

circumstances, discussed in the amendment below, that warrant exempting the Maritime Provinces from this investigation. In fact, the circumstances behind the original exemption of the Maritimes from the 1986 Memorandum of Understanding (1986 MOU) have not changed for the last 15 years. Even though the exemption of the Maritimes from the 1991 countervailing duty investigation was based on a separate legal requirement (see, *Self-Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation: Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada*, 56 FR 56055, 56058 (October 31, 1991) and *Amendment to the Notice of Self-Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation: Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada*, 56 FR 56058 (October 31, 1991)), the circumstances associated with the Maritime Provinces are substantially the same as they were at the time of the 1986 MOU. Those circumstances remained the same at the time of the 1991 countervailing duty investigation, the 1996 Softwood Lumber Agreement, and at present with respect to the current investigation. Accordingly, the Department is amending the Notice of Initiation to exempt the Maritime Provinces.

#### Amendment

The Notice of Initiation is amended to add the following paragraph entitled "Exemption of Maritime Provinces":

#### *Exemption of Maritime Provinces*

The lumber dispute between Canada and the United States has a long history. Throughout much of the history of this dispute, the Maritime Provinces have been exempt from the various actions taken, including the 1986 Memorandum of Understanding on Softwood Lumber, the interim measures taken pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, the 1991 countervailing duty investigation, and the recently expired Softwood Lumber Agreement. All parties have generally recognized that there are unique circumstances associated with the Maritime Provinces and have supported those exemptions. That is equally true in the case now before us. In the petition, petitioners requested that softwood lumber production in the Maritime Provinces be exempt as it was in the 1991 countervailing duty investigation. Further, petitioners did not allege that any subsidies are received by producers in the Maritime Provinces. While the absence of allegations regarding specific regions of a country would not be sufficient by itself to warrant the exemption of those regions from an investigation, this factor, when

combined with all the other unique circumstances of the Maritimes, does contribute to our determination to exempt the Maritimes. The Government of Canada also supported exemption of the Maritime Provinces from the investigation given the absence of subsidy allegations.

In light of all of the unique circumstances in this case, we have determined that it is appropriate to exempt exports of certain softwood lumber products produced in the Maritime Provinces from this investigation. As in the earlier proceedings and agreements concerning softwood lumber, this exemption does not apply to certain softwood lumber products produced in the Maritime Provinces from Crown timber harvested in any other Province.

Dated: July 27, 2001.

**Faryar Shirzad,**

*Assistant Secretary, Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. 01-19345 Filed 8-1-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072601A]

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN)

**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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before October 1, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via 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 Ellie Francisco Roche, F/SERX2, Room 201, 9721 Executive

Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2439 (phone 727-570-5324).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

MARFIN is a competitive Federal assistance program that makes funds available to assist persons in carrying out research and development projects that will help to optimize the use of a U.S. Gulf of Mexico fishery involving the U.S. commercial or recreational fishermen. Examples of topics are harvesting methods, economic analyses, processing methods, fish stock assessment, and fish stock enhancement. A person seeking assistance must submit an application. Successful applicants must submit semi-annual and final reports.

##### II. Method of Collection

A MARFIN-specific project summary and budget form is used. All other requirements follow standard Federal grant application procedures and forms. Paper documentation is used.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* OMB Number: 0648-0175.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions, business or other for-profit organizations, individuals, and state, local, or tribal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 60.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 4 hours for agency-unique application requirements, and 1 hour for a semi-annual performance report or a final report.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 285.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$300.

##### 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: July 25, 2001.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-19220 Filed 8-1-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072701A]

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; List of Gear by Fisheries and Fishery Management Councils

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**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 October 1, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork 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 Mark R. Millikin, F/SF3, Room 13357, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282 (phone 301-713-2341, ext. 53).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

Under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. et seq) as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (P.L. 104-297), the Secretary of Commerce is required to publish a list of all fisheries under the authority of each Fishery Management Council and of all fishing gear to be used in such fisheries. Such a list has been

published. Any person wishing to use gear not on the list, or engage in a fishery not on the list, must provide the appropriate Fishery Management Council (or in some cases the Secretary) with 90 days advance written notice. If the Secretary takes no action to prohibit such a fishery or use of such gear, the person may proceed.

##### II. Method of Collection

The respondent provides written notice. No form is used.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0346.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 18.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 90 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 27.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$18.

##### 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: July 25, 2001.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-19222 Filed 8-1-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072701C]

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Application to Shuck Clams/Ocean Quahogs at Sea

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**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 October 1, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via 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 Myles Raizin, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 (phone 978-281-9104).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The surf clam/ocean quahog fishery is managed under an individual transferable quota system that sets both individual and overall harvest goals. In order to aid in the enforcement of these quotas, fishermen are generally required to land unshucked surf clams and ocean quahogs in 32-bushel cages. Because of potential pollution problems with this practice, fishermen can shuck at sea if they obtain an authorization to do so from NOAA. NOAA will only authorize the action if a NOAA-approved observer is carried on the vessel to certify the amount of unshucked shellfish harvested. This is required because of the difficulty in converted shucked weights into bushels.

##### II. Method of Collection

A paper form is submitted.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0240.