

Subsequently, a public hearing was held on December 17, 2002, in Orlando, Florida. At the public hearing and in written correspondence a number of constituents who potentially could be affected by the proposed rule requested

that the comment period be extended. This is to allow more time for preparing comments in response to the proposed rule. To that effect, the comment period is reopened until March 17, 2003.

Dated: January 6, 2003.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

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