

protective of salmonids and their habitat.

As specified in the July 10, 2000, ESA 4(d) rule for salmon and steelhead (65 FR 42422) under limit 10(i), take prohibitions to threatened species of salmonids do not apply to routine road maintenance activities of a state, county, city or port that complies with a program that is substantially similar to that contained in the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices (Guide, July 1999), and that is determined to meet or exceed the protections provided in the ODOT Guide. NOAA Fisheries may approve a routine road maintenance program of any state, city, county or port that contains management practices that are equivalent to or better than those in the ODOT Guide. Prior to final approval of a routine road maintenance program, NOAA Fisheries must publish notification in the Federal Register announcing the program's availability for public review and comment.

The Washington County RMP submittal includes a cover letter addressed to D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries, and a statement of commitment from Washington County to implement the RMP. In Part 1, the RMP provides the responsible entity and legal authority for the program and provides a description of the program, including a description of Washington County's Riparian Management Areas and their gravel road maintenance and dust abatement program. In Part 2, the RMP provides a description of the geographic area to which the program applies, including an analysis of the environmental baseline of the watersheds of the lower Columbia River and the lower Willamette River, and Oregon coast tributaries that are within the City of Portland. Part 2 also includes maps (most found in Attachment 3) and tables that describe various habitat parameters such as culverts that block fish passage, riparian condition, and water quality condition. In Part 3, the RMP describes the listed species distribution and status, referring to distribution maps for steelhead and chinook found in Attachment 4. A list of relevant reports is provided in Part 4. In Part 5, the RMP summarizes the training, monitoring, and reporting elements of the RMP. In Part 6, the RMP makes an affirmative conclusion that the program is substantially similar to or better than ODOT's program, referring to a table in Attachment 1 that compares the two programs.

The RMP defines what activities are routine road maintenance. These consist of maintenance activities that are conducted on currently serviceable structures, facilities, and equipment, involve no expansion of or change in use, and do not result in significant negative hydrological impact. Washington County's best management practices (Attachment 2) includes some activities that differ from ODOT's. These include best management practices for surface work, ditch shaping and cleaning, and sweeping/flushing. The RMP provides information in Attachment 1 to support the assertion that Washington County's practices for these activities are as effective or more effective than ODOT's practices at protecting fish and their habitat. Approval or disapproval of the RMP will depend on NOAA Fisheries' findings after public review and comment.

Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000) identifies specific categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to activities associated with routine road maintenance provided that a state or local program has been approved by NOAA Fisheries to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000).

Dated: January 7, 2005.

Phil Williams,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 05-756 Filed 1-12-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Gray's Reef 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 Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS or Sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following newly-created and three vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council): Charter/commercial (for profit) Fishing (charter and commercial fishers), Sport Fishing (recreational hook-and-line and spear fishers), Sport Diving (divers, dive operators, dive clubs, and dive shops), and Regional Conservation. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the Sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 3-year terms, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by February 11, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Application information may be obtained from Becky Shortland, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, Georgia 31406; telephone (912) 598-2381; e-mail

Becky.Shortland@noaa.gov. Letters of application should be sent to the attention of GRNMS Manager, Reed Bohne at the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Becky Shortland, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, Georgia 31406; telephone (912) 598-2381; e-mail Becky.Shortland@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: GRNMS is one of the largest nearshore live-bottom reefs off the southeastern United States, encompassing approximately 17 square nautical miles. The area earned sanctuary designation in 1981. The sanctuary consists of a series of sandstone outcroppings and ledges up to 10 feet in height, in a predominantly sandy, flat-bottomed sea floor. The live bottom and ledge habitat support an abundant reef fish and invertebrate community. Loggerhead sea turtles, a threatened species, also use GRNMS year-round for foraging and resting, and the reef is within the known winter calving ground for the highly endangered Northern right whale.

The GRNMS Advisory Council was established in August 1999 to provide advice and recommendations on management and protection of the sanctuary. The Council, through its members, also serves as liaison to the community regarding sanctuary issues, and represents community interests,

concerns, and management needs to the sanctuary and NOAA.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. sections 1431, *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: January 3, 2005.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program, National Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 05-747 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the next meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPAFAC) in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, February 15, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 16, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, February 17, 2005 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below may be subject to change. Refer to the Web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Crystal City, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Officer, MPAFAC, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. (Phone: (301) 713-3100 x136, Fax: (301) 713-3110); e-mail: lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov; or visit the national MPA Center Web site at <https://www.mpa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MPAFAC, composed of external, knowledgeable representatives of stakeholder groups, has been established by the Department of Commerce to provide advice to the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior on implementation of Section 4 of Executive Order 13158 on MPAs. The meeting will be open to public participation, with a one and a half hour time period set aside from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2004,

and one hour set aside from 8:10 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2004 for the Committee to receive verbal comments or questions from the public. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Designated Federal Official by Friday, February 11, 2004.

Matters to be Considered: On Tuesday, February 15, the Committee will hear from a speaker on Pacific State and territorial perspectives on the national system of marine protected areas, representatives of two regional fishery management councils, and representatives of tribal organizations. On Wednesday, February 16, the Committee will review and discuss the Committee's recommendations and will hear from speakers on marine protected areas science. On Thursday, February 17, the Committee will continue its consideration of recommendations, and discuss next steps to finalize them.

Dated: January 6, 2005.

Eldon Hout,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 05-746 Filed 1-12-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122104D]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Meeting; Correction

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; correction.

SUMMARY: The Trawl Survey Advisory Panel, composed of representatives from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), and several independent scientific researchers, will hold a public meeting.

DATES: January 26, 2005, from noon to 5 p.m. and January 27, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Brookshire Suites (Inner Harbor), 120 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD, telephone 410-625-1300.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Room 2115, Dover, DE 19904.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; 300 S. New Street, Room 2115, Dover, DE 19904, telephone 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Correction

In the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 28, 2004, at 69 FR 77730, the hotel address has been corrected as set out in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. No other information has been changed.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Debbie Donnangelo at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 10, 2005.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. E5-120 Filed 1-12-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011005A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a three-day Council meeting on February 1-3, 2005, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, beginning at 9 a.m. and on Wednesday and Thursday, February 2 and 3, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel, 1000 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone (603) 436-2121. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery