

Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

After introductions, the Council meeting will begin with a presentation on a Council plan to address Sustainable Fisheries Act requirements and the 13 overfished stocks recently identified in the NMFS report entitled "Status of Fisheries of the United States." The Habitat Committee will review its discussions about the Council's essential fish habitat (EFH) amendment process and habitat requirements for fishery management plans (FMPs). Following a mid-day break, the Whiting Committee will provide an update on progress to develop a whiting amendment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and, if necessary, will seek approval of this ongoing process. The Groundfish Committee will recommend initial action on a framework adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP to establish an exempted gillnet fishery for dogfish in the area of Nantucket Shoals and waters east of Cape Cod. The Groundfish Committee will also recommend initial action on a second framework adjustment to shorten the duration of the Cultivator Shoal and Small Mesh Area 2 exempted fisheries. There will be a discussion and possible action on other items including (a) options for regulating trawl ground gear, particularly "street sweepers"; (b) a strategy to address overfished groundfish stocks listed in the above-mentioned NMFS report; (c) options to allow scalloping in groundfish closed areas; and (d) halibut management. The Mid-Atlantic Plans Committee will review its recommendations to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council concerning the management of mahogany quahogs in the Gulf of Maine. The Chairman of the Council's Lobster Committee will discuss the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC's) response to the Council about options for meeting the Federal mandate to develop a plan to end overfishing and to rebuild the lobster resource. There may be a decision on future Council involvement, including consideration of ASMFC's revised draft plan and possible Council development of a new amendment by October 1998.

Thursday, November 6, 1997

The Council may consider and approve monkfish management measures for inclusion in Amendment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. There may also be a request to the Secretary of Commerce to implement interim management measures for the monkfish fishery. The Sea Scallop Committee will provide an update on the Amendment 7 (consolidation of days-at-sea and closed area management) public hearings. There will be a presentation on the results of the 1997 NMFS sea scallop survey followed by possible action to adjust days-at-sea allocations for 1998. The Council will review and approve objectives and discuss potential management alternatives for the Herring Fishery Management Plan. After the mid-day break, NMFS staff will report on an experiment to evaluate vessel-monitoring system effectiveness. The Professional Standards and Practices Committee will recommend Council approval of standards for participation in experimental and exempted fisheries and mechanisms to establish an industry-funded fisheries observer program. The Enforcement Committee Report will include recommendations on the implementation and the use of vessel monitoring systems. Following this discussion, there will be reports from the Council Chairman, Executive Director, NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Coast Guard and the ASMFC. The meeting will adjourn after the conclusion of any other outstanding business.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those 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.

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.

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

Dated: October 16, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting 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. 100397C]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a series of public hearings on a proposed Amendment 13 to its Fishery Management Plan for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California (FMP). The amendment proposes alternative management objectives for Oregon coastal natural coho.

DATES: The Council will hold hearings on Monday, October 27, 1997 at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, October 28, 1997 at 7 p.m. and will consider the amendment during its meeting Tuesday, November 4, 1997. Written comments must be received by the Council no later than noon, October 29, 1997, to assure time for processing and distribution before final consideration of the amendment by the Council.

ADDRESSES: The Monday, October 27 hearing will be held at the Red Lion Inn, Pacific Room, 400 Industry, Astoria, OR; telephone (503) 325-7373. The Tuesday, October 28 hearing will be held at the Pony Village Motor Inn, Ballroom, Virginia Avenue, North Bend, OR; telephone (541) 756-3191. The Council will meet Tuesday, November 4 at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR. Send written comments to: Mr. Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Coon, Salmon Fishery Management Coordinator, Pacific Fishery Management Council, at (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council requests public comments on "Draft Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California." Amendment 13 proposes alternative management objectives for Oregon coastal natural coho that are complementary to the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative developed to assure protection of this stock without listing under the Endangered Species Act. The amendment document contains a brief description of the proposed amendment along with a draft environmental assessment, regulatory impact review/initial regulatory

flexibility analysis, statement of consistency with coastal zone management programs, and review of other applicable law which could be affected by the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available from the Council office. Those wishing to submit oral or written testimony may do so at the hearings, or in writing (See **ADDRESSES**). Written comments addressed to the Council office should be received no later than noon, October 29, 1997, to assure time for processing and distribution before final consideration of the amendment by the Council.

The public may also provide oral and written comments on the amendment

during the Council session on Tuesday, November 4 in Portland (See **ADDRESSES**).

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric W. Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 17, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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