DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC866

Fisheries of the Northeast Region

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

ACTION: Notification of a determination of overfishing or an overfished condition.

SUMMARY: This action serves as a notice that NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), has determined that Georges Bank (GB) cod and Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod are subject to overfishing and continue to be in an overfished condition.

NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, notifies the appropriate fishery management council (Council) whenever it determines that overfishing is occurring, a stock is in an overfished condition, a stock is approaching an overfished condition, or when a rebuilding plan has not resulted in adequate progress toward ending overfishing and rebuilding affected fish stocks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Nelson, (301) 427–8565.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to sections 304(e)(2) and (e)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1854(e)(2) and (e)(7), and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.310(e)(2), NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, must notify Councils whenever it determines that a stock or stock complex is: overfished; approaching an overfished condition; or an existing rebuilding plan has not ended overfishing and resulted in adequate rebuilding progress. NMFS also notifies Councils when it determines a stock or stock complex is subject to overfishing. Section 304(e)(2) further requires NMFS to publish these notices in the Federal Register.

The 2013 Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) 55, showed that overfishing was occurring on both Georges Bank cod and Council Maine cod, and that both stocks remain in an overfished condition. The New England Fishery Management Council has been notified of the results of SAW 55 and has taken action to end overfishing and rebuild these two stocks through Framework 48.

Dated: October 18, 2013.

Emily H. Menasses,

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC938

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC); 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 (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on November 15, 2013 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Friday, November 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Omni Hotel, 1 West Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 598–8000; fax: (401) 598–8200.

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 NEFMC’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet to specify overfishing levels (OFLs) and develop Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallops for fishing years 2014 and 2015 (default) and for the Northeast Skate Complex for fishing years 2014 through 2016. The Committee will consider information provided to it by the Council’s Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) and by the Skate PDT. The Committee will also review the 2012 update assessment for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock and the work of the Groundfish PDT in order to reconsider ABC and OFL for GOM haddock for fishing years 2013–15.

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 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 Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 24, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC939

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 (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Committee on November 14, 2013 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: This meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Omni Providence Hotel, 1 West Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02048; telephone: (401) 598–8000; fax: (401) 598–8200.