

Program. Following these actions, the Council will adjourn for the day.

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

The second day of the meeting will begin with a report from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center on the results of the 2017 operational assessments for 19 of the 20 groundfish stocks managed under the Council's Northeast Multispecies FMP. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will report next with overfishing limits (OFLs) and ABCs for the following stocks and fishing years (FY): Atlantic sea scallops for FY 2018 with defaults for FY 2019; northern and southern silver hake and red hake for FY 2018–2020; and all groundfish stocks for 2018–2020 except Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Atlantic halibut. The Council then will begin its Groundfish Committee report, during which it will take final action on Framework Adjustment 57 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. The framework includes: (1) 2018–2020 fishery specifications and other management measures; (2) 2018 TACs for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder; (3) Atlantic halibut accountability measures (AMs); (4) recreational management measures; (5) common pool trimester TAC adjustments; (6) southern windowpane flounder AMs; and (7) potential consideration of a Georges Bank cod sub-annual catch limit for the recreational fishery. Also under groundfish, the Council may consider requesting emergency action to reduce catches of Georges Bank cod by implementing additional measures for the recreational fishery.

Following a lunch break, members of the public will have the opportunity to speak during an open comment period on issues that relate to Council business but are not included on the published agenda for this meeting. The Council asks the public to limit remarks to 3–5 minutes. Then, the Groundfish Committee report will resume and continue until related business is concluded. The Council next will discuss its plan to provide input to NMFS on regulatory reform as mandated by Executive Orders 13777, 13771, and 13565. At the conclusion of this discussion, the Council will adjourn for the day.

Thursday, December 7, 2017

The third day of the meeting will begin with a discussion of and final action on 2018 Council priorities covering tasks and actions for all committees. Next, the Council will hear

from its Scallop Committee and take final action on Framework Adjustment 29 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP. This framework contains: (1) Fishery specifications for the 2018 fishing year and default specifications for 2019; (2) scallop fishery AMs for yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder; (3) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area modifications; and (4) measures to modify and/or create access area and open area boundaries consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish closed areas under the Council's Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2.

Following a lunch break, the Scallop Committee discussion will continue until business is concluded. The Whiting Committee will report next. The Council will take final action on 2018–2020 specifications for small-mesh multispecies, which include red, silver, and offshore hakes, and then will deliberate Amendment 22 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP, which was developed to consider limiting access to the small-mesh multispecies fishery. The Council will: (1) Consider whether to pursue or drop consideration of triggered possession limit adjustments in the amendment; and (2) approve the draft amendment for public hearing. Next, the Council will take up spiny dogfish to review the previously set 2018 specifications for the fishery and discuss whether to recommend modifications. Finally, the Council will close out the meeting with "other business."

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before the 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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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 Thomas A. Nies (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 14, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2017–24961 Filed 11–16–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Scientific Research, Exempted Fishing, and Exempted Activity Submissions.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0471.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 49.

Average Hours per Response: 2 hours for a scientific research plan; 40 minutes for an application for an EFP, Display Permit, SRP, LOA, or Shark Research Permit; 1 hour for an interim report; 40 minutes for an annual fishing report; 15 minutes for an application for an amendment; 5 minutes for notification of departure phone calls to NMFS Enforcement; 10 minutes for calls to request and observer; and 2 minutes for "no-catch" reports.

Burden Hours: 143.

Needs and Uses: Exempted fishing permits (EFPs), scientific research permits (SRPs), display permits, letters of acknowledgment (LOAs), and shark research fishery permits are issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). Issuance of EFPs and related permits is necessary for the collection of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) for public display and scientific research that requires exemption from regulations (*e.g.*, seasons, prohibited species, authorized gear, and minimum sizes) that otherwise may prohibit such collection. Display permits are issued for the collection of HMS for the purpose of public display, and a limited

number of shark research fishery permits are issued for the collection of fishery-dependent data for future stock assessments and cooperative research with commercial fishermen to meet the shark research objectives of the Agency.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; state, local or tribal government; federal government.

Frequency: Annually and within 5 days of fishing.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: November 14, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-24990 Filed 11-16-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF819

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public 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 Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Logan Airport, 100 Boardman Street, Boston, MA 02128; Phone: (617) 567-6789.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Scallop Committee will review Framework 29 (FW 29) alternatives and analyses, and make final recommendations. FW 29 will set specifications including acceptable biological catch/annual catch limit (ABC/ACLs), Days at Sea (DAS), access area allocations for Limited Access (LA) and Limited Access General Category (LAGC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) management area, target-TAC for LAGC incidental catch and set-asides for the observer and research programs for the fishing year 2018 and default specifications for fishing year 2019. Make final recommendations for potential FW 29 specifications that includes areas that may open through Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 (OHA2). The committee will also review FW 29 management measures and make final recommendations. These measures may include, but are not limited to: (1) NGOM management measures; (2) Flatfish accountability measures for Northern windowpane flounder, Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, and Southern New England yellowtail flounder; (3) Measures to modify and/or create access area and open area boundaries, consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish closed areas; (4) measures to allocate unused CAI carryover pounds under certain scenarios of OHA2 approval. Other business may be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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

Dated: November 14, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-24957 Filed 11-16-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF823

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a 5-day meeting in December to discuss the items contained in the agenda in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

DATES: The meetings will be held from December 4 to December 8, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. These are new dates due to the passing of hurricanes Irma and Maria through Puerto Rico.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Council Office, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

—Call to Order

—Adoption of Agenda

—Overview

Review outcomes from previous meeting

—Review Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule Language

Review suggestions from General Counsel and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) on text of Tier 4 of the control rule

Develop language to define

“consensus” as used in determining Tier assignments (or otherwise alter language to remove the term)

—**Action 2:** Finalize establishment of stock/stock complexes for each of the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Thomas/St. John Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)

—Determine use of Indicator Species to recommend to the Council

—**Finalize recommendations on:**