

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

[I.D. 021104A]

International Whaling Commission Nominations

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

ACTION: Request for nominations.

SUMMARY: This notice is a call for nominees for the U.S. Delegation to the July 2004 International Whaling Commission (IWC) annual meeting.

DATES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting must be received by April 9, 2004.

ADDRESSES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting should be addressed to Rolland Schmitt, U.S. Commissioner to the IWC, and sent via post to: Chris Yates, 13708, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Prospective Congressional advisors to the delegation should contact the Department of State directly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Yates, 301-713-2322, Extension 114.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations.

The IWC is hosting its 56th annual meeting from July 19-22, 2004, in Sorrento, Italy.

Dated: February 19, 2004.

Laurie K. Allen,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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

[I.D. 021704C]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on March 8-12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL; telephone: 251-438-4000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Council

March 11, 2004

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m.—11:30 a.m.—Receive public testimony on the Draft Reef Fish Amendment 22 (Red Snapper Rebuilding Plan) and the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

1 p.m.—4:30 p.m.—Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee report.

4:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.—(Closed Session) Receive the report of the Joint Personnel/Administrative Policy Committee.

March 12, 2004

8:30 a.m.—9 a.m.—Receive the Habitat Protection Committee report.

9 a.m.—9:30 a.m.—Receive the Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee report.

9:30 a.m.—10 a.m.—Receive the Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Management Committee report.

10 a.m.—11 a.m.—Receive the Shrimp Management Committee report.

11 a.m.—11:15 a.m.—Receive the Budget Committee Report.

11:15 a.m.—11:30 a.m.—Receive the Joint Personnel/Administrative Committee report.

1 p.m.—1:15 p.m.—Receive the report on the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) meeting.

1:15 p.m.—1:45 p.m.—Receive the report on the Southeast Data and Review (SEDAR) Steering Committee meeting.

1:45 p.m.—2 p.m.—Receive the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) Liaison Report.

2 p.m.—2:15 p.m.—Receive a report on the Gulf Safety Committee.

2:15 p.m.—2:30 p.m.—Receive a report on the Joint Council meeting.

2:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m.—Receive the NMFS Billfish/Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel (HMS AP) meeting reports.

2:45 p.m.—3 p.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

3 p.m.—3:15 p.m.—Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

3:15 p.m.—3:30 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

3:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m.—Other Business
March 8, 2004

8 a.m.—9:30 a.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to review Draft Shrimp Amendment 13.

9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.—Convene the Budget Committee in a closed session to review bids to hire a court reporter. The Budget Committee meeting will then be open to the public to discuss the cost of new microphones and a Florida State University economic data collection proposal.

1 p.m.—5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to review the Public Hearing Draft of Vermilion Snapper Amendment 23 that contains alternatives for arresting overfishing of that stock by commercial and recreational fishermen. The committee will also review and take final action on the Final Reef Fish Amendment 22 (red snapper rebuilding program). An options paper for Reef Fish Amendment 18 pertaining to the grouper fishery will be discussed. The following issues will also be reviewed: The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) recommendations on grouping amberjacks, tilefish, and deepwater groupers; U.S. Coast Guard rules for crew size of inspected recreational for-hire vessels; the SAFMC's action on yellowtail snapper; and a status report on the red snapper IFQ referendum. The Committee will ratify and/or add to the SEDAR pool and panel membership for each of the SEDAR workshops during 2004 and 2005 for stocks of king mackerel, red snapper, vermilion snapper, and greater amberjack. The Committee will develop recommendations for consideration by full Council on Thursday afternoon.