

publications in the last 3 years with up to five other relevant papers.

(7) *Current and pending support.* For each investigator, submit a list which includes project title, supporting agency with grant number, investigator months, dollar value, and duration. Requested values should be listed for pending support.

#### Other Requirements/Information

(1) Applicants may obtain a standard NOAA application kit from the NOAA Office of Grants Management. Primary applicant Certification: All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying."

(2) Federal Policies and Procedures Applicable to this announcement:

A. *Environmental Impact.* Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact should furnish sufficient information to assist proposal reviewers in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project.

B. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification of Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), is applicable to this solicitation.

(3) There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all qualified projects. The exact amount of funds that may be awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and the NOAA representatives. Publication of this notice does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. If one incurs costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by an authorized NOAA official, one would do so solely at one's own risk of these costs not being included under the award.

(4) *Disposition of Unsuccessful Applications.* Those proposals that are not ultimately selected for funding will be destroyed.

(5) If an application is selected for funding, the DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the DOC.

In accordance with Federal statutes and regulations, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from

participation in, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the NOAA/NWS. The NOAA/NWS does not have a direct telephonic device for the deaf (TDD) capabilities can be reached through the State of Maryland-supplied TDD contact number, 800-735-2258, between the hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

This notice contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424 and 424A has been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043 and 0348-0044. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

#### Executive Orders 12866 and 12372

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866. Applications under this program are not subject to E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

#### Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

Notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts. Because notice and comment are not required, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, is not required and has not been prepared for this notice.

Dated: December 31, 2002.

John E. Jones, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.

[FR Doc. 03-224 Filed 1-6-03; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010203B]

##### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Ecosystems Committee, Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish Committee, Law Enforcement Committee, Highly Migratory Species Ad-Hoc Committee, and Executive Committee will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** Tuesday, January 21, 2003, through Thursday, January 23, 2003. On Tuesday, January 21, 2003, the Ecosystems Committee will meet from noon until 2 p.m. The Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish Committee will meet from 2-5 p.m. On Wednesday, January 22, 2003, the Law Enforcement Committee will meet from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Council will meet from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. On Thursday, January 23, 2003, the Highly Migratory Species Ad-Hoc Committee will meet from 8-9 a.m. The Executive Committee will meet from 9-10 a.m. Council convenes from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Trump Plaza Hotel, Mississippi Avenue and the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, telephone 609-441-2708.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone 302-674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda items for the Council's committees and the Council itself are: the Ecosystems Committee will discuss Council's role in identifying and addressing NMFS habitat/bycatch requirements; the Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish Committee will discuss and finalize measures to be included in Amendment 9 (gear impacts on EFH, Illex fishery moratorium, multiple year specification process, bycatch/discard reduction in Loligo fishery, and "other"); the Law Enforcement Committee will review the Fisheries Achievement Award Program and discuss background investigation needs/limitations regarding Council members and advisors; Council will conduct a scoping meeting for Amendment 1 to the Dogfish Fishery Management Plan (consider, among other management measures, the following items for inclusion in Amendment 1: define a rebuilding biomass target for Bmsy, establish rebuilding timeframe consistent with Section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, address bycatch/discard issues, address different allocation processes,

“other”); approve Amendment 13 to the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan for Secretarial submission; the Highly Migratory Species Ad-Hoc Committee will discuss establishment of a permanent sub-quota allocation of bluefin tuna for North Carolina during December 1 through January 31 time period; Council will receive and discuss organizational and committee reports including the New England Council’s report regarding possible actions on herring, groundfish, monkfish, red crab, scallops, skates, and whiting; and, act on any continuing and/or new business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council 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 the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final actions to address such emergencies.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 2, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 03–276 Filed 1–6–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[030102001–3001–01]

##### United States Climate Change Science Program

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) is announcing the availability of a draft document “Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program.” The complete draft strategic plan was posted on the CCSP web site at <http://www.climate-science.gov> for public comment on November 11, 2002. The

CCSP is seeking public comment in order to receive feedback from the widest range of interested parties. This draft document is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. The CCSP will review public comments received on the draft document. In response to those comments, suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, and a final document will be issued for use.

In your review, we ask you to provide a perspective on the content, implications, and challenges outlined in the plan as well as suggestions for any alternate approach you wish to have considered, and the types of climate and global change information required by policy makers and resource managers. We also ask that you comment on any inconsistencies within or across chapters, and omissions of important topics. For any shortcomings that you note in the draft, please propose specific remedies.

In your comments, please consider the following issues: (1) Overview on the content, implications, and challenges outlined in the plan; (2) areas of agreement and disagreement, as appropriate; (3) suggestions for alternative approaches, if appropriate; (4) inconsistencies within or across chapters; (5) omissions of important topics; (6) specific remedies for identified shortcomings of the draft plan; (7) type of climate and global change information required by representative groups; (8) other comments not covered above. Please do not comment on grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Professional copy editing will correct deficiencies in these areas for the final draft.

Please follow these instructions for preparing and submitting your review. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate our processing of reviewer comments and assure that your comments are appropriately considered. Please provide background information about yourself on the first page of your comments: your name(s), organization(s), area(s) of expertise, mailing address(es), telephone and fax numbers, and email address(es). Overview comments on the chapter should follow your background information and should be numbered. Comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs or lines of the chapter should follow your overview comments and should identify the page and line numbers to which they apply. Comments that refer to a table or figure should identify the table or figure number. In the case of tables, please also identify the row and column to which the comment refers. Order your

comments sequentially by page and line number. At the end of each comment, please insert your name and affiliation. An example of the format is provided on the CCSP web site at: <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/stratplan2003/comments.htm>.

**DATES:** Comments on this draft document should be submitted by January 18, 2003. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. All comments submitted will be posted on the CCSP web site for public review.

**ADDRESSES:** The Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program is available on the CCSP web site at: <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/stratplan2003/>. A free single copy of the Plan will be available to interested parties until the supply is exhausted. Such copies may be requested by writing to the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20006 or submitting e-mail to [information@climate-science.gov](mailto:information@climate-science.gov).

All comments should be sent electronically to [comments@climate-science.gov](mailto:comments@climate-science.gov) or to Ms. Sandy MacCracken, U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sandy MacCracken, U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20006. (Phone: 202–223–6262, Fax: 202–223–3065, e-mail: [smaccrac@usgcrp.gov](mailto:smaccrac@usgcrp.gov)); or visit the CCSP Web site at <http://www.climate-science.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Scientists recognized the existence of a natural “greenhouse effect” and the possibility of human-induced changes in the Earth’s climate and environment as early as the 19th century and, over time, this possibility has become widely accepted. In the last decades of the 20th century, public debate about the contribution of human activities to observed climate change and potential future changes in climate, and about courses of action to manage risks to humans and the environment, has been active and frequently contentious. These debates cover a range of both science and policy issues, including the extent to which global temperatures have in fact changed; whether most of the observed overall change in temperature of the last 50 years is attributable to human activities (principally the burning of biomass and fossil fuels and changes in land cover); how much climate might change in the future; and