

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous submissions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jenni Wallace or Margo Schulze-Haugen at (301)427-8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1996, Congress reauthorized the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Section 305(b)(1)(A) of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act includes a requirement to identify and describe EFH for all federally-managed fish species based on guidelines established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), to minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and to identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of EFH. EFH is defined in section 3(10) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity”.

The fishery management plan regulations (50 CFR 600.815) addressing EFH state that Councils and NMFS should periodically review and revise or amend the EFH provisions as warranted based on available information (§ 600.815(a)(10)). In 2009, NMFS completed a 5-year review and update of EFH for Atlantic HMS in Final Amendment 1 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (June 12, 2009; 74 FR 288018). In Amendment 1, NMFS updated and revised existing identifications and descriptions of EFH for Atlantic HMS, designated a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) for bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico and updated the analysis of fishing and non-fishing impacts to EFH. In 2010, NMFS published a Final Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP that designated EFH for smoothhound sharks using the same methodology in Final Amendment 1 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. In 2010, NMFS also published an interpretive rule and final action (September 22, 2010, 75 FR 57698) that added roundscale spearfish to the definition of terms in the Atlantic HMS regulations, and defined EFH for roundscale spearfish. This notice announces the first 5-year review of all designated Atlantic HMS EFH.

Public Solicitation of New Information

To ensure that the 5-year review is complete and based on the best data available regarding Atlantic HMS and their habitats, NMFS is soliciting information from the public, government agencies, tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other parties, concerning EFH of Atlantic HMS. Categories of requested information are based on the 10 EFH components identified in FMP regulations. These include: (1) Description and identification of EFH; (2) Fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH; (3) Non-Magnuson-Stevens Act fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH; (4) Non-fishing related activities that may adversely affect EFH; (5) Cumulative impacts analysis; (6) Conservation and enhancement; (7) Prey species; (8) Identification of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; (9) Research and information needs; and (10) Review and revision of EFH components of FMPs (§ 600.815(a)(1)–(10)). Any new information will be considered during the 5-year review and may also be used in evaluating ongoing research and management of Atlantic HMS.

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

Dated: March 19, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-06379 Filed 3-21-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment of Potential White Shark Research and Education Projects in the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of Availability; Request for Public Comment.

SUMMARY: NOAA has developed a draft programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) to analyze the potential impacts of anticipated research and education projects in the next five years and that may have the potential to affect White Sharks within

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and the northern portion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The anticipated types of research and education projects described in the document have been evaluated for consistency with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, sanctuary goals and objectives, and ONMS permitting regulations. The draft PEA is available for download on the Web site: http://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/sharks/sharks_pea.html. Proposed projects that are outside the scope of this PEA would be further evaluated on a case-by-case basis during their individual permit review phase.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This draft PEA on potential research and education permit decisions for attraction or approach of White Sharks incorporates a permit-specific draft EA released for public comment in 2010. On September 30, 2010, NOAA released a draft EA for public comment that analyzed the potential impacts of issuing a research permit that involved attaching location transmitters on up to eleven White Sharks (75 FR 60407). The purpose of the proposed research study was learn more about the full migratory cycle of White Sharks that visit the sanctuary seasonally. Since then, NOAA has determined that the full suite of potential permit projects—both research and education—should be analyzed in order to better understand the scope of potential effects of permitting decisions on White Sharks in the sanctuaries. Rather than finalizing the permit-specific EA, NOAA has developed this programmatic analysis and seeks public comment.

DATES: Comments on this draft environmental assessment may be made on or before April 23, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NOS–2014–0015, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NOS-2014-0015, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to: Max Delaney, Permit Coordinator, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, The Presidio, 991 Marine Drive, San Francisco, CA 94129.

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 by ONMS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. ONMS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Max Delaney, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, The Presidio, 991 Marine Drive, San Francisco, CA 94129. Phone: (415) 970-5255.

Dated: March 14, 2014.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

[FR Doc. 2014-06280 Filed 3-21-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD195

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 149th meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 22-23, 2014. The Council will convene on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and will reconvene on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Divi Carina Beach Resort and Casino, 25 Estate Turner Hole, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI 00820.

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 Council will hold its 149th regular Council Meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

April 22, 2014, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Consideration of 148th Council Meeting Verbatim Transcriptions
- Executive Director's Report
- Management Issues Under Development: Brief Overview—Dr. William Arnold
- Island-Based Fishery Management—SSC Meeting Report—Dr. Richard Appeldoorn
 - Outcomes from the Second Round of Island-Based Scoping Meetings—Dr. Graciela García-Moliner/Dr. William Arnold
 - Request to Council for Motion Directing Staff to Initiate the Development of the Public Hearing Draft/DEISs and FMPs
- Annual Catch Limit Control Rule—Dr. William Arnold
- Council Considers Public Hearing Draft Select Preferred Alternatives Request Approval for Public Hearings via Motion
- Timing of Accountability Measure-based Closures Action—Dr. Kate Quigley
 - Scoping Document Presented to the Council
 - Request Approval for Scoping Hearings via Motion
- Abrir/Bajo/Tourmaline Consistency of Regulations—Dr. Graciela García-Moliner
- Council Considers Public Hearing Draft Select Preferred Alternatives Request Approval for Public Hearings via Motion
- SEDAR 35 Red Hind Update—Dr. Graciela García-Moliner
- Outreach and Education Report—Dr. Alida Ortiz
- Public Comment Period (5-minutes presentations)

April 22, 2014, 5:15 p.m.-6 p.m.

- Administrative Matters
 - Budget Update FY 2014/15
 - Closed Session to Discuss SSC/AP/OEAP Memberships
 - Other Business

April 23, 2014, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Update: Planning for the FY14 Funds Received to Support Improvements in Data Collection Management in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico—Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
- MRIP Caribbean Report
- Electronic Reporting Project for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands—Point 97 Representative
- Lang Bank Report—Dr. Jorge R. García-Sais

- Queen Conch Minimum Size Requirements—Clarification of Regulations in 50 CFR Part §622.492—Dr. William Arnold
- Enforcement Issues:
 - Puerto Rico—DNER
 - U.S. Virgin Islands—DPNR
 - U.S. Coast Guard
- Meetings Attended by Council Members and Staff
- Public Comment Period (5-minute presentations)
- Other Business
 - Approaching the End of the Grouper 4 Rebuilding Plan
 - Fishery Independent Data Workshop Plans—Dr. William Arnold

The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. To further accommodate discussion and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

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

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or 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 five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 19, 2014.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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