

**Summer Flounder**—Whole fish would be retained for maturity, fecundity, BIA, food habits, and genetic research. The summer flounder retained would not exceed 60 fish per month from each of the three stock areas (GOM, GB, SNE/MA), or 1,800 fish total from each stock area for all trips. The maximum weight on any trip would not exceed 100 lb (45.36 kg) total weight, and would not exceed 3,000 lb (1,360.78 kg) for all trips combined.

**Winter Flounder**—Whole fish would be retained for maturity, fecundity, BIA, food habits, and genetic research. The winter flounder retained would not exceed 60 fish per month from each of the three stock areas (GOM, GB, SNE/MA), or 1,800 fish total from each stock area for all trips. The maximum weight on any trip would not exceed 75 lb (34.02 kg) total weight, and would not exceed 2,250 lb (1,020.58 kg) for all trips combined.

**Monkfish**—Whole fish would be retained for maturity and fecundity research. Monkfish retained would not exceed 10 fish per trip, or 120 fish total for all trips. The maximum weight on any trip would not exceed 100 lb (45.36 kg) total weight, and would not exceed 1,200 lb (544.31 kg) for all trips combined.

**Cod**—Whole fish would be retained for tagging demonstrations and educational purposes. Cod to be retained would not exceed 15 fish per trip, or 60 cod for all trips. The maximum weight on any trip would not exceed 100 lb (45.36 kg) total weight, and would not exceed 600 lb (272.16 kg) for all trips combined.

**Barndoor Skate**—Whole and, in some cases, live skates would be retained for age and growth research and species confirmation. The barndoor skates retained would not exceed 20 fish per trip, or 80 skates total for all trips. The maximum weight on any trip would not exceed 75 lb (34.02 kg) total weight, and would not exceed 300 lb (136.08 kg) total for all trips combined.

**Thorny Skate**—Whole and, in some cases, live skates would be retained for age and growth research and species confirmation. Thorny skates retained would not exceed 20 fish per trip, or 80 skates total for all trips. The maximum weight on any trip would not exceed 75 lb (34.02 kg) whole weight, and would not exceed 300 lb (136.08 kg) total for all trips combined.

**Black Sea Bass**—Whole fish would be retained for examination of seasonal and latitudinal patterns in energy allocation. This effort is in support of an ongoing study at the NEFSC to evaluate BIA to measure fish energy density and reproductive potential for stock

assessment. Black sea bass retained would not exceed 75 fish per trip or 300 black sea bass total for all trips. The maximum weight on any trip would not exceed 250 lb (113.40 kg) total weight, and would not exceed 1,000 lb (453.59 kg) total for all trips combined.

The applicant may make requests to NMFS for minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted by NMFS without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and result in only a minimal change in the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. In accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, a Categorical Exclusion or other appropriate NEPA document would be completed prior to the issuance of the EFP. Further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. After publication of this document in the **Federal Register**, the EFP, if approved, may become effective following a 15-day public comment period.

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

Dated: February 22, 2010.

**James P. Burgess,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN: 0648-XU57**

#### Mid-Atlantic 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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will conduct an educational workshop on catch shares in cooperation with the Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum (FLSF), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The intent of this workshop is to share information and concerns about the use of catch shares by the MAFMC in managing fisheries within its jurisdiction and help decision makers learn from catch share

management successes, failures, and challenges in other regions.

**DATES:** The workshop will be held Tuesday, March 16, 2010 through Thursday, March 18, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** The workshop will be held at the Kingsmill Conference Center, 1010 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA, 23185; telephone: (800) 832-5665.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The workshop will begin with participants' registration at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 and recess at 5:30 p.m. or when business is completed; reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 and recess at 5:45 p.m. or when business is completed; and, reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2010 and recess no later than 4 p.m. An agenda and briefing materials will be posted to the Council website ([www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)) as they become available.

The workshop will be an educational forum to discuss catch share fishery management strategies. The term  $\geq$ catch share $\geq$  encompasses a broad spectrum of fishery management systems that share a common approach: allocating a portion of a scientifically determined catch limit to a discrete set of users (i.e. individuals, groups, or communities). The MAFMC adopted the first catch share programs in the United States when it implemented an ITQ (individual transferable quota) program for the surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries in 1990. The MAFMC also recently (2009) implemented a catch share system for tilefish (IFQ - individual fishing quota).

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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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 aid should be directed to M. Jan Bryan, (302) 674-2331 ext 18, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 22, 2010.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2010-3805 Filed 2-24-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN: 0648-XU58**

#### 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 and hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold the following meetings in the Mariana islands: Rota Community Meeting; Tinian Community Meeting, Saipan Community Meeting, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Student Symposium, Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team (PT) Meeting, CNMI Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (REAC), Guam REAC, Mariana Archipelago Advisory Panel (AP) Meeting, Guam Student Symposium, 103rd Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and 147th Council meetings to take recommendations and action on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

**DATES:** The Rota Community meeting to be held March 11, 2010, Tinian Community Meeting to be held March 12, 2010, Saipan Community Meeting and CNMI Student Symposium to be held March 13, 2010, Mariana Archipelago Ecosystem PT to be held March 15, 2010, the CNMI REAC to be held March 16, 2010, the Guam REAC to be held March 18, 2010, the 103rd SSC Meeting to be held March 17-19 2010, Mariana Archipelago AP and Guam Student Symposium to be held March 20, 2010, and the 147th Council meeting to be held March 21-26, 2010. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** The CNMI Community Meetings will be held at the Rota Social Hall, Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria and the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan.

The Marianas PT and CNMI REAC meetings will be held at the Multipurpose Center, Saipan. The Marianas AP and Guam REAC meeting will be held at the Guam Hilton.

The CNMI Student Symposium will be held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan, and the Guam Student Symposium will be held at the Guam Hilton, Guam.

The 103rd SSC will be held at the Guam Hilton.

The 147th Council meeting will be held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan and at the Guam Hilton on Guam.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In addition to the agenda items listed here, the SSC and Council will hear recommendations from Council advisory groups. Public comment periods will be provided throughout the agendas. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

#### Schedule and Agenda for Rota, Tinian and Saipan Community Meetings

*Rota 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Thursday, March 11, 2010; Tinian 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Friday, March 12, 2010; Saipan 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday, March 13, 2010*

The Rota, Tinian and Saipan community meetings will feature a traditional fishing demonstration and discussion of traditional fishing practices from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The remainder of the meeting will include presentations and discussions on the Mariana Archipelago Lunar Calendar, CNMI Bottomfish Permit Requirement, CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife Biosampling Program and Community Grant Opportunities. The Council will seek public comment on proposed Management Measures for Non-commercial Fishing in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

#### Schedule and Agenda for CNMI Student Symposium

*9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 13, 2010*

The Student Symposium will include presentations on the High School Summer Courses in the Marianas and highlights of the Hawaii and American Samoa courses and videos. Students will be able to participate in an "open house" session to feature information on the Council, traditional fisheries in the Marianas, local fishery agency programs, educational opportunities for

students, and fisheries role in the community.

#### Schedule and Agenda for the Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team Meeting

*9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday, March 15, 2010*

The PT will review the status of 2009 PT recommendations. The PT will discuss and may make recommendations on the Mariana Archipelago Annual Report Modules for bottomfish, coral reef, and crustacean fisheries and on the separation of Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Unit Species and Bottomfish Management Unit Species complexes. Reports will be provided on monitoring activities and projects including, the November 2009 Fishery Data Workshop, NMFS biosampling program, Guam bottomfish biosampling project, CNMI bottomfish regulations and compliance, Mariana Humphead Wrasse Study and coral reef priority setting. The PT will review and make recommendations on the following Council actions:

A. Marianas Trench Monument Non-Commercial Fishing Management Measures

B. Recommendations on a Process for Establishing Annual Catch Limits

C. Recommendations on Framework Measures for Fishery Ecosystem Plans of the Western Pacific

D. Recommendations on Management Measures for Aquaculture in the Western Pacific

E. Recommendations on Options for Exemptions from Federal Fishery Permits

F. Recommendations on Cooperative Research Projects

#### Schedule and Agenda for Marianas Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (CNMI REAC)

*9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2010*

The CNMI REAC will meet to review progress on the 2009 REAC recommendations and to hear reports on, discuss and consider developing recommendations on the following upcoming 147th Council Meeting Actions:

A. Management Measures for Non-Commercial Fishing in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

B. Recommendations on Management Measures for Aquaculture in the Western Pacific

C. Recommendations on Cooperative Research Projects

In addition, the CNMI REAC will hear reports on, discuss and consider developing recommendations on CNMI Coral Reef Priority Setting Document,