

project to a successful completion. Proposals will also be evaluated on their ability to: (a) Deliver the restoration objective stated in the proposal; (b) provide educational benefits; (c) incorporate post-restoration monitoring and assessment of project success in terms of meeting the proposed objectives; (d) demonstrate that the restoration activity will be sustainable and long-lasting; (e) demonstrate that implementation of the project will meet all state environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements by obtaining or proceeding to obtain applicable permits and consultations; and (f) provide mid-term and final project reports, including photo-documentation of the project site and restoration activities.

### (3) *Community Commitment and Partnership Development*

Proposals will be evaluated on how well they describe the depth and breadth of the community's support. Projects must incorporate significant community involvement, which may include: (a) Hands-on training and restoration activities undertaken by volunteer students and other citizens; (b) input from local entities such as businesses, conservation organizations and others, either through in-kind goods and services (earth moving, technical expertise, easements) or cash contributions; (c) visibility within the community and demonstrated potential for public outreach and/or outreach products, including, but not limited to, an educational sign/poster at the project site, compilation of protocols into training manuals, guides, brochures, or videos; (d) cooperation with private landowners that set an example within the community for natural resource conservation; (e) support by state and local governments; (f) representation of those within the community who have an interest in or are affected by the project and seek the benefits of the restoration; (g) ability to achieve long-term stewardship for restored resources and generate a community conservation ethic; and/or (h) description of methods to assure that all residents or citizens affected by the project are provided an opportunity to participate.

### (4) *Cost-effectiveness and Budget Justification*

Projects will be evaluated on their ability to demonstrate that a significant benefit will be generated for the most reasonable cost; on their importance to NOAA trust resources; the extent of habitat and degree to which it will be restored; and on their demonstration of partnership and collaboration. Projects will also be ranked in terms of their need for funding and the ability of

NMFS to act as a catalyst to implement projects. NMFS will require cost-sharing to leverage funding and to encourage partnerships among government, industry, and academia to address the needs of communities to restore important fisheries habitat. Applicants submitting full proposals must include a detailed cost estimate showing a breakdown of total project costs. Cost-sharing must be indicated as Federal and non-Federal shares, divided into cash and in-kind contributions, and must be accompanied by commitment letters. The exact amount of funds awarded to a project and the funding instrument will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA/NMFS representatives. The application requirements will differ depending upon the funding instrument selected. Projects receiving funds under this program will have to meet applicable NOAA/Department of Commerce/Federal policies, requirements and laws.

NMFS is particularly interested in comments on the following:

Are there additional criteria for proposal evaluation that should be included? Are there criteria that should be excluded?

Should the evaluation criteria listed above receive equal or different weighting during evaluation, and why?

### **Statutory Authority**

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 661-667; Joint Project Authority, 15 U.S.C. 1525, and the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

**Andrew A. Rosenberg,**  
*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,*  
*National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 092499E]

### **Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Queen Conch Committee will hold a public meeting to discuss the issues included in the agenda.

**DATES:** The Committee will meet on October 20, 1999. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 8000 Tartak St., Isla Verde, Puerto Rico.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The agenda is as follows:

Call to Order  
Adoption of Agenda  
Queen Conch  
Banning Use or SCUBA Gear in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)  
Banning Queen Conch Fishing in the EEZ

Establishing a Four Months Closed Season

Alternative Management Measures to the Size Limit Requirement -Draft Option Paper

Discussion of Puerto Rico's Present and New Fishing Regulations

Other Business

The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in the English language. However, simultaneous interpretation services (English-Spanish) will be available. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 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 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 Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at the Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

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