

Atlantic bluefin tuna in relation to applicable country quotas for contracting parties and assess the extent to which catch by non-contracting parties could undermine the effectiveness of ICCAT's stock rebuilding program for Atlantic bluefin tuna.

## II. Method of Collection

Importers and commercial fish dealers who import or export bluefin tuna are required to obtain a tuna dealer permit from NMFS (approved under a separate collection: 0648-0202). Permitted dealers must obtain original BSDs from import shipments, complete the importer certification section and mail or fax the completed BSD to NMFS. Exporters must obtain numbered, non-transferable BSDs from NMFS, complete the landings information and exporter certification sections, mail or fax a copy of the completed BSD to NMFS, and attach the original BSD to the export shipment. In certain cases, the landings and export information must be validated by a government official or an accredited non-government institution. For the most part, U.S. catches of bluefin tuna are tagged upon landing (approved under a separate collection: 0648-0239) and such tagged bluefin are exempt from the BSD validation requirement. In order for a non-governmental institution to be accredited to provide validations it must submit a request for such authority.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0040.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected public:* Businesses and other for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 50.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* An average of 20 minutes for completing a BSD upon import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna into or from the United States (range of 5 minutes for BSDs listing tagged fish to 2 hours for BSDs requiring validation); 2 hours for a request for accreditation from a non-governmental institution.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 500.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$500.

## 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 13, 2000.

**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. 032000E]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of cancellation of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has cancelled the public meeting of its Research Steering and Experimental Fisheries Committee that was scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25-26, 2000, at 9:00 and 8:30 a.m., respectively. The meetings were announced in the **Federal Register** on March 27, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: 978-465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The initial notice published on March 27, 2000 (65 FR 16186). The meeting will be rescheduled at a later date and announced in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 17, 2000.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041400C]

#### 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 four public meetings in May, 2000: two joint meetings of its Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel; a meeting of the Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel, in conjunction with the Council's Scallop Committee; and a joint Habitat Committee and Advisory Panel meeting. 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 Monday, May 8, 2000 and Tuesday, May 23, 2000. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held in York Harbor, ME 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.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Meeting Dates and Times

*Monday, May 8, 2000, 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday, May 9, 2000, 8:30 a.m.—Joint Groundfish Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting*

Location: York Harbor Inn, Route 1A, P.O. Box 573, York Harbor, ME 03911; telephone: (207) 363-5119.

The committee and advisors will conduct a joint meeting to continue development of management options for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). They will continue review of current overfishing definitions and control rules for the multispecies complex, examine the assumptions and policy decisions in those rules, and develop recommendations for the biological goals of the amendment. They also will review existing management measures and identify their strengths and weaknesses. Suggestions for improvements to those measures will be