

data. Currently NOAA collects, compiles and maintains these data and little or no expense will be incurred in making these data available to the public on the Internet.

Generally, NOAA does not intend to limit access to, or restrict use of the data it makes available on the Internet. Of course, sensitive data will be reviewed and if there are homeland security issues, proprietary concerns, privacy implications or similar issues, such data may not be placed on the Internet. In addition, in some cases where the data or use of the data are not completely reliable, where procedures for updating the data are not fully tested and operational, where the public may lack familiarity with the use of those data and associated products, or for other reasons, NOS may release the data on a provisional basis with a statement that the data are not to be used for navigational purposes. This was the case with the original release of NOAA ENC[®] in 2001.

From all indications, mariners and other users are now familiar with NOAA ENC[®]. The response to NOAA ENC[®] on the Internet has been overwhelmingly positive, with more than 480,000 individual files downloaded. NOAA ENC[®] were designed to comply with International Hydrographic Organization's S-57 ENC Product Specification and have been greatly successful with a notable absence of significant errors. Further, the NOAA ENC[®] files are now being updated for Notices to Mariners on a monthly basis and then posted to the NOAA ENC[®] Web page, available for downloading. Consequently, NOS will remove the "provisional" label for NOAA ENC[®] distributed on the Internet in the near future. Once that label is removed, a NOAA ENC[®] will constitute a "nautical chart" for the purposes of the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

In the future NOAA intends to monitor the release and use of its data and may remove, or in some cases, add provisional use labels or other warnings or restrictions through an announcement on the Web site associated with the data.

NOS does not seek to limit access or restrict use of the data it provides on the Internet for most purpose, but it is concerned about the use of these data in situations that may compromise marine safety. Consequently, NOS plans to work with mariners, product developers and others to establish specific procedures for users who wish to incorporate NOS data into certain navigation products. Thus, in order for a value-added navigational product to

be certified, the developer may be required to establish a process to ensure that NOS data are incorporated into the product without compromise to the data quality or data lineage.

NOS intends to issue standards governing the certification process for derived navigational products. Among the standards under consideration are: (1) The operation of a quality assurance system that is in essential compliance with a recognized quality standard, such as ISO 9000 series or equivalent, and (2) the certification by a U.S. Coast Guard-approved quality standards organization that results in products being consistently manufactured to the same specification.

NOS is publishing this notice consistent with section 8.a(6)(j) of the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051303D]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings in Kodiak, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held June 9 through June 18, 2003. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Best Western Kodiak Inn, 236 Rezanof, Kodiak, AK 99615.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, June 9 and continue

through Saturday, June 14, 2003. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 9, and continue through Wednesday, June 11, 2003.

The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11 continuing through Wednesday June 18.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports
 - (a) Executive Director's Report
 - (b) Trawl 3rd Wire Report
 - (c) NMFS Management/Enforcement Reports
2. Gulf of Alaska Rationalization (GOA): Review discussion papers and refine alternatives, elements and options.
3. Programmatic Groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PGSEIS): Select draft preferred alternative.
4. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)/Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC): Update on Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement development, report on Coral/Sponge bycatch limits, Committee report on HAPC process.

5. Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) Pacific Cod Allocation: Final action on Amendment 77 (fixed gear allocations).

6. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU): Review alternatives and options for Trailing Amendment A (multi-species co-ops for head and gut catcher/processor sector and species allocation). Final action on Trailing Amendment C (minimum retention standards).

7. Steller Sea Lion (SSL): SSL Mitigation Committee Report.

8. Groundfish Management: Target/Non-target workgroup report. BSAI Cod depletion study - Review 1st year results.

9. Crab Management: Initial Review Pribilof Blue King Crab Rebuilding Plan.

10. Staff Tasking: Review tasking and committees and provide direction to staff.

11. Other Business: Approve updated Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs).

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. Programmatic Groundfish SEIS
 2. Essential Fish Habitat
 3. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization
 4. Groundfish Management
 5. Crab Management
- Advisory Panel:* The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council.