

**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.