

NOAA Fisheries Requests Nominations to Atlantic Billfish and HMS Advisory Panels

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announces a call for nominations to the Atlantic Billfish and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) advisory panels (APs) for terms expiring December 31, 2003. The purpose of the APs is to assist NOAA Fisheries in the development of fishery management plans (FMPs), FMP amendments, and regulatory amendments for Atlantic billfish and Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and sharks.

Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups and will be accepted through October 10, 2003. Nominations may be sent to: Christopher Rogers, Chief, HMS Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 or faxed to (301) 713-1917. The nomination should include:

1. Indication of whether the nomination is for the Billfish AP, HMS AP, or both APs;
2. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of their interest in or connection with billfish (for Billfish AP) or with one species in particular from among sharks, swordfish, and tunas (for HMS AP);
3. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
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.

Criteria for membership include one or more of the following: (a) Experience in the recreational fishing industry involved in catching billfish (for Billfish AP) or swordfish, tunas, or sharks (for HMS AP); (b) experience in the commercial fishing industry for HMS; (c) experience in fishery-related industries (marinas, bait and tackle shops); (d) experience in the scientific community working with Atlantic billfish (for Billfish AP) or HMS (for HMS AP); (e) former or current representative of a private, non-governmental, regional, state, national, or international organization representing marine fisheries, environmental, governmental, or academic interests dealing with Atlantic billfish (for Billfish AP) or HMS (for HMS AP). Selection of AP members will not be limited to those that are nominated. The new selected panel member will serve for a 3-year period in the HMS AP, and for a 2-year period in the Billfish AP.

Meetings of the APs may be held one or more times a year as necessary. For copies of transcripts of previous meetings or a summary of the last meeting, see the HMS web page at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmspg.html>. The next meeting of the HMS Advisory Panel is September 30, 2003, in Silver Spring, MD; and a joint HMS-Billfish APs is scheduled for February 9, through February 11, 2004, in Silver Spring, Maryland. For further information about the HMS or Billfish APs, please call Othel Freeman or Carol Douglas (301) 713-2347.

Bruce C. Morehead
for John H. Dunningan
Director, of Sustainable Fisheries

August 21, 2003
Date

C:\Documents and Settings\jtaylor\Local
Settings\Temp\FAXNominations2004.PUBLIC.wpd; OFY 7/24/03; MSH 8/20/03