

data. Currently NOAA collects, compiles and maintains these data and little or no expense will be incurred in making these data available to the public on the Internet.

Generally, NOAA does not intend to limit access to, or restrict use of the data it makes available on the Internet. Of course, sensitive data will be reviewed and if there are homeland security issues, proprietary concerns, privacy implications or similar issues, such data may not be placed on the Internet. In addition, in some cases where the data or use of the data are not completely reliable, where procedures for updating the data are not fully tested and operational, where the public may lack familiarity with the use of those data and associated products, or for other reasons, NOS may release the data on a provisional basis with a statement that the data are not to be used for navigational purposes. This was the case with the original release of NOAA ENC[®] in 2001.

From all indications, mariners and other users are now familiar with NOAA ENC[®]. The response to NOAA ENC[®] on the Internet has been overwhelmingly positive, with more than 480,000 individual files downloaded. NOAA ENC[®] were designed to comply with International Hydrographic Organization's S-57 ENC Product Specification and have been greatly successful with a notable absence of significant errors. Further, the NOAA ENC[®] files are now being updated for Notices to Mariners on a monthly basis and then posted to the NOAA ENC[®] Web page, available for downloading. Consequently, NOS will remove the "provisional" label for NOAA ENC[®] distributed on the Internet in the near future. Once that label is removed, a NOAA ENC[®] will constitute a "nautical chart" for the purposes of the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

In the future NOAA intends to monitor the release and use of its data and may remove, or in some cases, add provisional use labels or other warnings or restrictions through an announcement on the Web site associated with the data.

NOS does not seek to limit access or restrict use of the data it provides on the Internet for most purpose, but it is concerned about the use of these data in situations that may compromise marine safety. Consequently, NOS plans to work with mariners, product developers and others to establish specific procedures for users who wish to incorporate NOS data into certain navigation products. Thus, in order for a value-added navigational product to

be certified, the developer may be required to establish a process to ensure that NOS data are incorporated into the product without compromise to the data quality or data lineage.

NOS intends to issue standards governing the certification process for derived navigational products. Among the standards under consideration are: (1) The operation of a quality assurance system that is in essential compliance with a recognized quality standard, such as ISO 9000 series or equivalent, and (2) the certification by a U.S. Coast Guard-approved quality standards organization that results in products being consistently manufactured to the same specification.

NOS is publishing this notice consistent with section 8.a(6)(j) of the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051303D]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings in Kodiak, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held June 9 through June 18, 2003. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Best Western Kodiak Inn, 236 Rezanof, Kodiak, AK 99615.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, June 9 and continue

through Saturday, June 14, 2003. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 9, and continue through Wednesday, June 11, 2003.

The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11 continuing through Wednesday June 18.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports
 - (a) Executive Director's Report
 - (b) Trawl 3rd Wire Report
 - (c) NMFS Management/Enforcement Reports
2. Gulf of Alaska Rationalization (GOA): Review discussion papers and refine alternatives, elements and options.
3. Programmatic Groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PGSEIS): Select draft preferred alternative.
4. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)/Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC): Update on Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement development, report on Coral/Sponge bycatch limits, Committee report on HAPC process.

5. Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) Pacific Cod Allocation: Final action on Amendment 77 (fixed gear allocations).

6. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU): Review alternatives and options for Trailing Amendment A (multi-species co-ops for head and gut catcher/processor sector and species allocation). Final action on Trailing Amendment C (minimum retention standards).

7. Steller Sea Lion (SSL): SSL Mitigation Committee Report.

8. Groundfish Management: Target/Non-target workgroup report. BSAI Cod depletion study - Review 1st year results.

9. Crab Management: Initial Review Pribilof Blue King Crab Rebuilding Plan.

10. Staff Tasking: Review tasking and committees and provide direction to staff.

11. Other Business: Approve updated Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs).

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. Programmatic Groundfish SEIS
 2. Essential Fish Habitat
 3. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization
 4. Groundfish Management
 5. Crab Management
- Advisory Panel:* The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during the meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051403D]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) in cooperation with the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) will convene a yellowtail snapper Stock Assessment Workshop as part of the 2003 Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process. The workshop will be held from Monday June 9, 2003 through Friday, June 13, 2003.

DATES: The workshop will be held from Monday June 9, 2003 through Friday, June 13, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Florida Marine Research Institute, 100 Eighth Avenue, Southeast, St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5095; telephone: 727-896-8626.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Phil Steele, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 9721 North Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702; telephone: 727-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Stock Assessment Workshop will focus on the single yellowtail snapper stock off the U.S. mainland that falls within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Gulf Council, South Atlantic Council, and FFWCC. Yellowtail snapper in the Caribbean appear to be a different population based on preliminary genetic analyses, and will not be included in this assessment.

The Stock Assessment Workshop is the second step in the three-part SEDAR process. The first step was the Data Review Workshop (held March 3-7, 2003) and involved the assembly and review of available fishery data, life history information, analytical techniques and models for the stock assessment. The second step is the Stock Assessment Workshop, where data sets from the Data Review Workshop are used with population dynamics modeling techniques to determine the status of stocks. The third step of SEDAR is the Stock Assessment Review Workshop (to be scheduled in July, 2003), where the stock assessment is reviewed by an independent peer review panel.

The Stock Assessment Workshop will convene a select group of scientists, industry representatives, and other knowledgeable persons to review the available data and the yellowtail snapper stock assessment presented by FFWCC biologists. The workshop participants will prepare a written Workshop report that provides an overview of the analyses, general findings, and recommendations of the workshop. As part of the Stock Assessment Workshop, the Gulf Council will convene a meeting of its Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP). The RFSAP is composed of biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics. Based on its review of the yellowtail snapper stock assessment, the RFSAP may recommend whether to declare the stocks overfished and/or undergoing overfishing, and may recommend a range of acceptable biological catch (ABC) for 2004. The

RFSAP may also recommend management measures to achieve the ABC. The RFSAP may also make recommendations pertaining to its role in future SEDAR meetings.

The RFSAP will hold its own session in conjunction with the Stock Assessment Workshop to review the following issues: (1) role of the RFSAP in the SEDAR process; (2) review of alternatives for revision of the rebuilding plan for Gulf red snapper, and; (3) new information on Goliath grouper if that data is available.

Both the Stock Assessment Workshop report and the conclusions of the RFSAP will be reviewed by the Stock Assessment Review Workshop, the Council's Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), (which will be convened as part of the Stock Assessment Review Workshop), the Socioeconomic Panel (SEP), and the Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP). The reports and recommendations of these groups will then be presented to the Gulf Council, which may set year a 2004 total allowable catch (TAC) as well as other management measures for the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone component of the yellowtail snapper stock.

A copy of the agenda for the RFSAP portion of the meeting can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the RFSAP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the RFSAP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

The RFSAP meeting is open to the public and is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by June 30, 2003.

Dated: May 15, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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