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301-975-6673.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NIST's research on elevators has primarily focused on the technical aspects of ensuring safe and reliable evacuation for the occupants of tall buildings. In addition, the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association provide requirements for the use of elevators for both occupant evacuation and fire fighter access into the building. However, there still is little understanding of how occupants use elevator systems during fire emergencies.

The focus of this research effort is two-fold: (1) To gain an understanding of how building occupants with mobility impairments currently evacuate multi-story buildings in the United States during fire emergencies, and (2) to learn about the concerns of persons with mobility impairments on using elevators during fire evacuations. This research aims to provide guidance to designers and building managers on aspects of fire evacuation that concern occupants with mobility impairments and on how to improve elevator design and usage during fire emergencies. The research includes four opportunities for participation:

(a) Building managers and designated safety personnel from a sample of four to ten existing and new federal high-rise buildings in the United States will be contacted to fill out a questionnaire requesting information on the emergency plans and procedures for the building, including how the buildings' evacuation plans incorporate the use of the existing elevator system to evacuate occupants with mobility impairments during fire emergencies. The building emergency plan will be requested from either the General Services Administration (GSA) or from the building manager.

(b) Occupants with mobility impairments in the buildings identified in part (a) will be asked for basic information on their mobility with regard to evacuation, previous evacuation experiences, and preferences on how to evacuate during a fire emergency. At the end of the questionnaire, they will be invited to participate in a one-on-one interview to discuss these issues in more detail.

(c) Occupants with mobility impairments identified in part (b) will participate in a one-on-one interview requesting more detailed information on previous evacuation experiences, awareness of emergency procedures,

and views and preferences on using an elevator to evacuate during a fire emergency.

(d) Professionals involved with emergency planning (e.g., GSA, USDA, DHS, building emergency managers, researchers) and building occupants with mobility impairments, if willing, will be invited to participate in one of two focus groups. A preliminary analysis of the data resulting from parts (a) through (c) will be summarized in the form of two sets of potential plans for the use of elevators during fire evacuation by occupants with mobility impairments: One for existing buildings and one for new buildings. Members of the focus groups will review both of these potential plans. They will then participate in a discussion that will lead to guidance for designers and building managers on aspects of fire evacuation that concern occupants with mobility impairments and on how to improve elevator design and usage during fire emergencies. The order of the discussion of plans for existing and new buildings will be switched for the two focus groups to ensure that each plan receives the same amount of attention overall.

II. Method of Collection

The data from questionnaire (a) will be collected electronically. The questionnaire will be made available on a secured Web site and the link to this Web site will be distributed by NIST staff to building property managers and designated safety personnel.

The data from questionnaire (b) will be collected electronically. The questionnaire will be made available on a secured Web site and the link to this Web site will be distributed by NIST staff to occupants with mobility impairments in the buildings identified in part (a).

The data from the one-on-one interviews will be audiotaped if permission is granted or recorded in written notes if not. Participants will identify their interest in the questionnaire from part (b). Each interview will be conducted by a member of the NIST research team at the participant's workplace or by phone.

The data from the focus groups will be audio taped and recorded in written notes. Professionals involved with emergency planning (e.g., GSA, USDA, DHS, building emergency managers, researchers) and building occupants with mobility impairments, if willing, will be invited to participate.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.
Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (new information collection).

Affected Public: Collections (a) and (d): Selected individuals, such as building managers and designated safety personnel, who are familiar with or in charge of developing emergency procedures for multi-story buildings in the United States, including both federal and private sector buildings; Collections (b) and (c): Selected high-rise building occupants with mobility impairments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 180.

Estimated Time per Response: Surveys, 15 minutes; Interviews, 2 hours; and Focus groups, 2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 168.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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: February 21, 2013.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013-04491 Filed 2-26-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC520

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hawthorne Hotel, 18 Washington Square, Salem, MA 01970; telephone: (978) 744-4080; fax: (978) 745-9842.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Habitat Committee will continue development of management alternatives for Omnibus EFH Amendment 2. Regarding Dedicated Habitat Research Areas, the Committee will review PDT recommendations about: (1) Implementing dedicated habitat research areas (e.g. defining "use" in relation to sunset provisions), (2) goals and objectives for specific research areas, and (3) boundaries for Eastern Maine and Georges Bank DHRAs. Regarding gear modifications, the Committee will (1) review PDT information about gear modifications for scallop dredges, (2) discuss other gear modification options as needed, and (3) discuss a gear modification research agenda and data collection program. The Committee will also review recommended boundaries for a single Habitat Management Area in the Great South Channel. Other business may be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice 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 final 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 Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978)

465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 22, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-04509 Filed 2-26-13; 8:45 am]

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BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

[Docket No. CFPB-2013-0004]

Request for Information Regarding an Initiative To Promote Student Loan Affordability

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Notice and request for information.

SUMMARY: This notice requests information from the public to determine options that would increase the availability of affordable payment plans for borrowers with existing private student loans. Section 1035 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act) establishes an ombudsman for student loans (Ombudsman) within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Bureau). Among other things, the Ombudsman is responsible for making "appropriate recommendations" to the Director of the Bureau, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Education, and Congress.

In October 2012, the Ombudsman presented a report, which recommended that policymakers identify opportunities to spur refinance and modification activity in the private student loan market. This notice seeks information from market participants, consumers, and other stakeholders in order to provide more detailed information on ways to encourage the development of more affordable loan repayment mechanisms for private student loan borrowers.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 8, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit responsive information and other comments, identified by Docket No. CFPB-2013-0004, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

• **Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:**

Monica Jackson, Office of the Executive Secretary, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20552.

Instructions: The Bureau encourages the early submission of comments. All submissions must include the document title and docket number. Because paper mail in the Washington, DC area and at the Bureau is subject to delay, commenters are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Please note the number associated with any question to which you are responding at the top of each response (you are not required to answer all questions to receive consideration of your comments). In general, all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In addition, comments will be available for public inspection and copying at 1700 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20552, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time. You can make an appointment to inspect the documents by telephoning 202-435-7275.

All submissions, including attachments and other supporting materials, will become part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, should not be included. Submissions will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general inquiries, submission process questions or any additional information, please contact Monica Jackson, Office of the Executive Secretary, at 202-435-7275.

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 5511(c).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There are more than 38 million student loan borrowers with over \$1.1 trillion in outstanding debt. The majority of the market consists of loans originated under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. The remainder of the market consists of private student loans. In July 2012, the Director of the Bureau and the Secretary of Education submitted a report to Congress detailing the private student loan market. The report¹ found that, as of the end of 2011, there were more than \$8 billion in defaulted private student loan balances, with even more in delinquency. Federal student loans frequently provide for income-based repayment options for borrowers with partial financial hardship, as well as rehabilitation options for borrowers in default. In general, private student

¹ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Department of Education: Report on Private Student Loans (2012).