

Draft Amendment 2 include Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEISs).

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted until 5 p.m., January 19, 1996. The hearings will be held from January 1 to January 5, 1996, and from January 8 to January 12, 1996. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the draft amendments are available from Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer, at (803) 571-4366. Written comments may be faxed or sent to Bob Mahood, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407. Fax: 813-225-7015. The draft amendments will be available to the public at the hearings.

The hearings for draft Amendment 8 (Coastal Pelagics) will be held in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. The hearings for draft Amendment 2 (Shrimp) will be held in South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for locations of the hearings and special accommodations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Buchanan, 803-571-4366.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The hearings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and will end when all business is completed. The dates and locations are scheduled as follows:

1. Tuesday, January 2, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics) Ft. Pierce—Holiday Inn, 7151 Okeechobbe Road, Ft. Pierce, FL; telephone: (407) 464-5000;

2. Tuesday, January 2, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics & Shrimp) Murrell's Inlet—Murrell's Inlet Community Center, 4450 Murrell's Inlet Road, Murrell's Inlet, SC; telephone: (803) 651-7373;

3. Wednesday, January 3, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics & Shrimp) Jacksonville—Sea Turtle Days Inn, 10 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach, FL; telephone: (904) 249-7402;

4. Wednesday, January 3, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics & Shrimp) Wilmington—Holiday Inn, 1706 N. Lumina Avenue, Wrightsville Beach, NC; telephone: (910) 256-2231;

5. Thursday, January 4, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics & Shrimp) Brunswick—Comfort Inn—195, 5308 New Jesup Highway, Brunswick, GA; telephone: (912) 264-6540;

6. Thursday, January 4, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics & Shrimp) Morehead City—Carteret Community College, 3505 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC; telephone: (919) 247-3094;

7. Friday, January 5, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics & Shrimp) Savannah—Holiday Inn-Mid-Town, 7100 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA; telephone: (912) 352-7100;

8. Monday, January 8, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics & Shrimp) Charleston—Town & Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC; telephone: (803) 571-1000;

9. Monday, January 8, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics) Ronkonkoma—Holiday Inn, 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma, NY; telephone: (516) 585-9500;

10. Tuesday, January 9, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics) Tom's River—Holiday Inn, 290 Route 37 East, Tom's River, NJ; telephone: (908) 244-4000;

11. Wednesday, January 10, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics) Salisbury—Holiday Inn, 2625 N. Salisbury Blvd., Salisbury, MD; telephone: (410) 742-7194;

12. Thursday, January 11, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics) Norfolk—Quality Inn Lake Wright, 6280 Northampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA; telephone: (804) 461-6251;

13. Friday, January 12, 1996, (Coastal Pelagics) Manteo—North Carolina Aquarium, Airport Road, Manteo, NC; telephone: (919) 473-3494;

Draft Amendment 8 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP

The South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils will hold public hearings on draft Amendment 8 to the FMP and the draft SEIS. Amendment 8 proposes management measures for the fisheries for king and Spanish mackerel, cobia, and dolphin (fish). Amendment 8 proposes measures that (1) apply only to the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Council's jurisdiction, (2) apply only to the Gulf Council's jurisdiction, or (3) apply to the three Councils' jurisdictions.

Proposed actions that would affect only the stocks and area under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Council are as follows: Harvest Spanish mackerel only with hook and line, run-around nets and stab nets (nets shall not exceed 600 yd (549 m) in length), and along Florida's east coast nets are limited to 1 hour soak time; harvest king mackerel with hook and line only; allow the harvest of other directed coastal pelagics with surface longline, hook and line including manual, electric, or hydraulic rod and reels, and bandit gear only; allow the use of cast nets and other nets with mesh sizes no larger than 2 1/2-inch (6.35 cm) stretch mesh and no longer than 50 yd (46 m) for the purpose of catching bait; allow the introduction of experimental gear; provide that non-

conforming gear be limited to the bag limit for species with a bag limit; allow the transfer at sea of Spanish mackerel between permitted vessels; establish a 5-year moratorium beginning on October 16, 1995 on the issuance of commercial vessel permits with a king mackerel endorsement; provide for the transfer of vessel permits to other vessels; require that anyone applying for a commercial vessel permit demonstrate that 25 percent of annual income or \$5,000 is from commercial fishing; require that as a condition for a Federal commercial or charter vessel permit, the applicant comply with the more restrictive of state or Federal rules when fishing in state waters; extend the range of cobia management through New York; establish the following commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel of 3,500 lb (1.6 mt) for Volusia/Flagler County, FL to the New York/Connecticut border from April 1 - March 31, a 3,500 lb (1.6 mt) limit for Volusia/Flagler to Brevard/Volusia, FL from April 1 to October 31, and a 50-fish limit for Brevard/Volusia to Dade/Monroe, FL from April 1 to October 31.

Amendment 8 also includes the following measures that apply to the three Councils' jurisdictions: Require commercial dealer permits to buy and sell coastal pelagic fish managed under the FMP and require that dealers keep and make available records of purchase by vessel; recreational bag and commercial trip limit alternatives for cobia and dolphin (fish); retention of king mackerel damaged by barracuda bites by vessels under commercial trip limits; an alternative trip limit for Atlantic group king mackerel for Monroe County, FL of 125 fish from April 1 to October 31; changes to procedures used to set total allowable catch; and changes to definitions of overfishing and optimum yield.

Proposed measures in Amendment 8 applying only to the area and stocks under the jurisdiction of the Gulf of Mexico Council were published in the Federal Register on December 5, 1995.

Draft Amendment 2 to the Shrimp FMP

At its meeting of August 21-25, 1995, the Council approved draft Amendment 2 to the Shrimp FMP for public hearing. At its October 23-27 meeting, at the request of the Director, Southeast Region, NMFS (Regional Director), the Council approved additional options concerning a bycatch reduction device (BRD) certification protocol for inclusion in Amendment 2.

The Council is holding public hearings to solicit views on certain management measures in the draft amendment that are intended to reduce