

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to discuss the provisions of Draft Shrimp Amendment 13 Options Paper and consider potential actions regarding Shrimp Amendment 10.

1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to hear presentations regarding the evaluation of the Madison/Swanson and Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserves and the results of a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) trolling study. There will also be presentations by Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) personnel on fish traps and by NMFS on vessel monitoring systems (VMS). The committee will review public comments and recommendations by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and Reef Fish Advisory Panel on Amendment 21 and make recommendations to be considered by the full Council on Wednesday afternoon.

May 13

8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.—Convene the Administrative Policy Committee to discuss proposed revisions to the Council's Administrative Handbook.

10 a.m. - 12 noon—Convene the Law Enforcement Committee to discuss criminal penalties for managing game and fish resources and to approve the Enforcement Operations Plan. They will also hear a request by the Worldwide Water Foundation for fishing vessel designation.

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.—Convene a joint meeting of the Reef Fish, Mackerel, and Red Drum Management Committees to discuss the proposed scoping document on a generic aquaculture amendment.

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.—Convene the Mackerel Management Committee to review and comment on the final CMP Regulatory Amendment and to discuss a scoping document for Draft CMP Amendment 15.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council 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 MSFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. A copy of the Committee schedule and agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 228-2815.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by May 5, 2003.

Dated: April 21, 2003.

Matteo J. Milazzo,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042103B]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Technical Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of workshop series to address Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEP) and Ecosystem Models.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a series of technical workshops involving selected members from its Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel, Coral Advisory Panel and invited scientists with background in specific habitat type or species utilization patterns.

DATES: The workshops will be held during the months of May, July, August, September and October. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The workshop series will be held in St. Petersburg, FL, Beaufort, NC, and Charleston, SC. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC, 29407; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The workshops will take place: May 19-21, 2003, May 21-23, 2003, July 1-2, 2003, August 19-21, 2003, September 23-25, 2003 and October 20-22, 2003.

The workshop process will initiate development of a South Atlantic Council Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) which presents fishery and resource

information for fisheries in the South Atlantic Bight ecosystem in context. The workshop processes will integrate two directives in the Final Rule for Essential Fish Habitat: (1) Review and update Essential Fish Habitat information, and (2) Consider ecosystem-based management through development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the South Atlantic Region.

The Council recognizes the scope of the significant task necessary to meet the new essential fish habitat mandates and directive to begin evaluating ecosystem-based management through the development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) and is again calling upon the Habitat Advisory Panel members and other technical experts involved in the previous Habitat Plan development process to serve as or identify appropriate experts to function on a quasi-plan development team for this task. The Habitat and Coral Advisory Panel are scheduled to meet this fall and will provide additional guidance on the workshop process and ecosystem management.

A Final EFH Rule was published on January 17, 2002 replacing the interim Final Rule of December 19, 1997 on which the original EFH and EFH-Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) designations were made. The Councils have, pursuant to the Final EFH Rule, been directed to update EFH and EFH-HAPC information and designations; in addition, pursuant to revisions to NOAA General Counsel interpretation of the National Environmental Policy Act the Councils will be required to update all Environmental Impact Statements for all Federal Fishery Management Plans under their jurisdiction. Information compiled during this process will further facilitate meeting both the EFH and the NEPA mandate. As was done with the original Habitat Plan, a series of technical workshops will be conducted by Council habitat staff, in cooperation with NOAA Beaufort Laboratory, NMFS Southeast Fishery Science Center Miami Laboratory, NMFS Southeast Regional Office personnel and invited participants. Workshops are intended to build on a review of existing information presented in the Habitat Plan, and focus on updating information pursuant to the new EFH Rule. This effort will begin the integration of comprehensive details of habitat distribution and characterization, the biology of managed species including their biological role in and the characteristics of the food web they exist in.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Development and