

(c) NMFS lobster research activities; industry concerns about the fishery; summary of Review Panel's report/recommendations; Crustacean Plan Team/Hawaii-Crustacean Advisory Panel recommendations; SSC recommendations; public hearing; and (d) other issues.

7. Reports from fishery agencies and organizations.

8. Bottomfish issues, including:

(a) overfished Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) onaga and ehu (State of Hawaii Draft Management Plan and Council's Management Plan);

(b) status of NWHI management system;

(c) SSC recommendations;

(d) public hearing; and

(e) other issues.

9. Native rights and indigenous fishing issues, including:

(a) PIAFA requirements such as conservation plans for American Samoa, Guam, the NMI and other U.S. possessions;

(b) report of PIAFA Working Group;

(c) status of AP for demonstration projects;

(d) status of Commonwealth of NMI turtle study;

(e) SSC recommendations;

(f) Native Rights Committee recommendations;

(g) public hearing; and

(h) other issues.

10. Ecosystems and Habitat, including:

(a) summary of recent activities; and

(b) SSC recommendations.

11. Precious corals, including:

(a) application for permit to harvest precious corals;

12. Program planning, including:

(a) education and outreach program; and

(b) status of WpacFIN.

13. Administrative matters, including:

(a) Statement of Organization,

Practices, and Procedures revision;

(b) administrative reports;

(c) future meetings and travel; and

(d) other business as required.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: April 3, 1997.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

**AGENCY:** National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice and opportunity for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The National Weather Service (NWS) is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations of:

(1) International Falls Weather Service Office (WSO) into the future Duluth and Eastern North Dakota Weather Forecast Offices (WFO);

(2) Abilene WSO into the future San Angelo WFO; and

(3) Victoria WSO into the future Corpus Christi WFO. In accordance with Pub. Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation certifications.

**DATES:** Comments are requested by June 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1235 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300.

All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with section 706 of Pub.

Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) a draft memorandum by the meteorologist-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) a description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) a comparison of the services provided within the service area and the

services to be provided after such action;

(4) a description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) an identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s), User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable); and

(7) a letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Pub. Law 102-567. At their December 14, 1995 meeting the numbers "\* \* \* resolved that the MTC modify its procedure to eliminate proposed certification consultations of noncontroversial closings, consolidations, relocations, and automation certifications but will provide final consultation on certifications after public comment and before final submission to the Secretary of Commerce."

The above actions are all considered noncontroversial by the NWS. Also these proposed certifications do not include the documentation supporting them which is too voluminous to publish. Copies of the supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certifications. If decisions to certify are made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating the offices.

Dated: April 7, 1997.

**Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,**

*Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.*  
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