

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 040600C]

**New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Oversight Committee and Groundfish Industry Advisory Panel in May, 2000. Recommendations from the committee and the advisors will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held May 1 and 2, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Colonial Hotel, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee and Advisors will conduct a joint meeting to continue development of management options for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. If not completed at meetings held in April, the Committee and Advisors will continue their review of current overfishing definitions and control rules for the multispecies complex, examine the assumptions and policy decisions in those rules, and develop recommendations for the biological goals of the Amendment. The Committee and Advisors will also organize into subcommittees that will be tasked to develop specific management options for consideration by the full Committee. These tasks will be based on broad approaches to management selected by the Committee. The subcommittees may meet individually during the meeting to begin work on these management options. The discussions at the subcommittee level will be reported back to the Committee at this meeting or at future meetings.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, 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

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 aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: April 7, 2000.

**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. 040700F]

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Scoping Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold nine public scoping meetings regarding the concept of using marine reserves as a fishery management tool.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held in April, May, and June. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times of the public hearings.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Public Information Document (PID) for Marine Reserves are available by contacting Kerry O'Malley, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; telephone: 843-571-4366; email: kerry.omalley@noaa.gov. The PID will also be available at the meeting. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: 843-571-4366; fax: 843-769-4520; email: kim.iverson@noaa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose of Meetings**

The Council will hold scoping meetings to gather public comments

regarding the concept of using marine reserves (nearshore or offshore, natural or man-made) as a fishery management tool, emphasizing the conservation of essential fish habitat and the species associated with the snapper-grouper complex. The Council has not yet decided whether to proceed with the development of marine reserves.

**Time and Location for Public Meetings**

Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations.

1. April 26, 2000, 6:30 p.m., Marine Resources Center, SC Dept. of Natural Resources, 217 Ft. Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29422; telephone: 843-762-5010.
2. May 9, 2000, 6 p.m., Sea Turtle Inn, One Ocean Boulevard, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233; telephone: 904-249-7402.
3. May 10, 2000, 6 p.m., Holiday Inn, 1300 N. Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931; telephone: 407-783-2271.
4. May 11, 2000, 6 p.m., Ireland's Inn, 2220 N. Atlantic Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305; telephone: 954-565-6661.
5. May 16, 2000, 6 p.m., Classroom 205, McGee Building, Carteret Community College, 3505 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557; telephone: 252-247-3097.
6. May 17, 2000, 6 p.m., NCDMR Field Office, 127 Cardinal Drive Extension, Wilmington, NC 28405-3845; telephone: 910-395-3990.
7. May 25, 2000, 6 p.m., Murrell's Inlet Community Center, 4450 Murrell's Inlet Road, Murrell's Inlet, SC 29576; telephone: 843-651-7373.
8. May 31, 2000, 6 p.m., University of Georgia Marine Extension Service, 715 Bay Street, Brunswick, GA 31520; telephone: 912-264-7268.
9. June 1, 2000, 6 p.m., Hyatt Regency, 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401; telephone: 912-238-1234.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are 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 April 20, 2000.

Dated: April 11, 2000.

**Bruce Morehaed,**

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

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