

Building, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230. The address to register, submit comments, or request auxiliary aids is: Mr. Jeffrey Phillips, Office of Energy & Environmental Industries (OEEI), International Trade Administration, Room 28018, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 or email: jeffrey.phillips@trade.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeffrey Phillips, Office of Energy & Environmental Industries (OEEI), International Trade Administration, Room 28018, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (Phone: 202-482-8342; Fax: 202-482-5665; email: jeffrey.phillips@trade.gov.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will take place on February 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EDT. The general meeting is open to the public and time will be permitted for public comment from 3:00-3:30 p.m. EDT. Members of the public seeking to attend the meeting are required to register in advance. Those interested in attending must provide notification by Friday, January 26, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. EDT, via the contact information provided above. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to OEEI at (202) 482-8342 no less than one week prior to the meeting. Requests received after this date will be accepted, but it may not be possible to accommodate them.

Written comments concerning ETTAC affairs are welcome any time before or after the meeting. To be considered during the meeting, written comments must be received by Friday, January 26, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. EDT to ensure transmission to the members before the meeting. Minutes will be available within 30 days of this meeting.

Topic to be considered: During the February 6, 2018 meeting the three ETTAC subcommittees will discuss their top priorities for this charter period, with the goal of generating recommendations for the Secretary of Commerce. Topics under discussion include optimizing the U.S. Government's trade promotion programs, identifying market access barriers, pros and cons of existing trade agreements, and discussing procurement policy, including issues with financing mechanisms, localization requirements and non-tariff barriers. The ETTAC's subcommittees are: Trade Promotion and Export Market Development, Professional Services and Infrastructure Advancement, and Trade Policy and American Competitiveness.

Background: The ETTAC is mandated by Section 2313(c) of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 4728(c), to advise the Environmental Trade Working Group of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, through the Secretary of Commerce, on the development and administration of programs to expand U.S. exports of environmental technologies, goods, services, and products. The ETTAC was originally chartered in May of 1994. It was most recently re-chartered until August 2018.

Dated: January 10, 2018.

Edward A. O'Malley,

Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF679

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Gulf of Mexico State Management Program Amendment for Recreational Red Snapper

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

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS); request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS, Southeast Region, in collaboration with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council), intends to prepare a DEIS to describe and analyze management alternatives to be included in the State Management Program for Recreational Red Snapper Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (State Management Program Amendment). The State Management Program Amendment will consider alternatives that would allocate the total recreational red snapper annual catch limit (ACL) for the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) among the individual Gulf states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and designate the components of the recreational sector that would be included under a state's management program (private angling and/or charter vessel/headboat (for-hire) components). These decisions would form the basis for individual state amendments to the FMP to allow each of the Gulf states to establish management measures for the

recreational harvest of red snapper in adjacent Gulf Federal waters. State management would enable each state to specify the management measures that best meet the needs of its constituents, thereby addressing regional socio-economic concerns. The purpose of this NOI is to inform the public of upcoming opportunities to provide additional comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the DEIS, as specified in this notice.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the DEIS must be received by NMFS by February 16, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the Amendment identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2017-0122" by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic submissions:* Submit electronic comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Go to www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2017-0122, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments

- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Lauren Waters, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Waters, Southeast Regional Office, telephone: (727) 824-5305; or email: Lauren.Waters@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For Gulf red snapper the recreational sector is separated into Federal for-hire (charter vessels and headboats) and private angling components, each managed under their respective recreational quotas and annual catch targets (ACTs). This separation will end after the 2022 fishing year if the Council takes no further action. NMFS annually projects the recreational season length for each component based on the ACTs and the projected average weights of fish and catch rates derived from historical

trends. Despite increases in the total red snapper quota, the recreational season length for the private angler component has become progressively shorter.

Fishermen from different Gulf states have requested more flexibility in recreational red snapper management so that regulations provide greater socio-economic benefits to their particular area. In June 2012, Louisiana requested that the Council develop a recreational red snapper regional management pilot program. As a result of the Louisiana request, the Council initiated development of Amendment 39 to the FMP. Amendment 39 considered several actions that are also currently being considered by the Council, such as the mechanism for implementing regional management, apportioning the recreational annual catch limit (ACL) among the Gulf states, and modifying post-season accountability measures (AMs) consistent with the regional management approach.

In May 2013, NMFS published an NOI to prepare a draft environmental impact statement for Amendment 39 and solicited public comment (78 FR 27956, May 13, 2013). As explained in that NOI, the intent of Amendment 39 was to allow participating states or regions to design management options to better fit their needs. However, red snapper would remain a federally managed species. The Council and NMFS would continue to oversee management of the stock. This includes continuing to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the mandate to ensure the red snapper annual recreational quota is not exceeded and that conservation objectives are achieved. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) would continue to determine the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for red snapper, and the Council and NMFS would determine the total recreational red snapper quota that could be allocated among regions.

During the development of Amendment 39, the Council received public input on actions and alternatives regarding regional management of recreational red snapper at numerous public hearing meetings and Council meetings held throughout the Gulf states from October 2012 through January 2016, as well as via webinar. Additionally the Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel reviewed regional management actions and alternatives in September 2015. The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability for the DEIS for Amendment 39 in December 2015 (80 FR 79041, December 18, 2015).

However, in January 2016, the Council voted to postpone further work on Amendment 39. In April 2017, the Council began discussing regional management concepts again and decided to develop new amendments to provide the management flexibility desired by the Gulf states and their constituents. Similar to Amendment 39, the intent is to allow each participating state to implement management measures to better fit its needs, while achieving the same conservation goals as the Federal management measures in existence at any given time.

The Council is currently considering several FMP amendments that would allow each Gulf state to manage the recreational harvest of red snapper in Federal waters adjacent to their state. The State Management Program Amendment will consider alternatives to apportion the total recreational red snapper ACL for the Gulf among the individual Gulf states and determine which components of the recreational sector would be included under a state's management program (private angling and/or charter vessel/headboat (for-hire) components). Five separate FMP amendments, one for each Gulf state, will consider alternatives to establish the state-specific authority structure, such as delegation or the use of conservation equivalency plans, and state-specific post-season accountability measures for each state that participates in the State Management Program for recreational red snapper (State Amendments).

NMFS, in collaboration with the Council, will develop a DEIS to describe and analyze alternatives to address the management needs described above including the "no action" alternative. The State Management Program Amendment DEIS will describe and analyze the apportionment and recreational sector component alternatives as well as describe and analyze the authority structure and accountability measure alternatives included in the five individual State Amendments. Thus, NMFS anticipates that the State Management Program Amendment EIS will include the relevant National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses for all six FMP amendments. However, NMFS will continue to evaluate this determination as the State Amendments are developed and will provide additional NEPA analysis as appropriate.

In accordance with NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6A, accompanying NEPA Procedures (company manual), and the Scoping Process, NMFS, in collaboration with the Council, has identified preliminary

environmental issues as a means to initiate discussion for scoping purposes only. The public is invited to provide written comments on the preliminary issues, which are identified as actions and alternatives in the State Management Program Amendment draft options paper and action guide. These preliminary issues may not represent the full range of issues that eventually will be evaluated in the DEIS. A copy of the State Management Program Amendment draft options paper and action guide are available at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/reef_fish/2017/RSSStateManagement/RSSStateManagementIndex.html.

After the DEIS associated with the State Management Program Amendment is completed, it will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After filing, the EPA will publish a notice of availability (NOA) of the DEIS for public comment in the **Federal Register**. The DEIS will have a 45-day comment period. This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and to NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6A regarding NOAA's compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations.

The Council and NMFS will consider public comments received on the DEIS in developing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and before the Council votes to submit the State Management Program Amendment to NMFS for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register** the availability of the final amendment and FEIS for public review during the Secretarial review period, and will consider all public comments prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the final amendment. During Secretarial review, NMFS will also file the FEIS with the EPA and the EPA will publish an NOA for the FEIS in the **Federal Register**.

NMFS will announce, through a notice published in the **Federal Register**, all public comment periods on the final amendment, its proposed implementing regulations, and the availability of its associated FEIS. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the Secretarial review period, whether they are on the final amendment, the proposed regulations, or the FEIS, prior to final agency action.

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

Dated: January 10, 2018.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-00666 Filed 1-16-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Alaska American Fisheries Act (AFA) Reports.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0401.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 8.

Average Hours per Response: AFA cooperative contract, 8 hours; annual cooperative report, 16 hours; inshore cooperative weekly catch report, 45 minutes; incentive plan agreement (IPA) amendment, 50 hours; incentive plan agreement disapproval appeals, 4 hours; IPA annual report, 80 hours.

Burden Hours: 599.

Needs and Uses: On October 21, 1998, the President signed into law The American Fisheries Act, 16 U.S.C. 1851 (AFA). The AFA authorizes the formation of fishery cooperatives in all sectors of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) pollock fishery, grants antitrust exemptions to cooperatives in the mothership sector, and imposes operational limits on fishery cooperatives in the BSAI pollock fishery. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues a single pollock allocation to each cooperative, and the cooperative may make sub-allocations of pollock to each individual vessel owner in the cooperative.

With respect to the fisheries off Alaska, the AFA Program is a suite of management measures that fall into four general regulatory categories:

- Limit access into the fishing and processing sectors of the BSAI pollock fishery and that allocate pollock to such sectors (50 CFR 679.64).
- Govern the formation and operation of fishery cooperatives in the BSAI

pollock fishery, including filing of cooperative contracts (50 CFR 679.61 and 679.62).

- Protection of other fisheries from spillover effects from the AFA (50 CFR 679.64).

- Govern catch measurement and monitoring in the BSAI pollock fishery, including filing of annual reports and completing and submitting inshore catcher vessel pollock cooperative catch reports (50 CFR 679.63).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Annually and on occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

This information collection request may be viewed at *reginfo.gov*. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: January 11, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-00691 Filed 1-16-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF951

Whaling Provisions; Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Quotas

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

ACTION: Notice; notification of quota for bowhead whales.

SUMMARY: NMFS notifies the public of the aboriginal subsistence whaling quota for bowhead whales that it has assigned to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), and of limitations on the use of the quota deriving from regulations of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). For 2018, the quota is 75 bowhead whales struck. This quota and other applicable limitations govern the harvest of bowhead whales by members of the AEWC.

DATES: Applicable January 17, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Office for International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carolyn Doherty, (301) 427-8385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Aboriginal subsistence whaling in the United States is governed by the Whaling Convention Act (WCA) (16 U.S.C. 916 *et seq.*).

Under the WCA, IWC regulations shall generally become effective with respect to all persons and vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, within 90 days of notification from the IWC Secretariat of an amendment to the IWC Schedule (16 U.S.C. 916k). Regulations that implement the WCA, found at 50 CFR 230.6, require the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to publish, at least annually, aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas and any other limitations on aboriginal subsistence whaling deriving from regulations of the IWC.

At the 64th Annual Meeting of the IWC, the Commission set catch limits for aboriginal subsistence use of bowhead whales from the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock. The bowhead catch limits were based on a joint request by the United States and the Russian Federation, accompanied by documentation concerning the needs of two Native groups: Alaska Eskimos and Chukotka Natives in the Russian Far East.

The IWC set a 6-year block catch limit of 336 bowhead whales landed. For each of the years 2013 through 2018, the number of bowhead whales struck may not exceed 67, except that any unused portion of a strike quota from any prior year may be carried forward. No more than 15 strikes may be added to the strike quota for any one year. At the end of the 2017 harvest, there were 15 unused strikes available for carry-forward, so the combined strike quota set by the IWC for 2018 is 82 (67 + 15).

An arrangement between the United States and the Russian Federation ensures that the total quota of bowhead whales landed and struck in 2018 will not exceed the limits set by the IWC. Under this arrangement, the Russian natives may use no more than seven strikes, and the Alaska Eskimos may use no more than 75 strikes.

Through its cooperative agreement with the AEWC, NOAA has assigned 75 strikes to the Alaska Eskimos. The AEWC will in turn allocate these strikes among the 11 villages whose cultural and subsistence needs have been documented, and will ensure that its hunters use no more than 75 strikes.

Other Limitations

The IWC regulations, as well as the NOAA regulation at 50 CFR 230.4(c), forbid the taking of calves or any whale accompanied by a calf.