

—Agenda Development for December 2003 ISPAB Meeting
 —Wrap-Up

Note that agenda items may change without notice because of possible unexpected schedule conflicts of presenters.

Public Participation: The Board agenda will include a period of time, not to exceed thirty minutes, for oral comments and questions from the public. Each speaker will be limited to five minutes. Members of the public who are interested in speaking are asked to contact the Board Secretariat at the telephone number indicated below. In addition, written statements are invited and may be submitted to the Board at any time. Written statements should be directed to the ISPAB Secretariat, Information Technology Laboratory, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8930. It would be appreciated if 35 copies of written material were submitted for distribution to the Board and attendees no later than September 9, 2003. Approximately 15 seats will be available for the public and media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joan Hash, Board Secretariat, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8930, telephone: (301) 975–3357.

Dated: August 21, 2003.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Deputy Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082003C]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Advisory Panels

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

ACTION: Notice; Highly Migratory Species and Billfish Advisory Panel Meetings; Request for nominations.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold a Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel (HMS AP) meeting September 30, 2003, for Atlantic Shark management in Silver Spring, MD. Also, a joint meeting of the Atlantic HMS AP and the Atlantic Billfish Advisory Panel (Billfish AP)

will be held February 9 through 11, 2004, in Silver Spring, MD. Additionally, NMFS solicits nominations for the HMS AP and the Billfish AP. The intent of these Advisory Panel meetings is to consider alternatives for the conservation and management of highly migratory species.

DATES: The HMS AP Shark management meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on September 30, 2003. The joint HMS-Billfish AP meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2004.

Nominations must be submitted on or before October 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The AP meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97), Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: (301) 589–0800.

Nominations and requests for the AP Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures should be submitted in writing to Christopher Rogers, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. Nominations may be submitted by fax; (301) 713–1917.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Othel Freeman or Carol Douglas (301) 713–2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104–297, Advisory Panels (AP) have been established to consult with NMFS in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the HMS FMP (April 1999) and the Billfish FMP Amendment (April 1999). Nominations are being sought to fill one-third of the posts of the HMS AP for 3-year appointments, and one-half of the posts of the Billfish AP for 2-year appointments. The nomination process and appointments are required by the Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures for each AP. The purpose of the HMS AP is to advise and assist the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to any amendment to the HMS FMP. The HMS AP evaluates future management options for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and sharks under the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The purpose of the Billfish AP is to advise and assist the Secretary in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to any amendment to the Billfish FMP. The Billfish AP evaluates future management options for Atlantic billfish under the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Procedures and Guidelines

A. Procedures for Appointing the Advisory Panels

Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, governmental entities, and non-governmental organizations will be considered for membership in the AP.

Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups. The nomination should include:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of their interest in highly migratory species (HMS) or one species in particular from among sharks, swordfish, tunas, and billfish;
2. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
3. The AP to which the applicant seeks appointment;
4. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the AP; and
5. Outreach Resources.

Tenure for the HMS AP:

Member tenure will be for 3 years, with one-third of the members' terms expiring on the last day of each calendar year. All appointments will be for 3 years (36 months).

Tenure for the Billfish AP:

Member tenure will be for 2 years, with one-half of the terms expiring on the last day of each calendar year. All appointments will be for 2 years (24 months).

B. Participants

The HMS AP consists of not less than 23 members who are knowledgeable about the fisheries for all Atlantic HMS species. The Billfish AP consists of not less than nine members who are knowledgeable about the fisheries for all Atlantic billfish species. Nominations for each AP will be accepted to allow representation from recreational and commercial fishing interests, the conservation community, and the scientific community.

NMFS does not believe that each potentially affected organization or individual must necessarily have its own representative, but each area of interest must be adequately represented. The intent is to have a group that, as a