

SUMMARY: NMFS is soliciting nominations to the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) as established by the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). NMFS also is soliciting nominations for technical advisors to the Advisory Committee's species working groups.

DATES: Nominations are due by September 6, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Nominations to the Advisory Committee or to a species working group should be sent to: Mr. Will Martin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, NOAA, Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20230, with a copy sent to Kim Blankenbeker, Office of International Affairs, Room 14229, NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Blankenbeker, 301-713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 971b of the ATCA (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) requires that an advisory committee be established that shall be composed of (1) not less than five nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the U.S. Commissioners to ICCAT who shall select such individuals from the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the ICCAT Convention; and (2) the chairs (or their designees) of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf Fishery Management Councils. The Advisory Committee shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consist of an equitable balance among the various groups concerned with these fisheries.

Each member of the Advisory Committee appointed under item (1) above shall serve for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for reappointment. Members of the Advisory Committee may attend all public meetings of the ICCAT Commission, Council, or any Panel and any other meetings to which they are invited by the ICCAT Commission, Council, or any Panel. The Advisory Committee shall be invited to attend all nonexecutive meetings of the U.S. Commissioners to ICCAT and, at such meetings, shall be given the opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the ICCAT Commission. Members of the Advisory Committee shall receive no compensation for their services as such members. The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State may pay the

necessary travel expenses of members of the Advisory Committee.

The terms of 18 of the 20 appointed Advisory Committee members expire on December 31, 1996. The other two terms will expire on December 31, 1997. For the 18 appointments expiring at the end of this year, new appointments will be made this fall but will not take effect until January 1, 1997.

Section 971b1 of the ATCA specifies that the U.S. Commissioners may establish species working groups for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations to the U.S. Commissioners and the Advisory Committee on matters relating to the conservation and management of any highly migratory species covered by the ICCAT Convention. Any species working group shall consist of no more than seven members of the Advisory Committee and no more than four scientific or technical personnel, as considered necessary by the Commissioners. Currently, there are four species working groups advising the Advisory Committee and the U.S. Commissioners. Specifically, there is a Bluefin Tuna Working Group, a Swordfish Working Group, a Billfish Working Group, and a BAYS (Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, and Skipjack) Working Group. Technical advisors to a species working group serve at the pleasure of the U.S. Commissioners; therefore, the Commissioners can choose to alter appointments at any time.

Nominations to the Advisory Committee or to a species working group should include a letter of interest and a resumé or curriculum vitae. Letters of recommendation are useful but not required. Self-nominations are acceptable. When making a nomination, please clearly specify which appointment (Advisory Committee member or technical advisor to a species working group) is being sought. Requesting consideration for placement on both the Advisory Committee and a species working group is acceptable. Those interested in a species working group technical advisor appointment should indicate which of the four working groups is preferred. Placement on the requested species working group, however, is not guaranteed.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*

Dated: August 1, 1996.

Nancy Foster,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[I.D. 073096C]

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting.

DATES: This meeting will be held on August 29, 1996, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Radisson Inn New Orleans Airport, 2150 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Kenner, LA; telephone: 504-467-3111.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Hoogland, Biologist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A panel of concerned representatives of Mississippi and Louisiana recreational and commercial fishing groups, conservation organizations, academia and state and federal resource agencies will gather to review and discuss marine fishery habitat issues.

The Mississippi/Louisiana group is part of a three-unit Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP) to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The principal role of the advisory panels is to assist the Council in attempting to maintain optimum conditions within the habitat and ecosystems supporting the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Advisory panels serve as a first alert system to call to the Council's attention proposed projects being developed and other activities which may adversely impact the Gulf marine fisheries and their supporting ecosystems. The panels may also provide advice to the Council on its policies and procedures for addressing environmental affairs.

At this meeting, the AP will review coastal restoration projects in Louisiana, oil spill response and natural resource damage assessment, hypoxia in the Gulf and ways to address it, and Mississippi River water diversion projects.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting the Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other

auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by August 22, 1996.

Dated: July 31, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[**I.D. 073096B**]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council meeting will be held August 20-23, 1996. It will begin on August 20, at 8 a.m. in a closed session (not open to the public) to discuss litigation. The open session begins at 8:30 a.m. The Council meeting reconvenes at 8 a.m. August 21, and will adjourn when Council business has been completed. Other advisory meetings will be held August 18-22, 1996. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting agendas.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Red Lion Hotel - Columbia River, 1401 North Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217; telephone: (503) 283-2111.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the Council agenda:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Administrative and Other Matters
 1. Report of the Budget Committee,
 2. Status of legislation,
 3. Summary of Council Chairs' meeting,
 4. Anchovy biomass and quotas for 1996-1997,
 5. Research and data needs, and
 6. Composition of Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel, and Habitat Steering Group.
- C. Salmon Management
 1. Sequence of events and status of fisheries, and
 2. Plan amendments.

D. Habitat Issues

1. Report of the Steering Group.

E. Pacific Halibut Management

1. Report on the July 1996 interim meeting of International Pacific Halibut Commission, and
2. Proposed changes to regulations for 1997.

F. Groundfish Management

1. Limited entry fixed gear sablefish endorsement (Plan Amendment),
2. Limited entry fixed gear sablefish harvest regime for 1997,
3. Status of regulations,
4. Status of fisheries and inseason adjustments,
5. Limited Entry Vessel Platoon System,
6. Preliminary stock assessments, harvest levels and other specifications for 1997,
7. Pacific whiting allocation, season framework, and salmon bycatch,
8. California gillnet regulations in the exclusive economic zone,
9. Restrictions on limited entry permit transfers,
10. Landing and disposition of fish exceeding trip limits, and
11. Other proposed measures for 1997, if any.

Other meetings:

The Groundfish Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet on August 18, at 7 p.m.

The Groundfish Management Team will convene on August 19, at 8 a.m. to address groundfish management items on the Council agenda.

The Habitat Steering Group will convene on August 19, at 10 a.m.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene on August 19, at 8 a.m. and August 20, at 8 a.m. to address scientific issues related to Council agenda items.

The Budget Committee will convene on August 19, at 2 p.m..

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel will convene on August 20, at 8 a.m. and will continue to meet on August 21, and on August 22.

The Enforcement Consultants meet on August 20, at 7 p.m. to address enforcement issues related to Council agenda items.

Detailed agendas for the above advisory meetings will be available after July 26, 1996.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric W. Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 1, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries

Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[**I.D. 080196A**]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for an individual incidental take permit (P211K).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at Portland, OR (ODFW) have applied in due form for a permit that would authorize an incidental take of an endangered species.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application must be received on or before September 6, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ODFW requests a permit under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

ODFW (P211K) requests a 5-year permit for an annual incidental take of resident, fluvial, and anadromous, endangered, Umpqua River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) associated with the state of Oregon's recreational and commercial fisheries in the Umpqua River Basin. ODFW is charged by statute with the management and protection of the fish and wildlife resources of the State. An individual incidental take permit is requested since ODFW is responsible for establishing the State's fishing regulations and controls fishing activities by issuing licenses to citizens.