

DATES: The initial sequence library will be compiled on March 17, 2006. Contributions received later than this date will be considered for inclusion in the library, but may not be included in the first round of testing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marc Salit, Advanced Chemical Science Laboratory, Stop 8310, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8310. Telephone: (301) 975-3646; FAX: 301 975-5449; or by e-mail: salit@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NIST is collecting nucleic acid sequences to form a library of sequences suitable for the preparation of RNA reference materials. These reference materials are intended to act as external RNA controls in gene expression assays.

Development of these reference materials is being done in conjunction with the External RNA Control Consortium, an ad hoc international consortium of approximately 70 organizations from the public, private, and academic sectors. This group has described the materials to be developed (see <http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/Cell&TissueMeasurements/GeneExpression/ERCC.htm>) has published a plan to qualify the performance of the candidate sequence library (see Consortium, E.R.C., Proposed methods for testing and selecting the ERCC external RNA controls. BMC Genomics, 2005. 6(1): p. 150) and is developing guidance for using external RNA controls to validate a gene expression assay (see <http://www.clsi.org> description of provisional guidance MM-16).

The External RNA Reference Material sequences are intended to mimic endogenous mRNA transcripts, in particular for mammalian species. These sequences should:

1. Be from 500 to 2000 nucleotides in length;
2. Have not more than marginal expected cross reactivity with assay probes for popular research organisms (including *H. sapiens*, *M. muscularis*, *S. cerevisiae*, *A. thaliana*, *E. coli*, *C. elegans*, *D. melanogaster*, *D. rerio*). Marginal cross reactivity will be defined as having no more than 20 contiguous bases of identity and overall homology less than 70% with any section of the genomes of interest; and,

3. Have GC content of 40–60% and be void of significant repetitive elements, palindromes or regions of low complexity (Human, mouse and rat genomes are an average of 40–42% GC).

To be included in the library, RNA sequences must:

1. Be entered in the National Center for Biotechnology Information's

GenBank database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/index.html>).

2. Be dedicated to the Public Domain for broad dissemination and unrestricted use by any interested party.

Sequences provided to NIST for inclusion in the library must be physically embodied in a suitable vector, in a suitable organism, and should be provided as such to NIST.

Dated: February 11, 2006.

William Jeffrey,

Director.

[FR Doc. E6-2775 Filed 2-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Public Meeting

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) will meet March 10, 2006.

DATE AND TIME: The meeting is scheduled as follows: March 10, 2006, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. The first part of this meeting will be closed to the public. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Horizon room of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center Washington, DC. The Reagan Building is located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004. While open to the public, seating capacity may be limited.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 10(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1982), notice is hereby given of the meeting of ACCRES. ACCRES was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on May 21, 2002, to advise the Secretary through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on long- and short-range strategies for the licensing of commercial remote sensing satellite systems.

Matters To Be Considered

The first part of the meeting will be closed to the public pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, as amended by section 5(c) of the Government in Sunshine Act, P.L. 94-409 and in accordance with section 552b(c)(1) of Title 5, United States Code. Accordingly, portions of this meeting which involve the ongoing review and implementation of the April 2003 U.S.

Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy and related national security and foreign policy considerations for NOAA's licensing decisions may be closed to the public. These briefings are likely to disclose matters that are specifically authorized under criteria established by Executive Order 12958 to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order.

All other portions of the meeting will be open to the public. During the open portion of the meeting, the Committee will have updates of the Landsat Mission, data archive issues, and new licensed remote sensing space systems. The committee will also receive public comments on its activities.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to ACCRES, NOAA/NESDIS International and Interagency Affairs Office, 1335 East-West Highway, Room 7311, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Additional Information and Public Comments

Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the meeting or who wishes to submit oral or written comments should contact Kay Weston, Designated Federal Officer for ACCRES, NOAA/NESDIS International and Interagency Affairs Office, 1335 East-West Highway, Room 7311, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Copies of the draft meeting agenda can be obtained from Tahara Moreno at (301) 713-2024 ext. 202, fax (301) 713-2032, or e-mail Tahara.Moreno@noaa.gov.

The ACCRES expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously-submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation may be limited to a total time of five minutes. Written comments (please provide at least 13 copies) received in the NOAA/NESDIS International and Interagency Affairs Office on or before March 6, 2006, will be provided to Committee members in advance of the meeting. Comments received too close to the meeting date will normally be provided to Committee members at the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kay Weston, NOAA/NESDIS International and Interagency Affairs, 1335 East West Highway, Room 7313, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; telephone (301) 713-2024 x205, fax (301) 713-2032, e-mail Kay.Weston@noaa.gov, or Tahara

Moreno at telephone (301) 713-2024 x202, e-mail Tahara.Moreno@noaa.gov.

Gregory W. Withee,

Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services.

[FR Doc. E6-2760 Filed 2-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-HR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022206A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (LEAP).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, March 13, 2006, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown/Market Square, 318 W. Durango Boulevard, San Antonio, TX.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will convene the LEAP to review an Options Paper for Joint Amendment 27 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP)/Amendment 14 to the Shrimp FMP. This amendment contains alternatives to regulate the harvest and bycatch of red snapper by both the directed commercial and recreational fisheries and the shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. The need for this amendment arose from the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process through which a recent stock assessment showed that the red snapper stock in the Gulf was overfished and overfishing was continuing.

In addition, the LEAP will discuss the Automated Identification System that will soon be required of many fishing vessels in the Gulf. The LEAP will review a discussion paper that may ultimately be used as the basis for

developing Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs for the grouper and potentially other commercial reef fish fishing operations in the Gulf. Finally, the LEAP will review the status of various FMP amendments and other regulatory actions and report on the various activities of participating organizations.

The LEAP consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf States, as well as the NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Coast Guard, and the NOAA General Counsel. A copy of the agenda and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at (813) 348-1630.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the LEAP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the LEAP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: February 22, 2006.

Helen Troupas,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-2778 Filed 2-27-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021706D]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), its

Ecosystems Committee, Surfclam/Ocean Quahog/Tilefish Committee, its Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee, and its Executive Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 through Thursday, March 16, 2006. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Congress Hall Hotel, 251 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ; telephone: (608) 884-8421

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

The Ecosystems Committee will meet from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. The Committee will review final draft of Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Report regarding ecosystem based fishery management and address strategy regarding introduction of circle hooks as the hook of choice in recreational sector.

The Surfclam/Ocean Quahog/Tilefish Committee will meet from 1 p.m.–1:30 p.m. The Committee will review 2006 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reimbursement program / conditions, and address timing of tilefish specifications adjustments.

The Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee will meet from 1:30 p.m.–4 p.m. This Committee will review status of Amendment 10 and discuss and adopt rebuilding schedules developed by Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) for the butterfish stock.

The Executive Committee will meet from 4 p.m.–4:30 p.m. The Committee will review status of 2006 and 2007 budgets, and review criteria for Ricks E Savage Award.

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

The Council will convene at 9 a.m. The Council will conduct its regular business session from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., to approve December and January Council meeting minutes, approve actions from January meeting and receive various reports. From 12:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m., the Council will discuss Amendment 9 to Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), review and adopt the public hearing document (PHD) for Amendment 9 and associated draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).