

color designating the type of gear, the other designating the area where the gear is set depending on area. These marking requirements would apply in right whale critical habitats and in two other areas where right whales are seen on a regular basis. These areas are the southeast U.S. observer area and the Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge restricted area.

The goals of this collection of information are to obtain more information on where large whales are being entangled and on the type gear responsible for the entanglement. This information will allow NMFS to focus further risk reduction measures on problem areas rather than instituting broader measures that affect the overall industry.

II. Method of Collection

This is a marking requirement and no information is submitted to NOAA.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0364.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,260.

Estimated Time Per Response: .6 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,206.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$25,238.

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: September 27, 2001

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100101E]

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

DATES: This meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, October 22, 2001, and conclude by 12 noon on Friday, October 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Hood, Fishery Biologist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will convene a meeting of the RFSAP to review stock assessments on the status of the gag, vermilion snapper, and gray triggerfish stocks in the Gulf of Mexico. This is a rescheduling of a meeting originally set for September 24-28, 2001, but cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. The stock assessments were prepared by NMFS and will be presented to the RFSAP. In the Report to Congress on the Status of Fisheries in the United States prepared by NMFS in January 2001, gag and vermilion snapper were listed as undergoing overfishing and gag was listed as approaching an overfished condition. Gag is a component of the shallow-water grouper complex (which consists of red grouper, gag, yellowfin grouper, black grouper, scamp, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, and red hind). The status of gray triggerfish was listed as unknown.

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 acceptable 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.

Based on its review of the gag, vermilion snapper, and gray triggerfish stock assessments, the RFSAP may recommend a range of ABC for 2002, and may recommend management measures to achieve the ABC.

The conclusions of the RFSAP will be reviewed by the Council's Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Socioeconomic Panel (SEP), and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (RFAP) at meetings to be held between November, 2001 and January, 2002. The Council may set year 2002 total allowable catches (TAC) as well as other management measures for the gag component of the shallow-water grouper complex and for vermilion snapper and gray triggerfish at its meeting in Brownsville, TX on January 21-24, 2002.

Although other 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, 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 at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 15, 2001.

Dated: October 2, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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