

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

RIN 0648–XC693

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) Groundfish Advisory Panel will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 2013 at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421–0700; fax: (401) 455–3040.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Advisory Panel will meet, primarily to develop recommendations on issues that will be discussed during the June 11, 2013 joint meeting of the Groundfish and Habitat Oversight Committees and the June 12, 2013 meeting of the Groundfish Oversight Committee. They will discuss issues related to Amendment 18 of the Northeast Multispecies FMP to include: Review Plan Development Team analyses to date; Develop recommendations on a purpose and need statement, and on potentially revising the goals and objectives. Also on the agenda will be items related to the alternatives development for the Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2 (OA2) which will include: Development of appropriate bridle length caps to be used on no-groundcable trawl gear within two potential adverse effects habitat management areas in the Great South Channel and on Georges Shoal. These gear modification options could be implemented via OA2 if approved by the Council. They will also develop a list of key groundfish gear

characteristics to be part of a data collection program, which could be implemented via OA2 if approved by the Council. The information gathered via this data collection program would be used to develop gear modification options to minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH in future management actions. The panel will address other business as necessary.

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 meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 20, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013–12265 Filed 5–22–13; 8:45 am]

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

RIN 0648–XC695

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Research Set-Aside Committee, its Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Committee, its Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee, and its Executive Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held Tuesday, June 11, 2013 through Thursday, June 13, 2013. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Double Tree Hilton Tinton Falls-Eatontown, 700 Hope Road, Eatontown, NJ 07724; telephone: (732) 544–9300.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526–5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Tuesday, June 11, 2013**

8 a.m. until 11 a.m.—The Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish (MSB) Committee will meet.

11 a.m. until 3 p.m.—The Surfclam and Ocean Quahog (SC/OQ) Committee will meet.

3 p.m.—The Council will convene.

3 p.m. until 5 p.m.—The Council Strategic Plan will be discussed.

5 p.m. until 6 p.m.—The Listening Session will be held.

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

9 a.m.—The Council will convene.

9 a.m. until 11 a.m.—The Omnibus Recreational Amendment will be discussed.

11 a.m. until 12 p.m.—There will be an Update on Atlantic Sturgeon Biological Opinion.

1 p.m. until 3 p.m.—The Council will discuss MSB Committee actions and approve annual specifications and related management measures.

3 p.m. until 5 p.m.—The Council will discuss SC/OQ Committee actions and approve the Data Collection Protocol document by the FMAT.

Thursday, June 13, 2013

9 a.m. until 10 a.m.—The Executive Committee will meet.

10 a.m. until 2 p.m.—The Council will hold its regular Business Session to approve the December 2012 and April 2013 minutes, receive Organizational Reports, the New England and South Atlantic Liaison Reports, the Executive Director's Report, the Science Report; Committee Reports, and conduct any continuing and/or new business.

Agenda items by day for the Council's Committees and the Council itself are:

On Tuesday, June 11—The MSB Committee will review and develop recommendations for annual MSB specifications and related management measures, including but limited to: Butterfish Allowable Biological Catch for 2014, river herring/shad cap for the mackerel fishery, gear stowage requirements, longfin roll-over and reserve options, longfin mesh

requirements, and Longfin possession limits for the Illex fishery; Illex control date, Amendment 15 update, and the squid port meeting results. The SC/OQ Committee will review and develop recommendations for the 2014–2016 specifications and review and advise on the Data Collection Protocol document prepared by the Fishery Management Action Team. The Council will review and approve the Draft Strategic Plan. During the Listening Session John Bullard will give a review of the NMFS Listening Sessions.

On Wednesday, June 12—The Council will review and approve the Omnibus Recreational Amendment for submission to NMFS. NERO will provide an Update on Atlantic Sturgeon Biological Opinion. The Council will review MSB Committee actions, approve annual specifications and related management measures (see above list for MSB Committee), approve Illex control date, and receive an Amendment 15 update. The Council will review SC/OQ Committee actions, approve 2014–16 specifications for surfclams and ocean quahogs and approve the Data Collection Protocol document prepared by the FMAT.

On Thursday, June 13—The Executive Committee will receive an update on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management document and discuss wind energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the next steps. The Council will hold its regular Business Session to approve the December 2012 and April 2013 minutes, receive Organizational Reports, the New England and South Atlantic Liaison Report, the Executive Director's Report, Science Report, Committee Reports, and conduct any continuing and/or new business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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 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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders,

(302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 20, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013–12323 Filed 5–22–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Nomination of Existing Marine Protected Areas to the National System of Marine Protected Areas

AGENCY: National Marine Protected Areas Center (MPA Center), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: In January 2013, NOAA and the Department of the Interior (DOI) invited federal, state, commonwealth, and territorial marine protected area (MPA) programs with potentially eligible existing MPAs to nominate their sites to the National System of MPAs (national system). The national system and the nomination process are described in the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States* (Framework), developed in response to Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas and published on November 19, 2008 (73 FR 69608). The Framework provides guidance for collaborative efforts among federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, tribal and local governments and stakeholders to develop an effective and well-coordinated national system of MPAs.

DATES: Comments on the nominations to the national system are due July 22, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Lauren Wenzel, National Marine Protected Areas Center, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East-West Highway, N/NMS, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, will not be considered by NOAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Wenzel, NOAA, at 301–713–7265 or via email at lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov. A detailed electronic copy of the List of National

System MPAs is available for download at <http://www.mpa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on National System

The national system of MPAs is made up of member MPA sites, networks and systems established and managed by federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, tribal or local governments that collectively enhance conservation of the nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and represent its diverse ecosystems and resources.

Benefits of joining the national system, include a facilitated means to work with other MPA managers in the region, and nationally on issues of common conservation concern; fostering greater public and international recognition of U.S. MPAs and the resources they protect; priority in the receipt of available technical and other support for cross-cutting needs; and additional opportunities to participate in and influence federal and regional ocean conservation and management initiatives (such as integrated ocean observing systems, systematic monitoring and evaluation, targeted outreach to key user groups, and helping to identify and address MPA research needs). In addition, the national system provides a forum for coordinated regional planning about place-based conservation priorities that does not otherwise exist.

A site must have existing protections of natural and/or cultural resources in place in order to be eligible to join the national system, as well as meet other criteria described in the Framework. Joining the national system does not establish new regulatory authority or change existing regulations in any way, require changes affecting the designation process or management of member MPAs, or bring state, territorial, tribal or local sites under federal authority.

II. Nomination Process

This current round of nominations began on January 28, 2013 and the deadline for nominations was March 29, 2013.

There are four entry criteria for existing MPAs to join the national system.

1. Meets the definition of an MPA as defined in the Framework.

2. Has a management plan (can be site-specific or part of a broader programmatic management plan; must have goals and objectives and call for monitoring or evaluation of those goals and objectives).