

(Secretarial Amendment) under certain circumstances. Section 304(c)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides that the Secretary may prepare an FMP or FMP amendment in accordance with the national standards, the other provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and any other applicable law, “if the appropriate Council fails to develop and submit to the Secretary, after a reasonable period of time” an FMP for such fishery, or any necessary amendment to such an FMP, if such fishery requires conservation and management.

The status of the South Atlantic red snapper stock was evaluated in the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 73 stock assessment that was completed in 2021. The results of SEDAR 73 indicated that the South Atlantic red snapper stock remains overfished and is experiencing overfishing, and the overfishing is being primarily driven by high numbers of dead discards in the recreational sector. Because the South Atlantic red snapper stock is overfished, it is managed under a rebuilding plan implemented through Amendment 17A to the Snapper-Grouper FMP (75 FR 76874, December 9, 2010), which specified a 35-year rebuilding schedule with the rebuilding timeframe to end in 2044. In a letter dated July 23, 2021, NMFS notified the South Atlantic Council of the results of SEDAR 73 and that overfishing of red snapper was occurring. The South Atlantic Council has discussed how to address or end overfishing of this stock since receiving the overfishing notification from NMFS, but it has not taken action to meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements to end overfishing. To reduce overfishing of South Atlantic red snapper in the 2024 fishing year, NMFS implemented interim measures that included reducing the commercial and recreational annual catch limits (89 FR 50530, June 14, 2024).

NMFS has determined that red snapper requires conservation and management measures to end the overfishing, and is therefore developing a Secretarial Amendment to end overfishing of red snapper in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. While developing the EIS and Secretarial Amendment, NMFS will consider new information that has become available since 2021 for revisions to South Atlantic red snapper management. At this time, NMFS intends for this action to be in place during the 2025 commercial and recreational fishing seasons.

The EIS to support the Secretarial Amendment would explore management strategies to end

overfishing of South Atlantic red snapper while also considering alternatives to increase fishing opportunities for landing red snapper by reducing the amount of fish released dead. NMFS will develop an EIS to describe and analyze alternatives to address the management needs previously described, including the current or “no action” alternatives. Possible actions that NMFS may consider to include in the EIS are, but are not limited to, adjusting catch levels, adjusting accountability measures, and discard reduction measures.

In accordance with the Companion Manual to NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A, NMFS has identified preliminary environmental issues as a means to initiate discussion for scoping purposes only. The public is invited to provide written comments on the preliminary issues, which are identified as actions in the EIS. These preliminary issues may not represent the full range of issues that eventually will be evaluated in the final EIS associated with the Secretarial Amendment.

After the draft EIS associated with the Secretarial Amendment is completed, it will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After filing, the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS for public comment in the **Federal Register**. The draft EIS will have a 45-day comment period. NMFS currently anticipates publishing the draft EIS by January 24, 2025, with the comment period to expected to end on March 10, 2025.

This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality or implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and the Companion Manual to NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A.

NMFS will consider public comments received on the draft EIS in developing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and the record of decision. NMFS will announce, through a document published in the **Federal Register**, all additional public comment periods on the final Secretarial Amendment, its proposed implementing regulations, and the availability of its associated FEIS. NMFS will consider all public comments received, whether they are on the draft EIS, final amendment, the proposed regulations, or the FEIS, prior to final agency action. NMFS anticipates publishing the FEIS by April 25, 2025, with a record of decision signed by NMFS by May 25, 2025. These specific dates are preliminary and are subject to change based on NMFS administrative needs.

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

Dated: October 3, 2024.

Karen H. Abrams,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–23320 Filed 10–8–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE340]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a hybrid meeting of its Scallop Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: This meeting will be held at Fairfield Inn & Suites, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740; telephone: (777) 634–2000.

Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/j/9876543210>

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Scallop Committee will meet to discuss: Framework Adjustment 39: Receive an update on plan development team (PDT) tasking and provide input on the range of potential access area and days-at-sea (DAS) allocations for the 2025 and 2026 fishing years. Framework 39 will set specifications including ABC/ACLs, days-at-sea, access area allocations, total allowable landings for the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) management area, targets for General Category incidental catch, General Category access area trips, and set-

asides for the observer and research programs for fishing year 2025 and default specifications for fishing year 2026. This action will also consider modifying the current seasonal flatfish closure in Closed Area II, and adjusting regulations to allow NGOM permitted vessels to possess scallops outside of the management unit. They will also receive an update on ongoing 2024 scallop work priorities. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal 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 action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 3, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-23278 Filed 10-8-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE366]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) will convene a joint webinar meeting of its Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and its Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). The GAP and the GMT

will discuss items on the Pacific Council's November 2024 meeting agenda. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The joint GMT/GAP online meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Pacific Time. The scheduled ending times for this meeting is an estimate. The meeting will adjourn when business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to attend the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820-2412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Todd Phillips, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; todd.phillips@noaa.gov; telephone: (503) 820-2426.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the GAP and GMT webinar is to prepare for the Pacific Council's November 2024 meeting agenda items. This joint meeting is expected to focus on groundfish and cross fishery management plan agenda items.

A detailed agenda for the webinar will be available on the Pacific Council's website prior to the meeting. The GAP and GMT may also address other assignments relating to groundfish management. No management actions will be decided by the GMT and GAP.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov; (503) 820-2412) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 3, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-23305 Filed 10-8-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Matters Related To First Inventor To File

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0071 (Matters Related to First Inventor to File). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the information collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this information collection must be received on or before December 9, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0071 comment" in the subject line of the message.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Request for additional information should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-7728; or by email at raul.tamayo@uspto.gov with "0651-0071 comment" in the subject line. Additional information about this information collection is also available