

management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary.

Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 3-year terms, pursuant to the council's charter.

**DATES:** Applications are due by Monday, October 31, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Application kits may be obtained from Emily Gaskin in the Department of Commerce Office in the Executive Office Building. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Emily Gaskin, Department of Commerce Office, Executive Office Building, Utulei, American Samoa, 684-633-5155 ext. 271, [emily.gaskin@noaa.gov](mailto:emily.gaskin@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1986 pursuant to Federal law to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The Sanctuary Advisory Council brings members of a diverse community together to provide advice to the Sanctuary Manager (delegated from the Secretary of Commerce and the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere) on the management and protection of the Sanctuary, or to assist the National Marine Sanctuary Program in guiding a proposed site through the designation or the periodic management plan review process.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1431, *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: July 7, 2011.

**Daniel J. Basta,**

*Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XA563**

#### Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has made a preliminary decision that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and now warrants public input on the application. This proposed project would be conducted by the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association (AOLA), in conjunction with scientists and the fishing industry, to help them understand the settlement and location of larval lobsters, and the size of the population in management Area 3. This EFP would excuse 11 commercial fishing vessels from the following Federal American lobster regulation: Mutilation requirement within American lobster management Area 3. The researchers propose to collect a pleopod (small swimmerettes located on the lower body at the front side of the tail section of the lobster) from a maximum of 100 sexually immature juvenile lobsters during the AOLA project. The lobsters would then be measured and their sex determined before immediately being returned alive to the ocean. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before August 1, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this notice may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is [NERO.EFP@noaa.gov](mailto:NERO.EFP@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line "Comments on AOLA Lobster Pleopod EFP." Comments may also be sent via facsimile to (978) 281-9135. Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, NE Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on AOLA Lobster Pleopod EFP."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Shé, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-282-8464, or [Carol.She@noaa.gov](mailto:Carol.She@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** AOLA submitted a complete application for an EFP on June 30, 2011, to conduct research activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP requests an exemption for 11 Federal commercial fishing vessels from the following Federal regulation: Mutilation requirements in 50 CFR 697.20(c). This research would take place as part of the on-going research being conducted by AOLA under an EFP approved on April

29, 2011. The researchers propose to collect a pleopod (small swimmerettes located on the lower body at the front side of the tail section of the lobster) from a maximum of 100 sexually immature juvenile lobsters during the AOLA project. To remove a pleopod for genetic analysis the following procedure would be followed: The lobster would be placed upside down, on the sorting table or other flat surface, to expose the underside of the tail. A crew member would use a small pair of snips or scissors to clip off the most distant part of one pleopod, approximately .20 inches by .20 (5 millimeter (mm) by 5 mm in length). The specialized first pair of pleopods would be avoided, with all sampling coming from one of the rear pleopod sets. The impacts on the lobster resource would be negligible because: (1) The removal of the pleopod is not expected to result in mortality; and (2) 100 animals, in relation to the total American lobster population, is so small that any effects would not be able to be measured. Because this project is only relevant to the sampling and release of a maximum of 100 juvenile lobsters, there would be no impacts to habitat and protected species and there would be no impacts with respect to bycatch.

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

Dated: July 12, 2011.

**Margo Schulze-Haugen,**

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

[FR Doc. 2011-17896 Filed 7-14-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**[RIN 0648-XA491]**

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coral and Coral Reefs off the Southern Atlantic States; Exempted Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Dr. Louis Daniel, on behalf of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. If granted, the EFP would authorize a maximum of 12 commercial fishing vessels to harvest and land South Atlantic snapper-

grouper species that are either currently prohibited to be harvested in general by the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (speckled hind and warsaw grouper) or are prohibited to be harvested beyond a depth of 240 ft (73.2 m) (blueline tilefish, misty grouper, queen snapper, silk snapper, snowy grouper, and yellowedge grouper). Authorized vessels would be eligible to harvest these species in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off North Carolina, specifically, the waters north of Cape Hatteras to the North Carolina/Virginia border. The purpose of this EFP would be to provide basic life history information for any fish harvested, particularly blueline tilefish. An additional purpose of the EFP would be to determine the distribution of speckled hind and warsaw grouper in the study area to determine if these species are bycatch in the commercial blueline tilefish component of the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., Eastern Time, on August 1, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the application by either of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* [rick.devictor@noaa.gov](mailto:rick.devictor@noaa.gov).

Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: LouisDaniel\_EFP 2011.

- *Mail:* Rick DeVictor, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to any of the above addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rick DeVictor, 727-824-5305; e-mail: [rick.devictor@noaa.gov](mailto:rick.devictor@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

The proposed data collection involves activities otherwise prohibited by regulations at 50 CFR part 622, as they pertain to species managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) specific to the commercial blueline tilefish component of the snapper-grouper fishery in the South Atlantic. This EFP would exempt designated project participants from regulations regarding the harvest and possession prohibition for speckled hind and warsaw grouper (§ 622.32(b)(3)(vii)), the area closure for deep-water snapper-grouper species

(§ 622.35(o)), queen and silk snapper commercial size limits (§ 622.37(e)(1)(iii)), and the snowy grouper commercial trip limit (§ 622.44(c)(3)).

The data collection is authorized in Federal waters, off of North Carolina from a depth of 40 fathoms seaward to the EEZ limit between Cape Hatteras (35°15.03' N. latitude) north to the North Carolina/Virginia state line (36°33.02' N. latitude). The EFP would expire when one of the following criteria is met: 100 total trips are taken by the combined participants; 350,000 lb (158,757 kg) of blueline tilefish are landed; 50 fish total of speckled hind or warsaw grouper are landed in any combination; 30 of any one of the following deep-water snapper-grouper species are landed (misty grouper, queen snapper, silk snapper, and yellowedge grouper); 1 year from the start date of the EFP; or for other reasons determined to be appropriate by NMFS.

A maximum of 12 commercial fishing vessels would be allowed to participate. To be eligible, a vessel's 2009 commercial landings must have exceeded 500 lb (226.8 kg) of blueline tilefish in the EEZ waters off North Carolina, north of Cape Hatteras, as verified by the North Carolina trip ticket program. Vessels authorized by this EFP would have an observer onboard for 20 percent of all trips taken under the authority of the EFP. Observers would be selected by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. A NMFS port agent would collect life history information and otoliths from blueline tilefish, snowy grouper, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper to the extent possible. Sampled fish would be returned to the fisherman in a condition appropriate for sale. Under the EFP, speckled hind and warsaw grouper would not be eligible for sale, however, other deep-water snapper-grouper species would be eligible for sale, with the following condition: Snowy grouper would be eligible for sale up to 100 lb (45 kg) per trip, with a maximum of 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) for all the vessels for the duration of the EFP. The otoliths would be transported to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries for storage and potential further analysis. All landings of blueline tilefish and snowy grouper would be deducted from the commercial annual catch limits for these species as established by the Council.

The purpose of this EFP would be to provide basic life history information of the fish harvested, particularly blueline tilefish. Another purpose of the EFP would be to determine the presence or absence of speckled hind and warsaw

grouper north of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, to determine if these species are bycatch by commercial blueline tilefish harvesters.

NMFS finds this application warrants further consideration. Based on a preliminary review, NMFS intends to issue the requested EFP, pending receipt of public comments, as per § 600.745(b)(3)(i). Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is indeed granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition on conducting research within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, special management zones, or artificial reefs without additional authorization. A report on the project findings is due at the end of the collection period, to be submitted to NMFS and reviewed by the Council.

A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS's review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the affected state, the Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as a determination that the EFP is consistent with all applicable laws.

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

Dated: July 12, 2011.

**Margo Schulze-Haugen,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA570

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Council to convene a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a meeting of the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 and conclude by 12 p.m., Thursday, August 4, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607, telephone: (813) 348-1630.