ecology, adaptation to the physical environment, and timing and duration of breeding season. Based on the available scientific information, it is unclear that eastern and western yellow-billed cuckoos are distinct. However, we find that the petition presents substantial information that leads us to conclude that further investigation is required, through a status review, to determine if listing the western yellow-billed cuckoo as a distinct population segment may be warranted.

In making these findings, we recognize that yellow-billed cuckoo populations have declined in portions of their range in the United States, particularly west of the Continental Divide. Loss and degradation of western riparian habitats appears to be a primary factor in these declines. The range of the species has contracted substantially in many regions of the western United States, compared to the range reported for the species in the first several decades of the twentieth century (Gaines and Laymon 1984; Laymon and Halterman 1987; Hughes 1999). Population numbers have also declined substantially in the western United States (Hughes 1999), although scientific data on the magnitude of population changes are unavailable for most regions.

Public Information Solicited

We solicit information regarding the taxonomic status, occurrence, and distribution of the species, and any additional data or scientific information from the public, scientific community, Tribal, local, State, and Federal governments, and other interested parties concerning the status of the yellow-billed cuckoo. Of particular interest is information regarding:

(1) The taxonomy and genetics of the species and whether this information supports classifying the western yellow-billed cuckoo as a valid subspecies;

(2) Behavioral and ecological differences between eastern and western yellow-billed cuckoos; and

(3) Significance of the western population in relation to the species as a whole that may aid in differentiating population segments.

After consideration of additional information received during the public information collection period (see DATES section of this notice), we will prepare a 12-month finding as to whether listing the yellow-billed cuckoo as a species, subspecies, or distinct population segment is warranted.

References Cited

You may request a complete list of all references we cited, as well as others, from the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority. The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 7, 2000.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 00–3652 Filed 2–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[I.D. 012100C]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings; Correction

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

ACTION: Correction to notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the notice of public hearings pertaining to the draft options for an amendment to the Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan.

DATES: Effective February 3, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407–4699; telephone: 843–571–4366; fax: 843–769–4520; E-mail address: kim.iverson@safmc.noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice of public hearings was published in the **Federal Register** on February 3, 2000, notifying the public of the hearings that would be conducted regarding draft options for an amendment to the Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan. That document misidentified the amendment, which must be corrected.

NMFS is correcting the error but is making no other change to the document.

Corrections

Under the Proposed Rules Section, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings, FR Doc. 00–2404, published on February 3, 2000 (65 FR 5300), on page 5300, please correct the text ''Amendment 1'' to read ''Amendment 3'' in both places: (1) first column, last line and (2) third column, fourth line from the top.

Dated: February 11, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 00–3856 Filed 2–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No.000214041–0041–01; I.D. 012100C]

RIN 0648–AN50

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; Hawaii-based Pelagic Longline Fishery Line Clipper and Dipnet Requirement; Guidelines for Handling of Sea Turtles Brought Aboard Hawaii-based Pelagic Longline Vessels

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; gear requirements.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues a proposed rule which would require the possession and use of line clippers and dip nets aboard vessels registered for use under a Hawaii longline limited access permit to disengage sea turtles hooked or entangled by longline fishing gear. The proposed rule would require the use of specific methods for the handling, resuscitating, and releasing of sea turtles. The intended effect of the proposed measures is to minimize the mortality of, or injury to, sea turtles hooked or entangled by longline fishing gear.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule will be accepted through March 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action must be mailed to Charles Karnella, Administrator, NMFS, Pacific Islands Area Office (PIAO), 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814–4700; or faxed to 808–973–2941. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or internet. Copies of the environmental assessment prepared for this action may be obtained from Alvin Katekaru or Marilyn Luipold, PIAO.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Dupree or Marilyn Luipold, 808–973–2937.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery is