

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

[I.D. 111500E]

NOAA's Teacher-At-Sea Program**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).**ACTION:** Proposed information 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 January 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Judy Sohl, OMAO, MOP1, 1801 Fairview Ave East, Seattle WA 98102-3767 (phone 206-553-2633).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

NOAA provides educators an opportunity to gain first-hand experience with field research activities by allowing them to spend up to three weeks at sea on a NOAA research vessel. Applications are necessary to select participants, and educators participating on a cruise must submit a report detailing their experiences and resulting ideas for classroom activities.

II. Method of Collection

Paper forms or reports are submitted. The forms are available over the Internet.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0283.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals (teachers, educators).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 375.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1.25 hours for an application; 15 minutes for

a recommendation; and 2 hours for a follow-up report.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 309.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$536.

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: November 14, 2000

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-29641 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-S

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

[I.D. 111300D]

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP).

DATES: The meeting will begin on Monday, December 4, 2000, at 9 a.m. through Friday, December 8, 2000, concluding at 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S.

Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619; telephone 813-228-2815.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RFSAP is composed of biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics. They advise the Council on the status of stocks and, when necessary, recommend a level of allowable biological catch (ABC) needed to prevent overfishing, or to effect a recovery of an overfished stock. They may also recommend catch restrictions needed to attain management goals.

The RFSAP will convene to review sensitivity analyses of the 1999 red grouper stock assessment which was conducted by the NMFS at the request of the RFSAP, and recommend a range of ABC for 2001. The analyses were requested by the RFSAP at its previous meeting in August 2000 to examine the sensitivity of stock assessment results to the inclusion or exclusion of older, and possibly questionable, landings data provided by Cuba for years prior to 1976; the assumed level of release mortality of undersized fish; and the shape of the red grouper stock-recruitment relationship. NMFS has completed the analyses and declared the Gulf of Mexico stock of red grouper to be overfished, based on the 1999 stock assessment, and the results of the additional analyses. However, a peer review of the analyses has not yet been conducted by the RFSAP. The severity of the overfished condition, and the ABC range needed to effect a recovery also have yet to be determined.

Pending completion by NMFS of additional analyses requested by the RFSAP of the 1998 vermilion snapper assessment and 2000 assessment update, the RFSAP will review these analyses and may recommend a range of ABC for 2001 to stop overfishing from occurring in the vermilion snapper fishery. Some model scenarios from the 1998 stock assessment suggested that the stock was being fished at a rate that could result in it becoming overfished. It was, therefore, classified by NMFS as not overfished but approaching an overfished condition. The analyses requested by the RFSAP were to examine the robustness and relationship of the vermilion snapper assessment tuning indices to changes in the directed fishery for red snapper.

The RFSAP may also review the results of additional red snapper recovery projections conducted by NMFS at the request of the Council.

These additional projections are based on assumptions of juvenile red snapper shrimp trawl bycatch mortality and natural mortality suggested by an outside biologist which differ from the assumptions used by NMFS. The outside biologist has proposed that the shrimp trawl bycatch mortality is lower, and the natural mortality is higher, than those used in the NMFS red snapper stock assessments. The results of these analyses will initially be presented by NMFS at the November 13–17, 2000, Council meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi, and may subsequently be reviewed by the RFSAP if requested by the Council. The analyses must be peer reviewed by the RFSAP before they can be used as a basis for changing the red snapper total allowable catch.

Although non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the RFSAP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the RFSAP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: November 14, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00–29637 Filed 11–17–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111500A]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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's Joint Dogfish Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2000, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton International Hotel, BWI Airport, 7032 Elm Road, Baltimore, MD; telephone 410–859–3300.

Council Address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904. New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, The Tannery — Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone 302–674–2331, ext. 19, or Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone 978–465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to develop recommendations to the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils for management measures for the spiny dogfish fishery for the 2001–2002 fishing year based on recommendations of the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this notice may come before these Councils 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

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 302–674–2331 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 15, 2000

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00–29640 Filed 11–17–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 103000C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 821–1588

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Texas A&M University, Department of Marine Biology, 5007 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 776551, (Principal Investigator: Dr. Randall W. Davis), has applied in due form for a permit to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before December 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713–2289);

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702–2432 (813/570–5312); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213 (562/980–4001).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson and Simona Roberts, 301/713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–227).

The application has three different projects: PROJECT I. — Hunting Behavior and Energetics of Weddell Seals: Up to 40 Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) will be captured, tagged, handled, annually. The study will investigate the behavioral and energetic adaptations that enable Weddell seals to forage in the Antarctic fast-ice environment. Hypotheses on general