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: March 6, 2013.

Gwellnar Banks, Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Colette Cairo or Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
On September 24, 2012, notice was published in the Federal Register (77 FR 58812) that a request for a scientific research permit to take smalltooth sawfish had been submitted by the University of Gainesville, Gainesville, FL 32611. The proposed permit had been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226). The permit holder is authorized to gather life history information on smalltooth sawfish populations of Florida, primarily in Florida Bay and the upper Keys area. The purpose of the research is to investigate the movements and habitat use of smalltooth sawfish in Florida waters. Annually, up to 80 sawfish may be captured by gillnet, longline, or angling gear, measured, passed integrated transponder, roto, dart, and external satellite tagged, tissue, muscle, and blood sampled, and released. Dead sawfish acquired through strandings or from law enforcement confiscations may be sampled for scientific purposes. The permit is authorized for a duration of 5 years.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) Was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 7, 2013.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Ryan Rindone, SEDAR Coordinator; telephone: (813) 348–1630; email: ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, have implemented the SoutheastData, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process including a workshop and webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Consensus Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment...
and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the SEDAR 31 Assessment Workshop Webinar #6 are as follows:

Panelists will continue reviewing the progress of modeling efforts for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper.

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 identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SEDAR office (see ADDRESSES) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: March 7, 2013.

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

For further information contact: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Standing and Special Mackerel SSC will meet jointly on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 to review benchmark stock assessments and recommend acceptable biological catch (ABC) for cobia and Spanish mackerel. On Thursday, March 28, 2013, the Standing and Ecosystem SSC meeting will meet jointly to receive a presentation on a multidisciplinary, multi-year Integrated Ecosystems Assessment (IEA) project being conducted by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. The presentation will review (1) the Gulf of Mexico IEA Program in general, (2) the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Status Report, and (3) aspects of the ecosystem modeling effort. The Standing SSC will then meet on Thursday afternoon to discuss ABC Control Rule revisions and review the SEDAR assessment schedule and priorities.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling (813) 348–1630 or can be downloaded from the Council’s ftp site, ftp.gulfcouncil.org.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Council (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: March 7, 2013.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC545

Fishing of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR): Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of SEDAR 34 pre-workshop webinar for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR assessment of the HMS stocks of Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks will consist of one in-person workshop and a series of webinars. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

DATES: The SEDAR 34 pre-workshop Webinar will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2013, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. central standard time (CST).

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of the webinar.

SEDAR Address: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; telephone: (843) 571–4366; email: julie.neer@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and