



BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF317

**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Meeting of the Atlantic
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel**

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and webinar/conference
call.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold a 3-day Atlantic Highly Migratory
Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) meeting in May 2017. The
intent of the meeting is to consider options for the
conservation and management of Atlantic HMS. The meeting
is open to the public.

DATES: The AP meeting and webinar will be held from 10:30
a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on
Wednesday, May 10, and from 9 a.m. to Noon on Thursday, May
11.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Silver
Spring Hotel, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The meeting presentations will also be available via WebEx webinar/conference call.

The meeting on Tuesday, May 9, Wednesday, May 10, and Thursday, May 11, 2017, will also be accessible via conference call and webinar. Conference call and webinar access information are available at:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/advisory_panels/hms_ap/meetings/may-2017/ap-meeting.html.

Participants are strongly encouraged to log/dial in 15 minutes prior to the meeting. NMFS will show the presentations via webinar and allow public comment during identified times on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Cooper or Margo Schulze-Haugen at (301) 427-8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, provided for the establishment of an AP to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any FMP or FMP amendment for Atlantic HMS. NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of AP members when preparing and implementing FMPs or

FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks.

The AP has previously consulted with NMFS on: Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999); the HMS FMP (April 1999); Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2003); the Consolidated HMS FMP (October 2006); and Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a, 5b, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (April and October 2008, February and September 2009, May and September 2010, April and September 2011, March and September 2012, January and September 2013, April and September 2014, March and September 2015, and March, September, and December 2016), among other things.

The intent of this meeting is to consider alternatives for the conservation and management of all Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and shark fisheries. We anticipate discussing:

- Amendment 5b on dusky sharks;
- Draft Amendment 10 on Essential Fish Habitat;
- Implementation of Final Amendment 7 on bluefin tuna management, including the upcoming three-year review;

- Progress updates on various other rulemakings, including individual bluefin quota transfer criteria effective dates, and requests for regulatory changes received to date;
- Domestic implementation of recommendations from the 2016 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and issues for 2017;
- Progress updates regarding the exempted fishing permit request to conduct research in pelagic longline closed areas and white shark research; and
- Updates on shark stock assessments.

We also anticipate discussing recreational and commercial fishing topics in specific breakout group sessions, including a detailed discussion of permitting, reporting, and compliance with recreational and commercial vessel requirements in response to several requests. Finally, we intend to invite other NMFS offices and the United States Coast Guard to provide updates on their activities relevant to HMS fisheries.

Additional information on the meeting and a copy of the draft agenda will be posted prior to the meeting at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/advisory_panels/hms_ap/meetings/ap_meetings.html.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Peter Cooper at (301) 427-8503 at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Dated: March 31, 2017

Karen H. Abrams,
Acting Deputy Director,
Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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