



## Public Scoping Meetings for an Amendment to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (HMS FMP)(Amendment 7)

We are examining whether existing management measures for Atlantic HMS, and in particular Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) regulations, are the best means of achieving management objectives for BFT and provide flexibility for future management. The feedback we've received during the 2011 quota rulemaking process and through the HMS Panel meetings demonstrated the need for a comprehensive review of our BFT management system. We are exploring a wide range of potential management measures including a revision of baseline quota allocations, both the reduction of and accounting for dead discards; new and/or modified time and area closures; and methods to improve reporting and monitoring of discards and landings.

Therefore, we will be holding public scoping meetings to determine the range and significance of issues to be analyzed in a draft environmental impact statement and notifying you that based on that process, there may be a proposed amendment to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. We are also announcing the availability of a scoping document describing measures for potential inclusion in a proposed Amendment.

- **Public meetings:** The following lists the Dates, Times, Locations and Addresses of upcoming scoping meetings for Amendment 7.

Date	Time	Meeting Locations	Address
May 8, 2012	6:15- 8:45 PM	Toms River Library (Mancini Hall) <b>Toms River, NJ</b>	101 Washington Street Toms River, NJ 08753
May 16, 2012	6:00-9:00 PM	National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office <b>Gloucester, MA</b>	55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930
May 21, 2012	6:00-9:00 PM	Plaquemines Parish Government Community Center (Belle Chasse Auditorium) <b>Belle Chasse, LA</b>	8398 Hwy 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037
May 23, 2012	6:00-9:00 PM	Dare County Administration Bldg. <b>Manteo, NC</b>	954 Marshall C. Collins Dr. Manteo, NC 27954
*Week of June 10 (specific date to be determined)	*To be announced (MAFMC.org)	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting <b>New York, NY</b>	Hilton New York 1335 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10019
*Week of June 10 (specific date to be determined)	*To be announced (SAFMC.net)	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting <b>Orlando, FL</b>	Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel 5445 Forbes Place Orlando, FL 32812
*Week of June 17 (specific date to be determined)	*To be announced (NEFMC.org)	New England Fishery Management Council Meeting <b>Portland, ME</b>	Holiday Inn by the Bay 88 Spring Street Portland, ME 04101

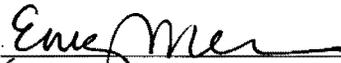
\* The public will be notified when the Council agendas are finalized, and the precise date and time of scoping have been scheduled. For updated information please go to [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breakingnews.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breakingnews.htm) or visit the Council websites indicated above.



- **Availability of a scoping document:** To view the scoping document containing a description of potential measures for inclusion in a proposed Amendment, please go to [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breakingnews.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breakingnews.htm) or call 978 281-9260 to obtain a copy of the scoping document.
- **Submit comments:** You may submit comments on the scoping document, and suggestions regarding management of the BFT fishery (identified by “NOAA-NMFS-2012-0082”) through July 15, 2012 by using any one of the following methods:
  - Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>
  - Fax: 978-281-9340
  - Mail: Tom Warren, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930**To be considered, electronic comments must be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>. Do not submit electronic comments to individual NMFS staff.**

This notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal Register actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact the Highly Migratory Species Management Division at 978-281-9260.

APR 20 2012

  
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Carrie D. Selberg  
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date