



Endangered Species Act Bluefin Tuna Hearings

December 21, 2010

NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources will host five listening sessions with bluefin tuna fishermen during January 2011. These meetings are designed to give bluefin fishermen an opportunity to present information to be considered in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) status review that is now underway. A summary of information provided at these meetings will be reflected in the final status review report.

ABTA will produce some talking points and guideline for comment that you may find helpful. We will send the ESA talking points in an upcoming e-mail.

Dates and locations are as follows (**each meeting begins at 10am**):

Jan 5 - NMFS Lab in Sandy Hook, NJ

Jan 6 - Mariner's House in Boston, MA

Jan 7 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, ME

Jan 10- NMFS Lab in Pascagoula, MS

Jan 11- NMFS Lab in Beaufort, NC

Any person interested in participating should contact Kimberly Damon -Randall at kimberly.damon.randall@noaa.gov. Please let Kimberly know in advance if you plan to attend the Sandy Hook, Pascagoula, or Beaufort meetings as all three are being held in government buildings with security requirements. It would also be appreciated if you could email her if you plan to attend either the Boston or Portland meetings to assure that there will be sufficient space to accommodate all those who wish to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Damon -Randall at the email address above. She can also be reached at 978-282-8485.