

advocate for those organizations, groups or entities during SRG meetings, discussions and deliberations.

NMFS annually reviews the expertise available on the SRG and identify gaps in the expertise that is needed to provide advice pursuant to section 117(d) of the MMPA. In conducting the reviews, NMFS will attempt to achieve, to the maximum extent practicable, a balanced representation of viewpoints among the individuals on each SRG.

For the Atlantic SRG (including waters off the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Territories in the Caribbean), NMFS seeks individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas: Ecological statistics, with emphasis in line-transect theory, abundance estimation, trend analysis, and/or marine mammal bycatch estimation; marine mammal health; fisheries gear and technologies; and pinnipeds.

For the Pacific SRG (including waters off the Pacific coast, Hawaiian Islands and the U.S. Territories in the Central and Western Pacific), NMFS seeks individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas: Bycatch estimation; quantitative ecology, population dynamics, modeling, and statistics; fishing gear/techniques, particularly for Hawaii and Pacific Islands fisheries; genetics and/or other methods of identifying marine mammal population structure; passive acoustics; abundance estimation, especially distance sampling and mark-recapture methods; and southern sea otters.

For the Alaska SRG, NMFS seeks individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas: Genetics/ population structure; quantitative ecology, modeling, and population dynamics; acoustics; fishing gear and practices; anthropogenic impacts; and ice-associated or Arctic species.

Nominations for new members should be sent to (see **ADDRESSES**) and must be received by October 31, 2016.

Nominations should be accompanied by the individual's curriculum vitae and detailed information regarding how the recommended person meets the minimum selection criteria for SRG members (see below), and how the recommended person would bring needed expertise to the group. Self-nominations are acceptable. The following contact information should accompany each nomination: Nominee's name, address, telephone number, and email address.

When reviewing nominations, NMFS will consider the following criteria:

(1) Ability to make time available for the purposes of the SRG;

(2) Knowledge of the species (or closely related species) of marine mammals in the SRG's region;

(3) Scientific or technical achievement in a relevant discipline, particularly the areas of expertise identified above, to be considered an expert peer reviewer for the topic;

(4) Demonstrated experience working effectively on teams;

(5) Expertise relevant to current and expected needs of the SRG, in particular, expertise required to provide adequate review and knowledgeable feedback on current or developing stock assessment issues, techniques, etc. In practice, this means that each member should have expertise in more than one topic as the species and scientific issues discussed in SRG meetings are diverse; and

(6) No conflict of interest with respect to their duties as a member of the SRG.

An SRG member cannot be a registered Federal lobbyist. Membership is voluntary, and except for reimbursable travel and related expenses, service is without pay. The term of service for SRG members is three years and members may serve up to three consecutive terms if reappointed.

Dated: September 26, 2016.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE912

Fisheries of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR); U.S. Gulf of Mexico Data-Limited Species

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 49 assessment of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico Data-Limited Species will consist of a Data Workshop; a series of Assessment Webinars; and a Review Workshop, to view the agenda.

DATES: The SEDAR 49 Review Workshop will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, and end at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, 2016, to view the agenda see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The SEDAR 49 Review Workshop will be held at the Sonesta Coconut Grove, 2889 McFarlane Road, Miami, FL 33133, 305-529-2828 or 1-800-766-3782.

SEDAR address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405 or on their Web site, at www.sedarweb.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; phone 843-571-4366 or toll free 866-SAFMC-10; FAX 843-769-4520; email: Julie.neer@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

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 Southeast Data, 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 utilizing 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 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, HMS 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 Review Workshop agenda are as follows:

1. The Review Panel participants will review the stock assessment reports to determine if they are scientifically sound.

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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

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

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

Dated: September 26, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Status of New Uniform Residential Loan Application and Collection of Expanded Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Information About Ethnicity and Race in 2017

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Bureau Official Approval.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) is publishing a notice pursuant to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act concerning the new Uniform Residential Loan Application and the collection of expanded Home Mortgage Disclosure Act information about ethnicity and race in 2017.

DATES: This official approval is issued September 23, 2016. Entities may rely on part III of this Bureau official approval beginning January 1, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Wylie, Counsel, Office of Regulations, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street NW.,

Washington, DC 20552, at 202-435-7700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) administers the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), 15 U.S.C. 1691, *et seq.* and its implementing regulation, Regulation B, 12 CFR part 1002. Section 706(e) of ECOA, as amended, provides that no provision of ECOA imposing liability shall apply to any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with any official rule, regulation, or interpretation thereof by the Bureau or in conformity with any interpretation or approval by an official or employee of the Bureau duly authorized by the Bureau to issue such an interpretation or approval. This notice (Bureau official approval) constitutes such an interpretation or approval, and therefore section 706(e) protects a creditor from civil liability under ECOA for any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with this notice.

II. New Uniform Residential Loan Application Status Under Regulation B

The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and the Federal National Mortgage Association (collectively, the Enterprises), under the conservatorship of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), issued a revised and redesigned Uniform Residential Loan Application on August 23, 2016, included as an attachment to this notice (2016 URLA).¹ This issuance was part of the effort of these entities to update the Uniform Loan Application Dataset (ULAD) in conjunction with the 2016 URLA. Bureau staff has reviewed the 2016 URLA in accordance with the request by FHFA and the Enterprises for a Bureau official approval of the 2016 URLA under ECOA and Regulation B.

A. Background

A version of the URLA dated January 2004 is included in appendix B to Regulation B as a model form. Appendix B provides that the use of model forms included in appendix B is optional under Regulation B but that, if a creditor uses an appropriate appendix B model form, or modifies a form in accordance with instructions provided in appendix B, that creditor shall be deemed to be acting in compliance with § 1002.5(b) through (d). Regulation B comment

¹ See 2016 URLA—Borrower Information, 2016 URLA—Additional Borrower, 2016 URLA—Unmarried Addendum, 2016 URLA—Lender Loan Information, 2016 URLA—Continuation Sheet, and 2016 URLA Demographic Information Addendum included as attachments in part V of this notice.

appendix B-1 provides that a previous version of the URLA, dated October 1992, may be used by creditors without violating Regulation B.

This Bureau official approval is being issued separately from, and without amending, the official interpretations to Regulation B contained in Supplement I to Regulation B. The Bureau will consider whether to address the treatment of outdated versions of the URLA in appendix B and Supplement I to Regulation B at a later date.

B. Bureau Official Approval

Regulation B § 1002.5(b) provides rules concerning requests for information about race, color, religion, national origin, or sex. Section 1002.5(c) provides rules concerning requests for information about a spouse or former spouse. Section 1002.5(d) provides rules concerning requests for information regarding marital status; income from alimony, child support, or separate maintenance; and childbearing or childrearing. Bureau staff has determined that the relevant language in the 2016 URLA is in compliance with these regulatory provisions. A creditor's use of the 2016 URLA is not required under Regulation B. However, a creditor that uses the 2016 URLA without any modification that would violate § 1002.5(b) through (d) would act in compliance with § 1002.5(b) through (d). The issuance of this Bureau official approval has been duly authorized by the Director of the Bureau and provides the protection afforded under section 706(e) of ECOA.

III. Collection of Expanded Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Information About Ethnicity and Race in 2017

This part of this Bureau official approval addresses collection of information concerning the ethnicity and race of applicants in conformity with Regulation B from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

A. Background

With some exceptions, Regulation B § 1002.5(b) generally prohibits a creditor from inquiring about the race, color, religion, national origin, or sex of an applicant or any other person in connection with a credit transaction. Regulation B § 1002.5(a)(2) provides an exception to that prohibition for information, including information about ethnicity and race, for monitoring purposes that creditors are required to request for certain dwelling-secured loans under § 1002.13, and for information required by a regulation, order, or agreement issued by or entered into with a court or an enforcement