

1. IATTC
2. WCPFC
 - a. Science Committee Meeting
 - b. Interseasonal Meeting on Tropical Tuna Measures
 - c. Northern Committee Meeting
 - d. Technical and Compliance Committee Meeting
 - e. Permanent Advisory Committee Issues
 - f. U.S. Proposals for WCPFC 14
3. North Pacific Fisheries Commission Meeting
4. South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
- F. Advisory Group Report and Recommendations
 1. Advisory Panel
 2. American Samoa Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee
 3. Scientific & Statistical Committee
- G. Standing Committee Recommendations
- H. Public Comment
- I. Council Discussion and Action
9. Protected Species
 - A. Updates on Endangered Species Act
 1. Turtles
 2. Corals
 3. Other Actions
 - B. Advisory Group Report and Recommendations
 1. Advisory Panel
 2. Scientific & Statistical Committee
 3. Public Comment
 - D. Council Discussion and Action
10. Program Planning and Research
 - A. Alternatives for Aquaculture Management (Initial Action Item)
 - B. Options for Designating Management Unit Species Into Ecosystem Components (Initial Action Item)
 - C. Precious Corals Management Issues
 1. Refining Precious Coral Essential Fish Habitat
 2. Gold Coral Moratorium (Initial Action Item)
 - D. Territory Science Initiative Project Updates
 - E. Report on Coral Reef Regulation Review
 - F. Social Science Planning Committee Strategic Plan and Priorities
 - G. Report on the Climate Change Training Workshop
 - H. Regional, National and International Outreach & Education
 - I. Advisory Group Report and Recommendations
 1. Advisory Panel
 2. Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee
 3. Scientific & Statistical Committee
 - J. Standing Committee Recommendations
 - K. Public Comment
 - L. Council Discussion and Action
11. Hawaii Archipelago & PRIA
 - A. Moku Pepa
 - B. Legislative Report
 - C. Enforcement Issues
 - D. Fishing Year 2018 Annual Catch Limit Specification for the Main Hawaiian Island Coral Reef Fish (Final Action Item)
 - E. Education and Outreach Initiatives
 - F. Advisory Group Report and Recommendations
 1. Advisory Panel
 2. Scientific & Statistical Committee
 - G. Public Comment
 - H. Council Discussion and Action
12. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Fishers Forum—Fishing: Food. Life. Future.

Thursday, October 19, 2017, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
13. Mariana Archipelago
 - A. Guam
 1. Isla Informe
 2. Legislative Report
 3. Enforcement Issues
 4. Community Activities and Issues
 - a. Report on Indigenous Fishing Rights Initiatives
 - b. Report on Malesso CBMP
 - c. Report on the Yigo CBMP
 5. Education and Outreach Initiatives
 - B. Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
 1. Arongol Falú
 2. Legislative Report
 3. Enforcement Issues
 4. Community Activities and Issues
 - a. Report on Northern Islands CBMP
 5. Education and Outreach Initiatives
 - C. Advisory Group Report and Recommendations
 1. Advisory Panel
 2. Scientific & Statistical Committee
 - D. Public Comment
 - E. Council Discussion and Action
13. Administrative Matters
 - A. Financial Reports
 - B. Administrative Reports
 - C. Council Family Changes
 1. Education Committee
 - D. Meetings and Workshops
 - E. Other Business
 - F. Standing Committee Recommendations
 - G. Public Comment
 - H. Council Discussion and Action
14. Election of Officers
15. Other Business

Non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion and formal Council action during its 171st meeting. However, Council action on regulatory issues will be restricted to those issues

specifically listed in this document and any regulatory issue arising after publication of this document that requires emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take 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 five days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 19, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF705

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public meetings of the Council and its Committees.

DATES: The meetings will be held Tuesday, October 10, 2017 through Thursday, October 12, 2017. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at: Hyatt Long Island East End, 451 East Main St., Riverhead, NY 11901, telephone: (631) 208-0002.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255. The Council's Web site, www.mafmc.org also has details on the meeting location, proposed agenda, webinar listen-in access, and briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the agenda, though agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's Web site when possible.)

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Executive Committee

Review 2017 and Proposed 2018 Implementation Plan; discuss recommendations on 2018 priorities.

Swearing In of New and Reappointed Council Members

Election of Officers

Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Goals and Objectives Workshop

Review results from Fisheries Forum project; review Fishery Management Action Team recommendations; identify and approve revised goals and objectives for public hearing document.

Golden Tilefish Individual Transferable Quota Program Review

Review and approve final report.

Regional Planning Body Ecologically Rich Areas Presentation

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Lobster Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Framework—Meeting 2

Final action on preferred alternatives

Spiny Dogfish Specifications

Review previously set specifications for 2018 and consider any modifications

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Risk Assessment

Finalize and adopt EAFM Based Risk Assessment.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial Accountability Measure Framework—Meeting 1

Review background, issues, and draft alternatives.

2018 Recreational Black Sea Bass Wave 1 Fishery

Consider a potential February 2018 opening of the recreational Wave 1 fishery.

Law Enforcement Reports

Reports will be received from the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard.

2019–23 Strategic Plan

Review plan for the development of the Strategic Plan.

Thursday, October 12, 2017

• Business Session Committee Reports; Executive Director's Report;

Science Report; Organization Reports; and Liaison Reports.

- Continuing and New Business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 19, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2017–20238 Filed 9–21–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XF678

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for exempted fishing permit.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application from the Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC). If granted, this EFP would allow non-pelagic trawl catcher/processor operators targeting groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) to remove halibut from a trawl codend on the deck, and release those halibut back to the water in a timely manner to increase survivability. The proposed project would build on work conducted by the applicant under EFPs in 2009, 2012, and 2015 through 2017 to test

methods for sorting halibut on deck of non-pelagic trawl catcher/processor vessels in the BSAI including methods to increase halibut survivability and ensure reliable catch accounting and personnel safety. The objective of the proposed project is to refine the few, remaining operational issues to yield robust methods which could be implemented to allow sorting of halibut on the deck of non-pelagic trawl vessels as a standard practice in the BSAI and GOA in the future. The specific objectives of the proposed project are to (1) continue the proven methods used in 2017 EFP operations in 2018 and 2019; (2) develop individual-vessel deck sorting safety protocols; (3) test methods for moving fish on deck to ensure a single flow of fish, which is essential for proper catch monitoring; and (4) expand the project to the GOA to standardize operations between the BSAI and GOA and evaluate the potential for increasing halibut survivability in the GOA. This experiment has the potential to promote the objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act.

DATES: Comments on this EFP application must be submitted to NMFS on or before October 10, 2017. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will consider the application at its meeting from October 2, 2017, through October 10, 2017, in Anchorage, AK.

ADDRESSES: The Council meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. The agenda for the Council meeting is available at <http://www.npfmc.org>. You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2017–0112, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/ #!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2017-0112, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change.