

any comments that are received by that date available at the meeting. All comments received will be made available at the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6020, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

NIST and the Board extend their appreciation to all those providing public comment.

Dated: November 24, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director Program Office

[FR Doc. 97-31367 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101497D]

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan Environmental Assessment

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

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: On November 4, 1997, NMFS published a notice of availability of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the alternatives being considered for implementation of the Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan. NMFS is hereby extending the public comment period for an additional 30 days.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before January 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft EA or the draft Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan may be obtained from Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or by calling (301) 713-2322.

Written comments should be submitted to Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, fax: 301/713-2322.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Cornish, Office of Protected Resources, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 4, 1997, NMFS published a notice of availability of a draft EA on the alternatives being considered for implementation of the Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan. The

notice indicated that comments must be received on or before December 4, 1997.

NMFS has since received a request to extend the public comment period for an additional 30 days. This request is made because at least 2 members of the Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Team will be out of the country for a large portion of the public comment period and would be unable to sufficiently review and comment on the EA. NMFS agrees that the current public comment period is not long enough to allow for sufficient public comment in lieu of other previous commitments by members of the team.

NMFS hereby extends the public comment period for an additional 30 days, until January 4, 1998.

Dated: November 24, 1997.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-31315 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112497H]

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 of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Technical Review Panel (TRP).

DATES: The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 1997, and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, 701 Convention Center Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130; telephone: 504-524-8200.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this meeting, the TRP will review the technical accuracy and adequacy of preliminary drafts of Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Generic Amendment

addressing EFH requirements in the fishery management plans of the Gulf of Mexico. EFH amendments are mandated by the recent passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The TRP will review each section and provide updated information to the extent possible. Based on the review, the TRP will develop comments and recommendation for consideration by the Council.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

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 December 8, 1997.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-31445 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112497A]

Longline Advisory Panel; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Longline Advisory Panel (AP) for the pelagic longline fishery for Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) will hold its third meeting on Dec. 9, 1997, in Alexandria, VA to discuss the draft report on the future management options for the pelagic longline fishery.

DATES: The longline AP will meet on Dec. 9, 1997, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The AP meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Alexandria, VA, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Stevenson or Liz Lauck, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone: (301) 713-2347, Fax: (301) 713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Longline AP was established under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* The Longline AP will assist the Secretary of Commerce in preparing a study on the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive management system for the pelagic longline fishery for Atlantic HMS. The AP meeting is open to the public and will be attended by members of the AP, including appointed members, representatives of the five Fishery Management Councils that work with HMS, the Atlantic and Gulf states. The main agenda item for the longline AP will be a discussion of the draft report on the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive management system for the longline fishery.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jill Stevenson or Liz Lauck (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 24, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-31441 Filed 11-25-97; 4:32 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112497F]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; 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) and its Demersal Species Committee meeting as a Council Committee of the Whole, together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board; its Committee Chairmen, and its Executive Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 1997 through

Thursday, December 18, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Dunes Manor, 2800 Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, MD; telephone: 1-800-523-2888.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Tuesday, December 16, 1997, the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee will meet from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The Demersal Species Committee, meeting as a Council Committee of the Whole together with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board will meet from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The Council Committee chairmen will meet from 4:00-5:00 p.m. On Wednesday, December 17, 1997, the Demersal Species Committee, meeting as a Council Committee of the Whole with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board will meet from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The Executive Committee will meet from noon until 1:00 p.m. The Council will meet from 1:00-5:00 p.m. On Thursday, December 18, 1997, the Council will meet from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of these meetings is as follows: possible Council adoption of Amendment 10 to the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (Maine ocean quahog fishery); discuss the 1998 Council's work schedule; adopt recommended recreational measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass; revise Election Policy in the Statement of Operating Practices and Procedures (SOPPs); and discuss Council action on final provisions and the possibility of additional hearings on the Monkfish FMP. The Council will also receive a presentation on the sea scallop stock assessment by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and possibly comment on Amendment 7 to the Sea Scallop FMP; possibly comment on International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas proposed positions; and hear committee reports and other fishery management matters.

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary; other items may be added. This meeting may also be closed at any time to

discuss employment or other internal administrative matters.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-31443 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112497G]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Scheduled Teleconference

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

ACTION: Notice of scheduled teleconference.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Budget Committee will hold a telephone conference call.

DATES: The conference call will be held on December 15, 1997, at 1:30 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time).

ADDRESSES: The telephone conference will originate from the Council office, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the conference call is to adopt a budget for the operation of the Council during calendar year 1998. At its November 4-7, 1997 meeting, the Council instructed the Budget Committee to confer after the amount available to the Regional Fishery