

Table 2

Symbols with No Color or Illumination Requirements

Notes:

1. Symbols employing four lines instead of five may also be used.
2. Framed areas of the symbol may be solid; solid areas may be framed.
3. Symbol may be displayed with only one of the two arrows present.
4. Use when engine control is separate from the key locking system.

Issued on: September 17, 2003.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 091203B]

Public Scoping Meetings on the Management of Bottomfish Fishery Resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone around the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS); notice of scoping meetings; request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Western Pacific Council) and NMFS announce their intent to prepare a comprehensive EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) on the Federal management of bottomfish fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Council will convene public scoping meetings in the CNMI to solicit comments on bottomfish fishery issues and potential management options related to those resources. The scope of the EIS analysis will, among other things, describe activities related to the

management, monitoring, and conduct of the fisheries; examine the impacts of bottomfish harvest on archipelagic and localized stocks; and consider the potential impacts to protected species, non-target species, and essential fish habitat. The scoping meetings will provide for public input on the issues, range of alternatives, and impacts the EIS should consider. Written comments will also be accepted concerning the various management options the EIS should consider.

DATES: Public scoping meetings will be held in Saipan, CNMI, on September 24, 2003; in Tinian, CNMI, on September 24, 2003; in Rota, CNMI, September 25, 2003; in Agana, Guam on September 26, 2003. Written comments must be submitted by October 27, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, times, and locations.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the issues, range of alternatives, and impacts that should be discussed in the EIS may be sent to Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, or to Sam Pooley, Acting Regional Administrator, NMFS, Pacific Islands Regional Office, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu HI 96814. Comments may be sent to the Council via facsimile (fax) at 808-522-8226 and must be received by October 27, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the United States has exclusive management authority over all living marine resources found within the EEZ. The management of these marine resources found within the EEZ with the exception of sea birds and

some marine mammals, is vested in the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary). Eight Regional Fishery Management Councils prepare fishery management plans for approval and implementation by the Secretary. The Western Pacific Council has the responsibility to prepare fishery management plans for fishery resources in the EEZ of the Western Pacific Region, which include the Federal waters surrounding the CNMI.

NEPA requires preparation of an EIS for major Federal actions significantly impacting the quality of the human environment. Regulations implementing NEPA at 40 CFR 1502. 4(b) state:

"Environmental impact statements may be prepared, and are sometimes required, for broad Federal actions such as adoption of new agency programs or regulations. Agencies shall prepare statements on broad actions so that they are relevant to policy and are timed to coincide with meaningful points in agency planning and decision making."

The bottomfish fishery resources that occur in the EEZ waters surrounding CNMI are not currently managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (FMP), which was developed by the Council and approved by NOAA, becoming effective August 27, 1986 (51 FR 27413). There have been six amendments to the FMP since 1986, and recently, a comprehensive draft EIS describing the environmental effects of the existing fishery activities conducted under the FMP was developed. The draft EIS, which is currently being finalized for transmittal to NOAA, presents an overall picture of the existing management framework for the bottomfish resources occurring in the EEZ of the Western Pacific region.

In order for the bottomfish fishery resources in the EEZ of the CNMI to be managed under the FMP, an amendment to the existing FMP is required. The