

“other”); approve Amendment 13 to the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan for Secretarial submission; the Highly Migratory Species Ad-Hoc Committee will discuss establishment of a permanent sub-quota allocation of bluefin tuna for North Carolina during December 1 through January 31 time period; Council will receive and discuss organizational and committee reports including the New England Council’s report regarding possible actions on herring, groundfish, monkfish, red crab, scallops, skates, and whiting; and, act on any continuing and/or new business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final actions to address such emergencies.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 2, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[030102001–3001–01]

United States Climate Change Science Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) is announcing the availability of a draft document “Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program.” The complete draft strategic plan was posted on the CCSP web site at <http://www.climate-science.gov> for public comment on November 11, 2002. The

CCSP is seeking public comment in order to receive feedback from the widest range of interested parties. This draft document is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. The CCSP will review public comments received on the draft document. In response to those comments, suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, and a final document will be issued for use.

In your review, we ask you to provide a perspective on the content, implications, and challenges outlined in the plan as well as suggestions for any alternate approach you wish to have considered, and the types of climate and global change information required by policy makers and resource managers. We also ask that you comment on any inconsistencies within or across chapters, and omissions of important topics. For any shortcomings that you note in the draft, please propose specific remedies.

In your comments, please consider the following issues: (1) Overview on the content, implications, and challenges outlined in the plan; (2) areas of agreement and disagreement, as appropriate; (3) suggestions for alternative approaches, if appropriate; (4) inconsistencies within or across chapters; (5) omissions of important topics; (6) specific remedies for identified shortcomings of the draft plan; (7) type of climate and global change information required by representative groups; (8) other comments not covered above. Please do not comment on grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Professional copy editing will correct deficiencies in these areas for the final draft.

Please follow these instructions for preparing and submitting your review. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate our processing of reviewer comments and assure that your comments are appropriately considered. Please provide background information about yourself on the first page of your comments: your name(s), organization(s), area(s) of expertise, mailing address(es), telephone and fax numbers, and email address(es). Overview comments on the chapter should follow your background information and should be numbered. Comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs or lines of the chapter should follow your overview comments and should identify the page and line numbers to which they apply. Comments that refer to a table or figure should identify the table or figure number. In the case of tables, please also identify the row and column to which the comment refers. Order your

comments sequentially by page and line number. At the end of each comment, please insert your name and affiliation. An example of the format is provided on the CCSP web site at: <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/stratplan2003/comments.htm>.

DATES: Comments on this draft document should be submitted by January 18, 2003. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. All comments submitted will be posted on the CCSP web site for public review.

ADDRESSES: The Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program is available on the CCSP web site at: <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/stratplan2003/>. A free single copy of the Plan will be available to interested parties until the supply is exhausted. Such copies may be requested by writing to the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20006 or submitting e-mail to information@climate-science.gov.

All comments should be sent electronically to comments@climate-science.gov or to Ms. Sandy MacCracken, U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sandy MacCracken, U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20006. (Phone: 202–223–6262, Fax: 202–223–3065, e-mail: smaccrac@usgcrp.gov); or visit the CCSP Web site at <http://www.climate-science.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Scientists recognized the existence of a natural “greenhouse effect” and the possibility of human-induced changes in the Earth’s climate and environment as early as the 19th century and, over time, this possibility has become widely accepted. In the last decades of the 20th century, public debate about the contribution of human activities to observed climate change and potential future changes in climate, and about courses of action to manage risks to humans and the environment, has been active and frequently contentious. These debates cover a range of both science and policy issues, including the extent to which global temperatures have in fact changed; whether most of the observed overall change in temperature of the last 50 years is attributable to human activities (principally the burning of biomass and fossil fuels and changes in land cover); how much climate might change in the future; and