

Northeast Multispecies Fishery (FMP). Action is requested by March 17, 1997. Specifically, Framework 20 would implement a gillnet vessel effort-reduction program (by including a cap on the number of nets and revising days-at-sea monitoring), and implement programs to re-direct effort off of the overexploited cod stock in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) area. These measures need to be in effect before May 1, 1997 (the start of the 1997/1998 fishing year) in order to achieve the objectives of the FMP in that fishing year. Failure to have them in effect at the start of the 1997/1998 fishing year would cause administrative problems and prove unnecessarily confusing to the industry. Implementation also cannot be delayed because of the need to make days-at-sea allocations, implement effort-reduction programs in the gillnet fishery, re-direct focus off of the overexploited cod stock in the GOM area, and reduce discards at sea to the maximum extent practicable (as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act). These measures, combined with the measures currently in place, are critical to the overall success of the FMP to rebuild the principal multispecies stocks and mitigate some of its impacts. It is anticipated that these measures will curb a recent pattern of effort displacement into the GOM inshore area that resulted from initial phases of effort-reduction programs under Amendments 5, 6, and 7 to the FMP. Emergency approval of this request is essential to the mission of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

As emergency approvals under the PRA are for a very limited duration, this notice also requests public comments on a follow-up submission that will be made to OMB under standard review procedures.

A number of specific information requirements are contained in Framework 20. These measures require that multispecies gillnet vessels select to fish under a "Day gillnet" and "Trip gillnet" category designation; adds effort reduction requirements for Day gillnet vessels—a requirement to take 120 days out of the gillnet fishery, and the requirement to request tags for, and tag, gillnets; adds a call in requirement for vessels exceeding the cod trip limit when fishing north of 42°00' N. latitude; and adds a cod trip limit exemption program for the cod fishery south of 42°00' N. latitude.

## II. Method of Collection

Declarations and requests for net tags are made by form. Cod hail reports and exemption requests are made by phone.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0202.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Emergency and Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and businesses (fishermen).

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,500.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 5 minutes for category changes, 3 minutes to declare the 120 days out of the fishery, 1 minute to attach each tag, 3 minutes to report cod catch, and 2 minutes to request cod limit exemption.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,999.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$30,240 for tags.

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 6, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

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## Final Certification for the Automation of 11 Weather Service Offices (WSOs)

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On March 3, 1997 the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere approved and transmitted 11 automation certifications to Congress.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 12, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the final automation certification packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 11 automation certifications were proposed in the Federal Register notice published on September 30, 1996 and the 60-day public comment period closed on November 29, 1996. There were no public comments received. The Modernization Transition Committee (MTC) considered and endorsed these 11 automation certifications at its December 12, 1996 meeting, concluding that these certifications would not result in any degradation of service.

- (1) Grand Island, NE
- (2) Bristol, TN
- (3) Columbus, GA
- (4) Macon, GA
- (5) Port Arthur, TX
- (6) Waco, TX
- (7) Bakersfield, CA
- (8) Helena, MT
- (9) Phoenix, AZ
- (10) Reno, NV
- (11) Salem, OR

After consideration that no public comments were received and the MTC endorsements, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere approved all 11 automation certifications and transmitted them to Congress on March 3, 1997. Certification approval authority was delegated from the Secretary to the Under Secretary in June 1996. The NWS is now completing the certification requirements by publishing the final automation certifications in the Federal Register.

Dated: March 6, 1997.

Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,

*Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.*

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## [I.D. 030697A]

### Endangered Species; Permits

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of an application for modification 8 to scientific research permit 825 (P513).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Portland, OR (CRITFC) has applied in due form for a modification to a permit authorizing takes of endangered and threatened species for scientific research purposes.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application must be received on or before April 11, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment: