

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

RIN 0648-XA801

Fisheries of the Pacific Region

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

ACTION: Notification of determination of an overfished condition.

SUMMARY: This action serves as a notice that NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), has determined that Pacific ocean perch, (*Sebastes alutus*), which is managed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, is in an overfished condition.

NMFS notifies the appropriate fishery management council (Council) whenever it determines that overfishing is occurring, a stock is in an overfished condition, or a stock is approaching an overfished condition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Nelson, (301) 427-8565.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to sections 304(e)(2) and (e)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1854(e)(2) and (e)(7), and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.310(e)(2), NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, notifies Councils whenever it determines; a stock or stock complex is approaching an overfished condition, a stock or stock complex is overfished, or existing action taken to prevent previously identified overfishing or rebuilding a previously identified overfished stock or stock complex has not resulted in adequate progress. NMFS also notifies Councils when it determines a stock or stock complex is subject to overfishing.

On September 30, 2011, NMFS informed the Pacific Fishery Management Council that the most recent stock assessment for Pacific ocean perch found that the biomass is below the overfished threshold. A review of the stock assessment determined that it constituted the best available information and that the change in the stock status was primarily a result of using a different model to assess the stock. The assessment also found that overfishing was not occurring and that the stock of Pacific ocean perch is rebuilding.

Pacific ocean perch are currently under a rebuilding plan. The Council must continue to take measures to

ensure that overfishing does not occur and that the stock rebuilds on schedule. If additional information were to reveal any concern over maintaining the current rebuilding progress, changes to the management or rebuilding parameters of Pacific ocean perch could be addressed through the biennial specification and management measures process.

Dated: November 8, 2011.

Steven Thur,

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

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

RIN 0648-XA815

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's (Council) VMS/ Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel with the United States Coast Guard will hold a Commercial Fishing Gear Stowage Workshop to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Northeast Regional Fisheries Training Center, 5200 East Hospital Road, Buzzards Bay, MA 02542. The public must preregister for this workshop to facilitate entrance to this secure facility, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Preregistration: Should be emailed to Lt. Lyle Kessler, USCG Northeast Fisheries Training Center lyle.e.kessler@uscg.mil with "I plan to attend the gear stowage workshop" in the subject line. You will need to provide your first and last name, license number, State and plate number.

Agenda

The Committee and advisory panel will discuss research regulation changes that would decrease industry's safety concerns regarding gear stowage regulations, while maintaining enforcement's ability to enforce gear stowage regulations from the air.

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 this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 workshop 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: November 7, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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

RIN 0648-XA818

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC); 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 Research Steering Committee (Committee), in November, 2011, 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.