

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 et seq. (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program).

Dated: March 27, 2003.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040703F]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (CFMC) Habitat Advisory Panel (HAP), and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The HAP/SSC meeting will be held on April 24-25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Best Western Pierre Hotel, 105 De Diego Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1920, telephone: 787-766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HAP, and the SSC will meet to discuss the items contained in the following agenda on the Draft Essential Fish Habitat/ Environmental Impact Statement for the CFMC:

1. Review Methodology (Sect. 2.1)
2. Review revised Human Environment (Sect. 3.3)
3. Fishing impact alternatives
 - Review list of alternatives (Sect. 2.5)
 - Discuss rationale (Sect. 2.5)
 - Discuss consequences (Sect. 4.5)
4. HAPC alternatives
 - Review list of alternatives (Sect. 2.4)
 - Discuss rationale (Sect. 2.4)
 - Discuss consequences (Sect. 4.4)
5. EFH alternatives
 - Review list of alternatives (Sect. 2.3)
 - Discuss rationale (Sect. 2.3)
 - Discuss consequences (Sect. 4.3)
6. Consequences section (Sect. 4)
 - Missing information (Sect. 4.1)

- Cumulative impacts (Sect. 4.6)

7. Affected Environment (Sect. 3)

- Previously discussed - additional comments?

8. Other

The HAP/SSC will convene on Thursday, April 24, 2003, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and will continue on Friday, April 25, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Committees for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during these meetings. Committee 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 Panel's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-1920, telephone 787-766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 7, 2003.

Theophilus R. Brainerd,

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

[FR Doc. 03-8823 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040303B]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPD), Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, and Highly Migratory Species Subcommittee of the Science and Statistical Committee will hold a joint work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will be Tuesday, April 29, 2003 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.; and Wednesday, April 30, 2003 from 9 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, 2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego, CA 92109; telephone: (619) 226-3870.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this joint meeting, NMFS analysts will present information on potential impacts on sea turtles from high seas longline fishing east of 150° W longitude. Recent information from longline fishing operations east of 150° W longitude has been reviewed by NMFS. Based on their initial review, NMFS is concerned that longline vessels targeting swordfish could have interactions with sea turtles at rates similar to rates in waters west of 150° W longitude. These latter rates were the basis for total turtle take and mortality estimates that resulted in a jeopardy determination and the prohibition of swordfish targeting by Hawaii-based longline vessels. A similar conclusion for West Coast-based fishing under the FMP could result in partial disapproval of the fishery management plan (FMP). Therefore, in March 2003, NMFS requested and the Council agreed to delay submission of the HMS FMP to provide time for NMFS to complete scientific review of the new data and present the results to the Council HMS advisory committees. At the June 2003 Council meeting, the Council will review the new information and, based on the advice of its advisors and the public, could act to modify a motion previously adopted. That is, at the June 2003 Council meeting, the Council could modify the preferred alternative for pelagic longline fisheries outside of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the