

Orange Beach, AL; Corpus Christi and Galveston, TX.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Drs. Assane Diagne, Economist and Ava Lasseter, Anthropologist; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled scoping meetings on a proposed amendment addressing the For-Hire Red Snapper Days-at-Sea Pilot Program. The days-at-sea program would apply to the charter industry. Issues to be discussed include, but are not limited to, the purpose and need for this amendment and the potential management actions that may be considered. Management actions under consideration range from the selection of program participants to the establishment of effort and catch validation methods and criteria for program evaluation.

The eight scoping meetings will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at the end of public testimony or no later than 9 p.m. at the following locations:

Monday, March 25, 2013; Courtyard Marriott, 1600 E. Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, MS 39501, telephone: (228) 864-4310.

Tuesday, March 26, 2013; Fairfield Inn & Suites, 3111 Loop Road, Orange Beach, AL 36561, telephone: (251) 543-4444.

Wednesday, March 27, 2013; Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Avenue, Destin, FL 32541, telephone: (850) 654-5184; Courtyard Marriott, 3250 US 41 North, Naples, FL 34103, telephone: (239) 434-8700.

Monday, April 1, 2013; Hilton Galveston Island, 5400 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston Island, TX 77551, telephone: (409) 744-5000.

Tuesday, April 2, 2013; Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, telephone: (727) 540-0050; Hilton Garden Inn, 6717 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, telephone: (361) 991-8200.

Wednesday, April 3, 2013; Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport, 2829 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA 70062, telephone: (504) 467-5611.

Copies of the scoping document will be available two weeks prior to the first scoping meeting and can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630, or from the Council Web site at http://www.gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php.

Special Accommodations

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

Dated: March 5, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-05427 Filed 3-7-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC547

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Committee 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 Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Westin Waterfront Hotel, 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110; telephone: (617) 532-4600; fax: (617) 532-4650.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will recommend measures for Framework 25 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Program (FMP). Framework 25 will include fishery specifications for fishing year 2014 and default measures for 2015 as well as accountability measures for southern windowpane flounder. The committee will provide recommendations for research priorities as well as review the status of the fishery for fishing year

2012. In addition, the committee will review progress on the Limited Access General Category Individual Fishing Quota performance report being completed by the Scallop Plan Development Team. Finally, NMFS will give a presentation about management action timing issues. The Committee will review the general timelines and steps involved in reviewing and approving fishery management actions and have an opportunity to ask questions.

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

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

Dated: March 5, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-05434 Filed 3-7-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC535

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Hearing

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

ACTION: Notice of a public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold a public hearing to obtain input from fishers, the general public, and the local agencies representatives on the Draft Regulatory Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan for Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands: Compatible Trip and Bag

Limits for the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

DATES: The public hearing will be held on March 25, 2013, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held at The Buccaneer Hotel, 7 Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the following management options:

Summary

The National Marine Fisheries Service, in collaboration with the Council, has developed Regulatory Amendment 2 and its Environmental Assessment to establish compatible regulations with U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) territorial regulations for the harvest of queen conch. Fishing and possession of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is only allowed in the area of Lang Bank, to the east of St. Croix.

The USVI has expressed interest in having federal waters become compatible with the territorial trip limit because some of the harvest of queen conch in St. Croix comes from the EEZ, and that harvest must traverse territorial waters to be landed. Thus, establishing compatible regulations would aid enforcement by eliminating the inconsistency in the number of queen conch allowed to be possessed on the water.

The alternatives considered in this Regulatory Amendment address the following issues:

The current trip limit in federal waters allows a licensed commercial fisherman to harvest up to 150 queen conch per day, but does not establish a harvest limit per vessel. USVI regulations allow the harvest of 200 queen conch per vessel regardless of the number of licensed fishermen on board.

The daily recreational bag limit in federal waters allows three queen conch per person and a maximum of 12 queen conch per boat. In contrast, the USVI daily recreational bag limit consists of six queen conch per person and a maximum of 24 per boat.

Although commercial and recreational harvest of queen conch appears to occur primarily in territorial waters, with only minimal EEZ harvest, queen conch is currently classified as an

overfished species, and it is managed under a 15-year rebuilding plan. Establishing compatible regulations would allow for more efficient management and enforcement of queen conch regulations in both territorial and EEZ waters.

The goal of Regulatory Amendment 2 is to achieve state-federal compatibility of queen conch.

List of Actions and Alternatives

ACTION 1: Modify the trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not modify the current trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ, which allows no more than 150 queen conch per licensed commercial fisherman per day.

Alternative 2: Modify the trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to be consistent with the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) limit which consists of no more than 200 queen conch per vessel per day.

Alternative 3: Modify the trip limit for the commercial harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to allow for no more than 150 queen conch per vessel per day if there is one licensed commercial fisherman on board, or no more than 200 queen conch per vessel per day if more than one licensed commercial fisherman is on board.

ACTION 2: Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ.

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not modify the current bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ, which consists of 3 queen conch per person per day, or if more than 4 persons are aboard, 12 queen conch per vessel per day.

Alternative 2: Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to be consistent with the USVI territorial limit of 6 queen conch per person per day, with a maximum of 24 queen conch per vessel per day.

Alternative 3: Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to allow no more than 6 queen conch per person per day, with a maximum of 12 queen conch per vessel per day.

Alternative 4: Modify the bag limit for the recreational harvest of queen conch in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ to allow no more than 3 queen conch per person per day, with a maximum of 24 queen conch per vessel per day.

Special Accommodations

The hearing is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 5, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-05425 Filed 3-7-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC546

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Advisory Panel 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 Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Westin Waterfront Hotel, 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110; telephone: (617) 532-4600; fax: (617) 532-4650.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Panel will recommend measures for Framework 25 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Program (FMP). Framework 25 will include fishery specifications for fishing year 2014 and default measures for 2015 as well as accountability measures for southern windowpane flounder. The