 status review) and their likely impact(s).

#### *Identification of Peer Reviewers*

On July 1, 1994, NMFS, jointly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, published a series of policies regarding listings under the ESA, including a policy for peer review of scientific data (59 FR 34270). The intent of the peer review policy is to ensure that listings are based on the best scientific and commercial data available. If NMFS determines that listing is warranted, the agency will solicit the expert opinions of at least three qualified specialists, concurrent with the public comment period following the publication of a proposed rule. In advance of any such determination, NMFS is soliciting the names and affiliations of potential independent peer reviewers from the academic and scientific community, Native American tribal groups, federal and state agencies, and the private sector.

#### **References**

Copies of the petition and related materials are available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1salmon/salmonesa/herring/reference.html>, or upon request (see **ADDRESSES** section above).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: August 4, 2004.

**William T. Hogarth,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-18254 Filed 8-9-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 080204F]

#### **Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Draft Amendment 26 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Requirement; Commercial Red Snapper Fishery; Scoping Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; notice of scoping meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) intends to prepare a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) in support of proposed Amendment 26 to the Reef Fish FMP (Red Snapper IFQ Amendment). The DSEIS will evaluate alternatives for actions that would establish an IFQ program and set forth a VMS requirement for the commercial red snapper fishery. The purpose of this notice of intent is to solicit public comments on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the DSEIS.

**DATES:** Ten scoping meetings will be held throughout the Gulf region during August 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, locations, and times.

Written comments must be received in the Council's office (see **ADDRESSES**) by 5 p.m., September 9, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations, times, and dates.

Written comments on the scope of the DSEIS and requests for the Scoping Document may be directed to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, The Commons at Rivergate, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619; telephone: 813-228-2815; fax: 813-225-7015. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to [redsnapper.IFQ@noaa.gov](mailto:redsnapper.IFQ@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line the following document identifier: Red Snapper IFQ Amendment.

Scoping documents (*IFQ Profile Scoping Document for an IFQ and System for the Gulf of Mexico Commercial Red Snapper Fishery*) are available to download at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Wayne Swingle; phone: 813-228-2815; fax: 813-225-7015; e-mail: [Wayne.Swingle@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:Wayne.Swingle@gulfcouncil.org) or Phil Steele; phone: 727-570-5305; fax: 727-570-5583; e-mail: [Phil.Steele@noaa.gov](mailto:Phil.Steele@noaa.gov) or visit the Council's web page at: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council intends to prepare a DSEIS in support of the Red Snapper IFQ Amendment to evaluate actions that would establish an IFQ program and a VMS requirement in the commercial red snapper fishery. Alternatives considered under the IFQ action are described in the Council's *IFQ Profile* document under the following categories: IFQ structure; initial allocation of IFQ shares and annual coupons; ownership and transfer controls; monitoring and transfers of IFQ share certificates and annual coupons; and appeals process. Alternatives considered under the VMS action are described in the Council's *Scoping Document for an IFQ System for the Gulf of Mexico Commercial Red Snapper Fishery* (see **ADDRESSES** for information on obtaining the IFQ profile and scoping document). In addition to requiring (or not requiring) the use of VMS on commercial vessels harvesting red snapper, these alternatives would establish whether NMFS or vessel owners would be responsible for the costs of VMS devices.

The Council is soliciting public comment on the range of alternatives and scope of issues that should be considered under the IFQ and VMS actions. Scoping documents will be mailed to persons with commercial red snapper licenses. Others may request these documents from the Council (see **ADDRESSES** for contact information).

Additionally, 10 scoping hearings will be held at the following locations and dates beginning at 7 p.m. and concluding no later than 10 p.m.:

1. Wednesday, August 11, 2004, Harrah's Lake Charles Casino Hotel, 505 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601; telephone: 337-437-1546;

2. Thursday, August 12, 2004, Holiday Inn Houma, 210 South Hollywood Road, Houma, LA 70360; telephone: 877-800-9383;

3. Friday, August 13, 2004, New Orleans Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062; telephone: 504-469-5000;

4. Monday, August 16, 2004, Holiday Inn Emerald Beach, 1102 South Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi, TX 78401; telephone: 361-883-5731;

5. Tuesday, August 17, 2004, Palacios Recreation Center, 2401 Perryman, Palacios, TX 77465; telephone: 361-972-2387;

6. Wednesday, August 18, 2004, San Luis Resort, 5222 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston Island, TX 77551; telephone: 409-740-8616;

7. Monday, August 23, 2004, MS Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Drive, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: 228-374-5000;

8. Tuesday, August 24, 2004, Perdido Beach Resort, 27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach, AL 36561; telephone: 251-981-9811;

9. Monday, August 30, 2004, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408; telephone: 850-234-6541; and

10. Tuesday, August 31, 2004, Radisson Bay Harbor Hotel, 7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-281-8900.

These meetings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

The completed DSEIS associated with the Draft Red Snapper IFQ Amendment will be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, announced in the **Federal Register**, and open to public comment for 45-day period. This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (and to NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6 regarding NOAA's compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations).

The Council will consider public comments received on the DSEIS in developing the final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS), and before taking final action on the Red Snapper IFQ Amendment. The Council will submit both the final Amendment and the supporting FSEIS to NMFS for conduction of the referendum, Secretarial review, approval, and implementation under the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

NMFS will announce, through a notice published in the **Federal Register**, the availability of the final Red Snapper IFQ Amendment for public review during the Secretarial review period. During Secretarial review, NMFS will also file the FSEIS with the EPA for a final 30-day public comment period. This comment period will be concurrent with the Secretarial review period and will end prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the final Red Snapper IFQ Amendment.

NMFS will announce, through a notice published in the **Federal Register**, all public comment periods on the final Red Snapper IFQ Amendment, its proposed implementing regulations, and its associated FSEIS. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the Secretarial review period, whether they are or are not on the final Amendment, the proposed regulations, or the FSEIS, prior to final agency action.

Dated: August 4, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-18253 Filed 8-9-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 073004B]

#### Notice of Meeting and Review of the Analytical Framework for Conducting Jeopardy Analyses Under the Endangered Species Act

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting

**SUMMARY:** The National Marine Fisheries Service is hosting a meeting to solicit constructive criticism from an expert panel on the analytical framework used for conducting jeopardy analyses under the Endangered Species Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will span three days from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, beginning Tuesday, August 24 and concluding on Thursday, August 26, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in a conference room at the Four Points Sheraton Bethesda, 8400 Wisconsin Avenue, in Bethesda, MD.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be facilitated and structured to allow panelists to ask questions and discuss ideas freely. Invited panelists have been asked to provide constructive criticism of the analytical framework for conducting jeopardy analyses under the Endangered Species Act and identify options for assessing species risk under varying circumstances. The meeting is open to the public, although space is limited. Interested persons may present comments, in writing, on the issues before the panel.

Written submissions will be accepted at the meeting and addressed during the meeting, as time allows, and in the meeting summary.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact us as soon as possible.

For additional information or to reserve a space at the meeting contact, Phil Williams, Chief of Endangered Species, Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910; telephone(301) 713-1401, or email [phil.Williams@noaa.gov](mailto:phil.Williams@noaa.gov).

Dated: August 4, 2004.

**Phil Williams,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-18184 Filed 8-9-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Oman

August 4, 2004.

**AGENCY:** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection adjusting limits.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 12, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Becky Geiger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection website at <http://www.cbp.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel website at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for swing and special shift.