

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before June 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to James P. Lawless, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, SSMC-4, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (telephone 301-713-3155, ext. 194).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

Public Law 96-282, the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act, authorizes the Administrator of NOAA to issue licenses to eligible U.S. citizen applicants for the exploration of deep seabed mineral resources. Information must be submitted as part of a license application so that NOAA can determine if statutory requirements for eligibility are met. License holders are required to do environmental monitoring and to submit reports to allow NOAA to track activities and their impact on the environment.

**II. Method of Collection**

The requirements are contained in 15 CFR 970. No forms are used.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0145.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Businesses and other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* An annual report is expected to take about 20 hours. An application would take from 2,000-4,000 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 40 hours (no applications have been received for a number of years and none are expected).

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* \$0.

**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: April 17, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 041698E]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the New England Fishery Management Council will hold a Joint Dogfish Committee meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Logan Airport, 225 McLellan Highway, E. Boston, MA; telephone: 617-569-5250.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone: 302-674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher Moore, Ph.D., Acting Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 16.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this meeting is to establish qualifying criteria for limited access permits, adopt the definition of overfishing, discuss stock rebuilding strategies, and adopt draft management measures.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act,

those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 16, 1998.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 041698D]

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council); Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of committee meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Council's Vessel Bycatcher Accountability (VBA) Committee and the newly-established Halibut Bycatcher Mortality Avoidance Program (HMAP) and Individual Vessel Checklist Program (IVCP) Committees have scheduled meetings for May 13-15, 1998, in Seattle, WA.

**DATES:** The VBA Committee will meet Wednesday, May 13, 1998, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The HMAP Committee will meet beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, 1998, with the IVCP Committee beginning later that same day. The meeting will conclude at noon on Friday, May 15, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held at the Nordby Conference Center, Suite A, Fishermen's Terminal, 1711 West Nickerson, Seattle, WA.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Witherell, telephone: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The VBA Committee will continue work to finalize options for analysis of a