

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 121599D]

**National Marine Sanctuaries—
Socioeconomic Impacts of Marine Reserves**

AGENCY: National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 22, 2000.

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 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Dr. Vernon R. Leeworthy, NOS/Special Projects Office, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC 4, 9th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 (301-713-3000, ext. 138) or via Internet at Bob.Leeworthy@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The purpose of this information collection is to give users of National Marine Sanctuaries fair representation in the process of creating a marine reserve (no-take zone). This will be accomplished by collecting socioeconomic information and incorporating the information into a geographical information system (GIS) that will support socioeconomic impact analyses. Socioeconomic Impact Analyses attempt to show who might be impacted by a marine reserve (i.e., who benefits and who suffers potential costs). Impacts are measured not only on direct users that would be displaced but also the secondary impacts such as income and employment in the local

and regional economies and to consumer's through either higher prices for commercial fishing products or lower quantity and quality of recreational experiences. In FY 2000, NOAA plans to apply the information collection and analyses to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, which is revising its management plan and will propose the creation of a marine reserve.

One set of respondents would be commercial fishermen. Interviews would gather information on socioeconomic factors for developing profiles of the commercial fishermen such as age, sex, education level, household income, marital status, number of family members, race/ethnicity, percent of income derived from fishing, percent of income derived from study area, years of experience in fishing and years of fishing experience in the study area. Total catch, effort and revenue, by major species and by geographical areas, will also be compiled. Information on costs of operation and investment in the fisheries will also be obtained. Detailed maps will be used in working with fishermen to allocate their catch and effort geographically.

A second set of respondents would be Wholesale Processors. Personal interviews will be conducted with wholesale processors of commercial fishing catch to determine the disposition of catch (e.g. how much is exported out of the local area, how much is sold to local retail markets, and how much is sold to restaurant markets) and the price mark-ups at each market level.

The third set of respondents would be Recreational For-Hire Businesses. Personal interviews would be conducted with for-hire charter and party (head-boats) boat operations that take recreational fishermen, divers, and wildlife viewers to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. As with commercial fishing operations, maps will be used to allocate activity by geographic area. Information on number of passengers (normalized to person-days of activity), operating revenues, cost and profits will be obtained.

II. Method of Collection

Personal interviews.

III. Data

OMB Number: None

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Regular submission

Affected public: Business or other for-profit

Estimated Number of Respondents: 665

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,330
Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$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: December 10, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 121499D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a number of public meetings of its oversight committees in January, 2000 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held between Wednesday, January 5, and Friday, January 28, 2000. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: Meetings will be held in Warwick, RI, Portland, ME, Danvers, MA and Peabody, MA. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (978) 465-0492. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950-2866; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Wednesday, January 5, 2000, 10:00 a.m.—Gear Conflict

Committee Meeting

Location: Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 739-3000.

Discussion and development of recommendations on whether fishing vessels should be required to use a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to reduce the incidence of gear conflicts between fixed and mobile gear fishermen; discussion of methods to implement a VMS requirement in fisheries that are not managed by the Council; and discussion of various management measures that can be used to mitigate gear conflicts, such as additional marking requirements.

Thursday, January 6, 2000, 9:30 a.m.—Whiting Committee Meeting

Location: Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 739-3000.

Committee development of a scoping document for a proposed Small Mesh Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which would establish a separate plan for whiting, red hake, offshore hake, and possibly ocean pout. These species are currently managed under the Multispecies FMP. The scoping document may include options for limiting access and applying a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to small mesh species fisheries, and any other issues that the committee identifies.

Monday, January 10, 2000, 10:00 a.m.

and Tuesday, January 11, 2000, 8:30 a.m.—Scallop Oversight Committee Meeting

Location: Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 739-3000.

Committee approval of Total Allowable Catch research set-aside mechanism and groundfish management issues relating to Framework Adjustment 13 to the Scallop FMP (scallop vessel access to groundfish closed areas); development of recommendations concerning the

extension of the Seastead Site research project closed area (proposed Framework Adjustment 14 to the FMP); and approval of Amendment 10 objectives (comprehensive management strategy, including rotational area management), schedules and a draft scoping document.

Wednesday, January 12, 2000, 9:30 a.m.—Experimental Fisheries and Research Steering Committee

Location: Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

Development of research priorities for the New England groundfish fishery and other fisheries that impact the groundfish resource.

Thursday, January 13, 2000, 9:30 a.m.—Joint Herring Committee and Atlantic States Fisheries Commission Herring Section Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn by the Bay, 8 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101; telephone: (207) 775-2311.

Committee and Section review and approval of a draft scoping document that identifies issues to be considered during the development of a controlled access system in the Atlantic herring fishery; Committee and Section consideration of the impact of the partial approval of the Atlantic Herring FMP and discussion of the need for additional management measures such as, but not limited to, spawning closures, effort controls, gear restrictions, or other measures for the fishery; Committee and Section discussion of gear use issues in the eastern Gulf of Maine, and possible development of additional management measures to address concerns raised by purse seine and mid-water trawl vessels that fish in this area.

Tuesday, January 18, 2000, 8:30 a.m.—Red Crab Committee Meeting

Location: Sheraton Ferncroft, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

Discussion of issues to address in the scoping process for this new FMP, review of the draft scoping document and review of the draft control date letter to NMFS. There will be a closed session at the end of the meeting to review applications for the Red Crab Advisory Panel.

Friday, January 28, 2000, 9:30 a.m.—Social Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street (Rt. 1 North), Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Committee discussion of how it can implement recommendations on improving social and economic impact analyses in fishery management plans; discussion of committee involvement in the development of Amendment 10 to

the Atlantic Scallop FMP (to establish a rotational area management system).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with physical disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: December 16, 1999.

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. 121499C]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) will hold a work session which is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will be held on Monday, January 31, 2000 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Tuesday, February 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and on Wednesday, February 2, from 8 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at NMFS Pacific Fisheries Environmental Laboratory, 1352 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA; (831) 648-8515.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.