

jurisdiction that target or incidentally catch sharks and the nation has not adopted a regulatory program to provide for the conservation of sharks, including measures to prohibit removal of any of the fins of a shark (including the tail) and discarding the carcass of the shark at sea, that is comparable to that of the United States, taking into account different conditions.

The second biennial report to Congress was submitted in January 2011 and is available online at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/biennia_report_to_congress.pdf. The report identified six nations for IUU fishing.

The Moratorium Protection Act also requires the Secretary to establish procedures to certify whether each nation identified in the biennial report is taking the necessary actions to address IUU fishing, bycatch of PLMRs, and/or shark catch. If an identified nation fails to take such action and therefore fails to receive a positive certification, the fishing vessels of that nation would be subject to trade restrictive measures under the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act (16 U.S.C. 1826a). Such measures could include denial of entry into U.S. ports and import prohibitions on certain fisheries products. On January 12, 2011, NMFS published a final rule (76 FR 2011) to implement both the identification and certification procedures for IUU fishing and bycatch of PLMRs. That final rule is available online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-01-12/pdf/2011-507.pdf>. The rule provides information regarding the identification process and how the information received will be used in that process.

In fulfillment of its requirements under the Moratorium Protection Act, NMFS is preparing the third biennial report to Congress, which will identify nations whose fishing vessels are engaged in IUU fishing or fishing practices that result in bycatch of PLMRs or shark catch in waters beyond any national jurisdiction without a regulatory program comparable to the United States. NMFS is soliciting information from the public that could assist in its identification of nations engaged in activities that meet the criteria described above for IUU fishing, PLMR bycatch, or shark catch in waters beyond any national jurisdiction. Some types of information that may prove useful to NMFS include:

- Documentation (photographs, etc.) of IUU activity or fishing vessels engaged in PLMR bycatch or catch of sharks on the high seas;
- Fishing vessel records;

- Trade data supporting evidence that a nation's vessels are engaged in shark catch;

- Reports from off-loading facilities, port-side government officials, enforcement agents, military personnel, port inspectors, transshipment vessel workers and fish importers;

- Sightings of vessels on RFMO IUU vessel lists;

- RFMO catch documents and statistical document programs;

- Nation's domestic regulations for bycatch and shark conservation and management;

- Appropriate certification programs;
- Action or inaction at the national level, resulting in non-compliance with RFMO conservation and management measures, such as exceeding quotas or catch limits, or failing to report or misreporting data of the nation's fishing activities; and

- Reports from governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

NMFS will consider all available information, as appropriate, when making a determination whether or not to identify a particular nation in the biennial report to Congress. As stated previously, NMFS is limited in the data it may use as the basis of a nation's identification. This information includes IUU fishing activity in 2011 and 2012, bycatch of PLMRs in 2012, and shark fishing activity in waters beyond any national jurisdiction in 2012. Information should be as specific as possible as this will assist NMFS in its review. NMFS will consider several criteria when determining whether information is appropriate for use in making identifications, including:

- Corroboration of information;
- Whether multiple sources have been able to provide information in support of an identification;
- The methodology used to collect the information;
- Specificity of the information provided;
- Susceptibility of the information to falsification and alteration; and
- Credibility of the individuals or organization providing the information.

Dated: March 26, 2012.

Cheri McCarty,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB130

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

DATES: The meeting will be held April 16–19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Omni Bayfront Hotel, 900 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi, TX 78401; telephone: (361) 887-1600.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Stephen Bortone, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Committees

Monday, April 16, 2012

1 p.m.–2 p.m.—Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) Selection Committee will discuss duties and responsibilities of the SSC and receive a presentation on Detailed “Option 3”.

2 p.m.–3 p.m.—Budget/Personnel Committee will review the Executive Director's Evaluation Process, the 2012 Proposed Budget and an Overview of Future Funding.

3 p.m.–4 p.m.—Outreach and Education Committee will review the Crisis Communication Plan and receive an update on the Stakeholder's Survey.

4 p.m.–4:30 p.m.—Artificial Reef Committee will discuss Artificial Reefs as Essential Fish Habitat.

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—Budget/Personnel Committee—Full Council (CLOSED SESSION)

—Recess—

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

8:30 a.m.–12 noon and 1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to discuss the Update of the Red Snapper 5-Year IFQ Review; review Scoping Documents for Amendment 28—

Grouper Allocation and Amendment 33—Limited Access Privilege Program; take Final Action on Amendment 35—Greater Amberjack; review a Scoping Document for Red Snapper Provisions for Overage Adjustments; discuss an Interim Rule on Gray Triggerfish Annual Catch Limit & In-Season Closure Authority; review a Draft Options Paper for Amendment 37—Gray Triggerfish Management Measures; discuss a Framework Action on Contractual Services for the For-Hire Sector; discuss Sector Separation; review an Options Paper for Amendment 38—Revise Post-Season Recreational Accountability Measures for Shallow-water Grouper; receive a summary from the Goliath Grouper Workgroup Meeting and review and discuss the Pilot Studies Design for Headboat IFQ and Days at Sea.

—Recess—

Immediately following the Committee Recess will be the Informal Question & Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Issues.

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

8:30 a.m.–9 a.m.—The Coral Management Committee will review a report from the Special Coral Scientific & Statistical Committee.

9 a.m.–10 a.m.—The Data Collection Committee will review the MRIP Calibration Workshop summary; discuss a Generic Amendment for Dealer Permit/Electronic Logbook Reporting Requirements; receive an update on Electronic Reporting for Headboats and for the For-Hire Sector.

10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—The Mackerel Management Committee will review Options Papers for Amendment 19—No Sale and Permits and for Amendment 20—Boundaries and Transit Provisions.

—Recess—

Council

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

1 p.m.—The Council meeting will begin with a Call to Order and Introductions.

1:05 p.m.–1:15 p.m.—The Council will review the agenda and approve the minutes.

1:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.—The Council will approve a revised Committee Roster; review the Action Schedule; and review Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP), if any.

1:45 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—The Council will receive public testimony on Final Reef Fish Amendment 35—Greater Amberjack; an Interim Rule for Gray Triggerfish Annual Catch Limit & In-Season Closure Authority; and exempted fishing permits (EFPs), if any. The Council will also hold an open public comment period regarding any other fishery issues of concern. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card prior to the comment period.

Thursday, April 19, 2012

8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.—The Council will review and discuss reports from the committee meetings as follows: Scientific & Statistical Committee Selection, Outreach & Education, Reef Fish, Budget/Personnel, Artificial Reef, Coral, Data Collection, and Mackerel.

3 p.m.–3:15 p.m.—Discussion on Exempted Fishing Permits (if any) will take place.

3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m.—Other Business items will follow.

The Council will conclude its meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency.

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. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date/time established 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 Kathy Pereira at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: March 27, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB137

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's (Council) Groundfish Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101; telephone: (207) 775-2311; fax: (207) 772-4017.

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 items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Committee will meet to continue development of several management actions. The Committee will continue development of an action to modify measures that apply to sectors. This discussion is expected to focus primarily on monitoring issues, and may include discussion of Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) carryover provisions and other measures relevant to sector operations. The Committee will discuss an action to establish acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for fishing years 2013 and 2014. Setting ABCs/ACLs may require modification of recreational fishing measures, and the Committee may discuss this issue. The Committee may also discuss adopting additional sub-ACLs for the scallop fishery and pursuing the Mixed Stock Exception for SNE/MA windowpane flounder. The Committee may discuss