

directly and indirectly increase the capacity and capitalization of commercial and recreational fishing fleets. The task force will also evaluate the extent to which Federal programs have been successful at reducing the capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. U.S. Coast Guard vessel mortgage records will be reviewed to evaluate the influence of the Federal Government on vessel financing. The final report of this task force will be submitted to Congress by September 1, 1998.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

George H. Darcy,

Acting Office Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072597B]

Advisory Panel on Highly Migratory Species Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: NMFS solicits nominations for the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) advisory panel (AP). The purpose of the AP will be to assist NMFS in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of a comprehensive HMS management plan for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and sharks. The AP will include representatives from all interests in HMS fisheries.

DATES: Nominations must be submitted on or before September 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be submitted to Rebecca Lent, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. Nominations may be submitted by fax; 301-713-1917.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Stevenson or Liz Lauck (301) 713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended

by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, an Advisory Panel (AP) will be established to consult with NMFS in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of a comprehensive HMS fishery management plan (FMP) for Atlantic tunas, swordfish and sharks.

The purpose of the AP is to assist NMFS in the development of an FMP for the Atlantic shark, swordfish, and tuna fisheries. Among the first issues to consider will be the development of rebuilding programs for those species that are overfished. The AP will assist NMFS in meeting requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act throughout the FMP development process.

In response to a *Federal Register* notice of April 4, 1997 (62 FR 16132) NMFS received comments that supported the establishment of separate APs for sharks, swordfish, and tunas.

Other comments suggested various combinations of APs. NMFS has concluded that one AP with an extended meeting period, species working groups (composed of AP members with particular species interests), and a detailed agenda by species will allow members to address their species-of-concern at relevant portions of the meeting and will be more effective in addressing the overlapping issues in these related fisheries. One of the long-term goals of HMS management has been to better coordinate the management of Atlantic tunas, swordfish and sharks. There is considerable species overlap in several recreational (e.g., rod and reel fisheries for sharks, yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna, and billfish) and commercial HMS fisheries (e.g., longlining for yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and sharks; purse seining for bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, and albacore tuna). Preparation of one HMS FMP is consistent with the Presidential Regulatory Reform Initiative and will lead to a more holistic approach to fishery management, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act. Furthermore, a single HMS AP reflects the structure of the U.S. Advisory Committee to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) which also has one panel for all HMS species with supporting species working groups. Finally, combination of tunas, swordfish and sharks under one management plan and one AP will minimize the financial and time burden on the affected constituency. The overlap in fisheries could result in considerable repetition in representation on separate panels. NMFS wishes to minimize the time and financial burdens to panel members

while simultaneously promoting better integration of Atlantic tuna, swordfish and shark management.

Procedures and Guidelines

A. *Procedures for Establishing the Advisory Panel.*

Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, governmental and quasi-governmental entities will be considered as members of the AP. Selection of AP members will not be limited to those that are nominated. Individuals previously nominated to the Atlantic Tunas Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee will be considered for membership on the HMS AP.

Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups. The nomination should include:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of their interest in or connection with highly migratory species (HMS) or one species in particular from among sharks, swordfish, and tunas;
2. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
3. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the AP.

B. *Participants.*

The AP shall consist of not less than seven (7) members who are knowledgeable about the pelagic fisheries for Atlantic HMS, particularly fisheries. Nominations will be accepted to allow representation from recreational and commercial fishing interests, the conservation community, and the scientific community. NMFS does not believe that each potentially affected organization or individual must necessarily have its own representative, but each interest must be adequately represented. The intent is to have a group that, as a whole, reflects an appropriate balance and mix of interests given the responsibilities of the AP. Criteria for membership include one or more of the following: (a) Experience in the recreational fishing industry involved in catching swordfish, tunas, or sharks; (b) experience in the commercial fishing industry for HMS; (c) experience in connected industries (marinas, bait and tackle shops); (d) experience in the scientific community working with HMS; (e) former or current representative of a private, regional, state, national, or international organization representing marine fisheries interests dealing with HMS.

NMFS will provide the necessary administrative support, including technical assistance, for the AP.

However, NMFS will be unable to compensate participants with monetary support of any kind, because no funds were appropriated to support this activity in fiscal year 1997. Members will be expected to pay for travel costs related to the AP.

C. Tentative Schedule.

Meetings of the AP will be held twice yearly or more frequently as necessary. The first meeting of the HMS AP is tentatively scheduled for October 14–16, 1997 in Silver Spring, Maryland. The initial activities include consideration of definitions of overfishing, etc., to be developed for a comprehensive HMS fishery management plan. Under the MSFCMA FMP amendments and regulations must be submitted for Secretarial review by October 11, 1998.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

George H. Darcy,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Proposed Collection of Information; Comment Request—Amended Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Consumer Product Safety Commission requests comments on a proposed extension of approval of a collection of information from manufacturers and importers of cellulose insulation. The collection of information is in regulations implementing the Amended Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation (16 CFR Part 1209). These regulations establish testing and recordkeeping requirements for manufacturers and importers of cellulose insulation subject to the amended interim standard. The Commission will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting an extension of approval of this collection of information from the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the Office of the Secretary not later than October 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission,

Washington, D.C. 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland. Alternatively, comments may be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504–0127 or by e-mail to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments should be captioned “Cellulose Insulation.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposed extension of approval of the collection of information, or to obtain a copy of 16 CFR Part 1204, call or write Robert E. Frye, Director, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504–0416, extension 2264.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cellulose insulation is a form of thermal insulation used in houses and other residential buildings. Most cellulose insulation is manufactured by shredding and grinding used newsprint and adding fire-retardant chemicals.

In 1978, Congress passed the Emergency Interim Consumer Product Safety Standard Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–319, 92 Stat. 386). That legislation is contained in section 35 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2080). This law directed the Commission to issue an interim safety standard incorporating the provisions for flammability and corrosiveness of cellulose insulation set forth in a purchasing specification issued by the General Services Administration (GSA). The law provided further that the interim safety standard should be amended to incorporate the requirements for flammability and corrosiveness of cellulose insulation in each revision to the GSA purchasing specification.

In 1978, the Commission issued the Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation in accordance with section 35 of the CPSA. In 1979, the Commission amended that standard to incorporate the latest revision of the GSA purchasing specification. The Amended Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation is codified at 16 CFR Part 1209.

The amended interim standard contains performance tests to assure that cellulose insulation will resist ignition from sustained heat sources, such as smoldering cigarettes or recessed light fixtures, and from small open-flame sources such as matches or candles. The standard also contains tests to assure that cellulose insulation will not be corrosive to copper, aluminum, or steel if exposed to water.

Certification regulations implementing the standard require

manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of cellulose insulation subject to the standard to perform tests to demonstrate that those products meet the requirements of the standard, and to maintain records of those tests. The certification regulations are codified at 16 CFR Part 1209, Subpart B.

The Commission uses the information compiled and maintained by manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of cellulose insulation subject to the standard to help protect the public from risks of injury or death associated with fires involving cellulose insulation. More specifically, this information helps the Commission determine whether cellulose insulation subject to the standard complies with all applicable requirements. The Commission also uses this information to obtain corrective actions if cellulose insulation fails to comply with the standard in a manner which creates a substantial risk of injury to the public.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the collection of information in the certification regulations under control number 3041–0022. OMB’s most recent extension of approval will expire on November 30, 1997. The Commission now proposes to request an extension of approval without change for the collection of information in the certification regulations.

Estimated Burden

The Commission staff estimates that about 45 firms manufacture or import cellulose insulation subject to the amended interim standard. The Commission staff estimates that the certification regulations will impose an average annual burden of about 1,320 hours on each of those firms. That burden will result from conducting the testing required by the regulations and maintaining records of the results of that testing. The total annual burden imposed by the regulations on manufacturers and importers of cellulose insulation is approximately 59,400 hours.

The hourly wage for the testing and recordkeeping required to conduct the testing and maintain records required by the regulations is about \$15, for an estimated annual cost to the industry of approximately \$891,000.

The Commission will expend approximately one week of professional staff time each year reviewing and evaluating the records maintained by manufacturers and importers of cellulose insulation. The annual cost to the Federal government of the collection of information in these regulations is estimated to be \$1,400.