DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XZ24

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

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

ACTION: Notification of issuance of a revised EFP to conduct exempted fishing.

SUMMARY: The Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS, has issued a revised EFP in support of a drop chain small mesh net study conducted by the University of Rhode Island (URI). The study aims to reduce summer flounder discard mortality in the Loligo small-mesh fishery. The revised EFP includes an exemption for participating vessels from the Trimester III Loligo mesh size restrictions. This exemption is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the Atlantic Mackeral, Squid, and Butterfish FMP.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On October 26, 2009, an EFP was issued to URI in support of a study that would test the effectiveness of a drop chain small mesh net in its ability to reduce catches of summer flounder in the small mesh fishery. The original EFP included exemptions from the summer flounder size restrictions specified at 50 CFR 648.103, scup size restrictions at § 648.124, scup possession limits at § 648.125, and squid and butterfish possession restrictions at § 648.25. The exemption from summer flounder size restrictions was granted to allow vessels to retain and land summer flounder for a delayed mortality monitoring period. The remaining exemptions were granted to allow incidental catch species to be temporarily retained for data collection purposes. Field work for this project began in April 2010, and 8 of the project’s proposed 12 fishing trips have been completed. Research trips are conducted aboard two commercial fishing vessels, as normal fishing operations, using standard Loligo squid nets. Research trips conducted since April 2010 have used experimental and control nets with a codend mesh size of 1 7/8 in. (48 mm), consistent with the Loligo mesh size restrictions in place at the time.

Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackeral, Squid, and Butterfish FMP implemented an increase to the minimum mesh size for Loligo squid, from 1 7/8 in. (48 mm) to 2 1/8 in. (54 mm), during Trimester I (January to April) and Trimester III (September to December), effective September 13, 2010. This increase to the Loligo mesh size was unanticipated at the time the original EFP application was submitted, and therefore, principal investigators did not request an exemption from Loligo mesh size restrictions. In addition, because the 2 1/8-in. (54-mm) minimum mesh size was not in place at the onset of field operations, research trips were completed using nets consistent with Loligo gear restrictions at that time.

On September 8, 2010, NMFS received a request from Kathy Castro of URI for an exemption from the new
minimum mesh size for the Loligo fishery. This exemption was requested to allow completion of the project’s remaining four research trips using the previous minimum mesh size of 1 7/8 in. (48 mm). A change to the nets used to conduct field sampling at this stage of the project would undermine data analysis in support of the project’s objectives. Therefore, NMFS is reissuing the EFP in support of the drop chain study to facilitate the completion of the research project.

The revised EFP includes an exemption from the Loligo Trimester III minimum mesh size of 2 1/8 in. (54 mm) at § 648.23(3). An exemption from the Loligo mesh size restriction will allow the completion of the project’s remaining research trips, using the previous minimum mesh size of 1 7/8 in. (48 mm). The exemption is within the scope and scale of the original approved EFP, and the overall impacts of research operations are unchanged from the initial review.

The applicants may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the course of research. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further public notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and result in only a minimal change in the scope or impacts of the initially approved EFP request.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.


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

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

2010 Census Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) is giving notice of a meeting of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee. The Committee will address policy, research, and technical issues related to 2010 Decennial Census Programs and the American Community Survey. Last-minute changes to the agenda are possible, which could prevent giving advance notification of schedule changes.

DATES: October 21–22, 2010. On October 21, the meeting will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 5 p.m. On October 22, the meeting will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Census Bureau Auditorium and Conference Center, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeri Green, Committee Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 8H182, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746, telephone 301–763–6590. For TTY callers, please use the Federal Relay Service 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 2010 Census Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and 20-member organizations—all appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Committee considers the goals of the Decennial Census, including the American Community Survey and related programs, and users’ needs for information provided by the Decennial Census from the perspective of outside data users and other organizations having a substantial interest and expertise in the conduct and outcome of the Decennial Census. The Committee has been established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Title 5, United States Code, Appendix 2, Section10(a)(b)).

The meeting is open to the public, and a brief period is set aside for public comments and questions. However, individuals with extensive statements for the record must submit them in writing to the Census Bureau Committee Liaison Officer named above at least three working days prior to the meeting. Seating is available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Census Bureau Committee Liaison Officer as soon as known, and preferably two weeks prior to the meeting.

Due to increased security and for access to the meeting, please call 301–763–9906 upon arrival at the Census Bureau on the day of the meeting. A photo ID must be presented in order to receive your visitor’s badge. Visitors are not allowed beyond the first floor.


Robert M. Groves, Director, Bureau of the Census.

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Business Development Mission to Egypt and Morocco

Mission Description

The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, and U.S. Commercial Service is organizing a Business Development Mission to explore ports and infrastructure development opportunities in Egypt (Cairo and Alexandria) and Morocco (Casablanca and Tangier), March 25—April 1, 2011. This mission, led by a Senior Official of the Department of Commerce or other U.S. agency, will focus on the opportunities in port logistics, infrastructure projects, safety and security, and energy infrastructure. The mission will include one-on-one business appointments with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors and joint venture partners; site visits to ports and free trade zones; meetings with government officials; and networking receptions for companies interested in expansion into the North African, Middle Eastern and Southern European markets.

Commercial Setting

Egypt

Egypt is strategically located at the gateway of trade and commerce for Southern Europe as well as North Africa and the Middle East. It is a prime location for the transit of goods, as well as a key destination for American companies seeking to do business in Egypt and the region. With a population of over 80 million Egypt is the largest Arab country, and the fourth largest export market for U.S. products and services in the Middle East. The U.S. is Egypt’s largest bilateral trading partner, and the second largest investor. In 2010, bilateral trade is expected to exceed $7 billion. The Egyptian gross domestic product (GDP) grew over five percent from 2009 to 2010. The financial sector escaped many negative impacts of the global financial crisis, due to Egypt’s improved banking supervision, conservative lending practices and central bank guarantee of all bank deposits.

In 2010 the Egyptian Ministry of Investment announced major plans for infrastructure development with 46 different projects valued at over $16 billion. The majority of these projects are available to be awarded based on the Egyptian Government’s “Public Private Partnership” (PPP) measures. The PPP is a multi-faceted initiative to attract private sector investment for...