

applicability of the ESA's listing factors to Atlantic white marlin.

Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

The public scoping meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, June 11, 2002, Silver Spring, MD, 7–9 p.m.—Hilton Silver Spring, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301–589–5200

Monday, June 17, 2002, Miami, FL, 7–9 p.m.—Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel, 495 Brickell Avenue, Miami, FL 33131; 305–373–6000

Tuesday, June 18, 2002, Kenner, LA, 7–9 p.m.—Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Highway, Kenner, LA 70062; 504–469–5000

Wednesday, June 19, 2002, Panama City Beach, FL, 7–9 p.m.—Marriott Bay Point Resort Village, 4200 Marriott Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408; 850–236–6000

Thursday, June 20, 2002, Orange Beach, AL, 7–9 p.m.—Perdido Beach Resort, 27200 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, AL 36561; 251–981–9811

Monday, June 24, 2002, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, USVI, 7–9 p.m.—Island Beach Comber Hotel, Lindbergh Beach Road, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, USVI 00802; 340–774–5250

Monday, June 24, 2002, Atlantic Beach, NC, 7:30–9:30 p.m.—Sheraton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 2717 West Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512; 252–240–1155

Tuesday, June 25, 2002, Manteo, NC, 7:30–9:30 p.m.—North Carolina Aquarium Roanoke Island, 374 Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954; 252–473–3496

Thursday, June 27, 2002, Atlantic City, NJ, 7–9 p.m.—Atlantic City Center, 1535 Bacharach Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ 08401; 609–343–4801

Thursday, June 27, 2002, Fairhaven, MA, 7–9 p.m.—The Harborfront Center, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719; 508–997–1281

Friday, June 28, 2002, Berlin, MD, 7–9 p.m.—Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, MD 21811; 410–208–4014

Special Accommodations

These public hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to David Bernhart (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Dated: June 3, 2002.

David Cottingham,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 060302A]

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 3-day Council meeting on June 24 through 26, 2002, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, June 24, 25, and 26, 2002. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday and at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Samoset Resort, 220 Warrenton Street, Rockport, ME 04856; telephone (207) 594–2511. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone (978) 465–0492.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, June 24, 2002

Following introductions, the Council will consider approval of Skate Committee recommendations concerning outstanding issues related to the submission of the Draft Skate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement to NMFS. The Council also will review and possibly approve the concept of incorporating skates into the multispecies complex in a future amendment to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) FMP. The Council will consider monkfish management issues for the remainder of the day. Members are scheduled to approve management alternatives for inclusion in Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP and for purposes of analysis in the associated Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Measures will include, but will not be limited to, revisions to the

overfishing definition reference points, adjustments to the day-at-sea program, permit qualification criteria, and measures to reduce bycatch. The monkfish discussion will include review and approval of the Habitat Committee's recommendations for minimizing the impacts of monkfish fishing on Essential Fish Habitat.

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

The Council meeting will re-convene and begin with an overview of the measures under consideration to date for inclusion in Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP. This will be followed by a discussion of a schedule for Framework Adjustment 15 to the FMP, with a focus on an adjustment to the days-at-sea allocations and a timeline for completion. The scallop agenda item also will include the Habitat Committee's recommendations for minimizing the impacts of scallop fishing on Essential Fish Habitat. Following the completion of this discussion, there will be a short open comment period during which the public may offer remarks on subjects relevant to Council business, but not on the agenda for this meeting. The day will end with a review of progress to date on the development of Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. This will include the Scientific and Statistical Committee's recommendations on the Reference Point Working Group Report prepared by NMFS and the adoption of status determination criteria.

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

The last day of the Council meeting will begin with reports on recent activities from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The remainder of the Council meeting will be spent on further addressing issues associated with Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. These include recommendations from the Groundfish Advisory Panel on alternatives that will address fishing vessel capacity in the groundfish fishery, and a report from the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) concerning its progress to develop management alternatives for presentation to the Council. The PDT may ask for further direction from the Council to complete its work.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council 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 that 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 (*see ADDRESSES*) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: June 4, 2002.

John H. Dunnigan

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 052802C]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings/public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in June (*see SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION* for specific times, dates, and agenda items).

ADDRESSES: The Council meeting will be held at the American Samoa Convention Center, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799; telephone: 684-633-5155; FAX: (684)633-4195.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Dates and Locations

Public Hearings

Public hearings will be held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2002, for final action on revisions to the

comprehensive Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) amendment that will define overfishing for the pelagic, bottomfish, and crustacean fisheries; at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2002, for final action on American Samoa limited entry options; and at 3 p.m. for final action on adjustments to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) bottomfish annual landing requirements.

Committee Meetings

The following Standing Committees of the Council will meet on June 24, 2002. Enforcement/Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.; Fishery Rights of Indigenous People from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; International Fisheries/Pelagics from 10 a.m. to 12 noon; Precious Corals from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Crustaceans from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Bottomfish from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Ecosystem and Habitat from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Executive/Budget and Program from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

In addition, the Council will hear recommendations from its plan teams, SSC, and other ad hoc groups. Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The Council will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

The agenda during the full Council meeting will include the items listed here:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of 112th meeting minutes
4. Island reports
 - A. American Samoa
 - B. Guam
 - C. Hawaii
 - D. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
5. Federal fishery agency and organization reports
 - A. Department of Commerce
 - (1) NMFS
 - (a) Southwest Region, Pacific Islands Area Office (PIAO)
 - (b) Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla and Honolulu Laboratories
 - (2) NOAA General Counsel, Southwest Region
 - (3) National Ocean Service Fagateli Bay National Marine Sanctuary
 - B. Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - C. U.S. State Department

6. Enforcement/Vessel monitoring systems

- A. Report on U.S. Coast Guard activities in American Samoa
- B. Report on NMFS activities in American Samoa
- C. New and developing surveillance technology
- D. Status of violations

7. Overview of crustacean fisheries in American Samoa

8. Overview of the precious coral resource in American Samoa

9. Comprehensive SFA amendment revisions

- A. Overfishing provisions
- B. Public hearing on overfishing definitions

In 1998, the Council submitted a comprehensive amendment to all the Council's fishery management plans, which was generated in response to the 1996 re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The section of this amendment on the maximum sustainable yield and overfishing reference control rules for bottomfish, crustaceans and pelagics was disapproved by NMFS. The Council has addressed NMFS' concerns about this disapproved section of the original comprehensive amendment and will solicit public comment prior to taking final action.

10. Observer Program

- A. NMFS PIAO
 - (i) American Samoa
 - (ii) Bottomfish
 - (iii) Hawaii longline
- B. Native Observer Program

11. Guest Speakers:

- A. Future of the American Samoa Canneries
- B. South Pacific Environmental Program
 - (i) overview of the program
 - (ii) sea turtle conservation

12. Pelagic Fisheries

- A. 1st quarter 2002 Hawaii and American Samoa longline reports
- B. American Samoa longline fishery
 - (i) limited entry program
 - (ii) public hearing

The Council will hold a public hearing on the preferred alternative for a limited entry program for the American Samoa longline fishery, and may take final action on this management measure. The number of fishing vessels participating in the American Samoa longline fishery doubled in 2001, and the level of fishing effort in terms of hooks set quadrupled.