

SSMC3 Room 12603, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cheri McCarty, 301-713-9090, ext. 183.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the domestic obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. IWC Commissioner (Commissioner) has responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. The Commissioner is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative selected as a result of this nomination process is responsible for providing input and recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the positions of non-governmental organizations.

The Intersessional Meeting on the Future of the IWC will be held March 6-8, 2008, at the Renaissance London Heathrow Hotel in London, England.

Dated: January 15, 2008.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*Director, Office of International Affairs,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-1036 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN: 0648-XF12**

### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee (Committee) in February, 2008 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, February 1, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Home Suites Inn, 455 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA 02451; telephone: (781) 890-3000; fax: (781) 890-0233.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council's Research Steering Committee will address a range of issues including, a briefing on funding available for research projects supported through the Northeast Region's Cooperative Research Program, the development of comments related to a National Marine Fisheries proposed rule concerning the experimental fishery permit application process; strategic planning for research to support New England Fishery Management Council fishery management plans and research priority setting for 2008. The agenda also may include the review of final cooperative research reports relative to their utility in fisheries management. The Committee may consider other topics at their discretion.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### 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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 16, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-949 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN: 0648-XF13**

### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat/MPA/Ecosystem Committee, in February, 2008, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Monday, February 4, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 30 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200; fax: (508) 339-1040.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee will review proposed habitat areas of particular concerns (HAPCs) that include areas with depths greater than designated essential fish habitat (EFH). The Committee will also review risk assessment strategy for minimizing adverse impacts to the EFH to the extent practicable in Phase II of the omnibus habitat. The Committee will also consider other topics at their discretion.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### 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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

**Dated:** January 16, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-950 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN: 0648-XF11**

#### North 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings in Seattle, WA.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held February 4-12, 2008. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, 515 Madison Street, Seattle, WA. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

**Council address:** North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Witherell, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6 continuing through Tuesday February 12, 2008. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, February 4 and continue through Friday February 8. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, February 4 and continue through Wednesday February 6, 2008. The Data Collection Committee will meet Monday, February 4, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Northwest Room. The Ecosystem Committee will meet Wednesday, February 6, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Madison Room. The Enforcement Committee will meet Tuesday, February 5, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the James Room. All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

#### 1. Reports

Executive Director's Report (including recommendations on operating procedures)

NMFS Management Report (legal issues re: Pacific cod jig sector State water management)

NMFS Enforcement/NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Report

U.S. Coast Guard Report

Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Report

IPHC Report

Protected Species Report (including Aleutian Island Pollock Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) report, Steller Sea Lion (SSL) consultation update, SSL Mitigation Committee progress report)

2. BSAI Crab Issues: Report from Crab Committee; action as necessary; Report on BSAI Crab data collection quality and confidentiality; Report on proposed economic analysis for program 3-year review; Initial review of BSAI "C" Share active participation; Initial review of BSAI Crab Arbitration Regulations; Discussion paper on BSAI Crab Arbitrator Immunity; Initial review St. George protection measures; Discussion paper on BSAI Crab loan eligibility

3. License Limitation Program (LLP) Trawl Recency: Initial review of EA/RIR/IRFA alternatives to address modifications to LLP requirements.

4. Amendment 80: Final action on Amendment 80 post-delivery transfers and rollovers.

5. Observer Program: Initial review of Observer Program regulation package.

6. American Fisheries Act: Review 2007 Co-op reports and 2008 co-op agreements.

7. CGOA Rockfish Program: Review 2007 Cooperative reports; Review outline for Pilot Program review.

8. Social and Economic Data Collection: Receive Committee report and action as necessary (T).

9. Bycatch Issues: Review EFP results; Review stream of origin information; Refine BSAI salmon bycatch alternatives; other action as necessary; Review GOA salmon and crab bycatch discussion paper (SSC only).

10. Groundfish Management: Initial review of GOA Other Species catch specifications; review discussion paper "Other Species" Management; Non-target Committee Report (Council only); Discussion paper on Vessel Monitor System (VMS) exemption for dinglebar gear (Council only); Report on BS and AI P cod area split; action as necessary;

Initial review of 4E Seabird Avoidance measures; report on flatfish stock assessment Center for Independent Experts review (SSC only).

11. Ecosystem Issues: Preliminary review of Arctic FMP; action as necessary; Report from Ecosystem Committee; report on Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum.

12. Staff Tasking: Review Committees and tasking, and take action as necessary; Review broader (PSEIS) community outreach plan and actions pursuant to the NMFS Policy on stakeholder participation.

#### 13. Other Business

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. Protected Species Report
2. BSAI Crab Issues
3. CGOA Rockfish
4. Data Collection
5. Bycatch Issues
6. Groundfish Management
7. Ecosystem Issues

The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council, except for 11 reports. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

**Dated:** January 16, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-948 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Availability of Seats for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS or sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary