

policy objectives, and reiterate USG support for Korea's economic reforms, while stressing that continued reforms are key to maintaining economic, political and commercial momentum. He will also co-chair a meeting of the U.S.-Korea Committee on Business Cooperation (CBC).

V. Criteria for Participation of Companies

The recruitment and selection of private sector participants in each mission will be conducted according to the Statement of Policy governing Department of Commerce-led trade missions announced by Secretary Daley on March 3, 1997. Participants will be selected separately for the China/Hong Kong business development infrastructure mission and for the Korea business development mission and should fill out separate applications for each mission. Companies may apply for either or both missions, and will be selected according to the criteria set for below. Approximately 15 companies will be selected for the China/Hong Kong business development infrastructure mission and approximately 10 companies will be selected for the Korea business development mission. Selection for one mission does not confer priority for selection for the other mission.

Eligibility

Participating companies must be incorporated in the United States. A company is eligible to participate only if the products and/or services that it will promote on the relevant mission either (a) are manufactured or produced in the United States; or (b) if manufactured or produced outside the United States, are marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have U.S. content representing at least 51 percent of the value of the finished good or service. (At the discretion of the Department, which will generally be exercised on a mission-specific and sector-by-sector basis, the 51 percent U.S. content requirement may be modified or waived.)

Selection Criteria

Companies will be selected for participation on the basis of:

- Level of seniority of designated company representatives and its appropriateness to the mission objectives;
- Relevance of a company's business and product line to the plan and objective of the mission (see below);
- Past, present and prospective business activity in Asia, particularly in

China, Hong Kong and/or Korea, as applicable; and

- Diversity of company size, type, location, demographics and traditional under-representation in business.

In addition, the Department may consider whether the companies' overall business objectives, including those of any U.S. or overseas affiliates, are fully consistent with the missions' foreign and commercial policy objectives.

Participants in the China portion of the mission will be drawn from several infrastructure sectors, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Environmental technologies,
- Information technologies/telecommunications,
- Housing construction and building materials,
- Power generation,
- Oil exploration and development,
- Transportation, and
- Engineering and financial services.

Companies for the Korea portion of the mission will be drawn from several sectors, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Environmental technologies,
- Information technologies/telecommunications,
- Infrastructure, and
- Energy.

An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are irrelevant to the selection process.

VI. Time Frame for Applications

Applications for the business development mission to China and Korea will be made available beginning on or about January 4, 1999. The fees to participate in these missions have not yet been determined. The fees will not cover travel or lodging expenses. For additional information on the trade missions or to obtain an application, business persons should be referred to Lucie Naphin, Director of the Office of Business Liaison, or Jennifer Andberg, Office of Business Liaison, at 202-482-1360. Applications should be submitted to Lucie Naphin by February 1, 1999, in order to ensure sufficient time to obtain in-country appointments for applicants selected to participate in the mission. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

Dated: December 29, 1998.

Lucie Naphin,

Director, Office of Business Liaison.

[FR Doc. 99-131 Filed 1-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-25-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Inshore Gulf of Maine Area Multispecies Fishing Vessel Declaration

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 8, 1999.

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 Richard A. Pearson, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978) 281-9279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) is currently considering three different management alternatives for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) multispecies fishery for inclusion in Framework Adjustment 27 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The NEFMC has also discussed considering the selection of individual components of these three various management alternatives as part of the final management measures for Framework Adjustment 27.

One of the management alternatives proposes to establish two new permit subcategories and to require vessel owners to annually declare into a category upon renewal of their multispecies permit. The two categories would be: (1) GOM inshore/offshore, and (2) GOM offshore/Cod Trip Limit Exemption Area. There would be different management measures for these two categories.

To minimize the reporting burden on the industry, NMFS proposes that all affected vessels would be enrolled into Category 2 by default, unless they filed

the required form to declare their enrollment into Category 1. Declaration into Category 1 would allow them to fish the inshore areas of the Gulf of Maine, in addition to the offshore areas. Vessel owners in Category 2 would be required to fish in the GOM offshore area or in the existing Cod Trip Limit Exemption Area. Specific management measures for these two areas have not yet been determined. The inshore area has preliminarily been described as an area extending from 43°50' N. Lat. and the Maine coast to 43°50' N. Lat., 70°00' W. Long. to 43°00' N. Lat., 70°15' W. Long. to 42°00' N. Lat., 70°15' W. Long. to 42°00' and the Massachusetts coast.

II. Method of Collection

Vessel owners electing to declare into the GOM inshore/offshore category (category 1) would be required to select that category on a form.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit (Gulf of Maine multispecies permit holders electing to fish in inshore or near shore areas).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 475.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 16.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$237.

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: December 30, 1998.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-38 Filed 1-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122898H]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Retention of Species on Candidate Species List Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

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

ACTION: Notice of retention of the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy population of harbor porpoise on the ESA candidate species list.

SUMMARY: NMFS retains the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy (GOM/BOF) population of harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) on the ESA list of candidate species. Retention on the ESA candidate species list will serve to notify the public of NMFS' concern regarding this population, and it will ensure continued monitoring of the species' status.

DATES: Effective January 5, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margot Bohan, 301/713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a separate document published today in the **Federal Register**, NMFS withdrew its January 7, 1993, proposal to list the GOM/BOF population of harbor porpoise as threatened under the ESA. Taking into account the implementation of bycatch reduction measures in the GOM by the New England Fishery Management Council, the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan in the Gulf of Maine and Mid-Atlantic waters, pursuant to section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and a similar harbor porpoise bycatch mitigation program that is being implemented by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans-Canada, NMFS concluded that listing the GOM/BOF population of harbor porpoise as threatened under the ESA is not warranted at this time.

NMFS will retain the GOM/BOF population of harbor porpoise on the ESA list of candidate species in order to continue to monitor the species' status. The ESA candidate species list serves to notify the public that NMFS has

concerns regarding these species/vertebrate populations that may warrant listing it as a threatened or endangered species in the future; this list may also facilitate voluntary conservation efforts.

Dated: December 30, 1998.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-139 Filed 1-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122898D]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the City of Seattle Habitat Conservation Plan, King County, Washington

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

ACTION: Notice of application and availability for public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the City of Seattle has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS (together, the Services) for an Incidental Take Permit (Permit) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This application was previously noticed in the **Federal Register** on December 11, 1998, under the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. This additional notice is to ensure NMFS compliance with the notification requirements under section 10(c) of the Act. The proposed permit would authorize the take of the following endangered or threatened species incidental to otherwise lawful management activities in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed and within the Cedar River in King County, Washington: northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). The proposed permit also would authorize future incidental take of 77 currently unlisted fish (anadromous and resident) and wildlife species, including the chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and the Coastal Puget Sound distinct population segment of the bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*),