

Make a 4(d) determination on an RMP that utilizes a mixture of management-unit-specific escapement thresholds and exploitation rate ceilings.

Fixed Management Unit Escapement Goal Alternative: Make a 4(d) determination on an RMP that sets fixed escapement goals for Puget Sound Chinook management units.

No-action Alternative (No-fishing Alternative): Under this alternative, NMFS would not make a determination on the RMP; therefore, there would be no authorized take of Puget Sound Chinook salmon in Puget Sound salmon fisheries through the 4(d) rule. Although this alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action, a No-action Alternative is required in our NEPA analysis.

Request for Comments

NMFS requests data, comments, pertinent information, or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, tribes, the business community, or any other interested party regarding the proposed action discussed in this notice. We will consider all comments we receive that are relevant to the proposed action and relevant to complying with the requirements of NEPA. We particularly seek specific comments concerning:

(1) The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that implementation of any reasonable alternative could have on endangered and threatened species, and other non-ESA-listed species and their habitats;

(2) Other reasonable alternatives (in addition to the initial alternatives presented in this notice), and their associated effects. NMFS is particularly interested in alternatives that include ecosystem considerations, including the conservation and harvest of Puget Sound Chinook salmon, recovery of the ESA-listed Southern Resident killer whales, and needs of other wildlife;

(3) Measures that would minimize and mitigate potentially adverse effects of the proposed action; and

(4) Other plans or projects that might be relevant to this project.

The EIS will analyze the effects that the various alternatives would have on salmon and fish species in Puget Sound, as well as the other aspects of the human environment. These aspects may include other fish, habitat, marine nutrient transport, seabirds, marine mammals, marine invertebrates, ESA-listed species, vegetation, socioeconomic, environmental justice, cultural resources, and the cumulative impacts of the alternatives.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; 40 CFR 1500–1508; and Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A, 82 FR 4306.

Dated: April 26, 2018.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–09337 Filed 5–2–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

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: West Coast Region Gear Identification Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0352.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Number of Respondents: 811.

Average Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.

Burden Hours: 648.

Needs and Uses: This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on regulatory compliance. The requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The regulations specify that fishing gear must be marked with the vessel's official number, Federal permit or tag number, or some other specified form of identification. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked (*e.g.*, location and color). Law enforcement personnel rely on gear marking information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations. Gear that is not properly identified is confiscated. Gear violations are more readily prosecuted when the

gear is marked, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement. Gear marking helps ensure that a vessel harvests fish only from its own traps/pots/other gear are not illegally placed. Cooperating fishermen also use the gear marking numbers to report suspicious or non-compliant activities that they observe, and to report placement or occurrence of gear in unauthorized areas. The identifying number on fishing gear is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and other marine agencies in issuing regulations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions necessary to support sustainable fisheries behaviors as intended in regulations. Regulation-compliant fishermen ultimately benefit from these requirements, as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred and more burdensome regulations are avoided.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Every five years.

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: April 30, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–09372 Filed 5–2–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XG209

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 Skate Advisory Panel 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 Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore, 10 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Panel will review draft alternatives to prolong the wing fishery that focus on modifying the seasonal skate wing possession limits including a potential intermediate possession limit. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 30, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09395 Filed 5-2-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG208

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Committee and MSB Advisory Panel of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint meeting via webinar.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2018 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by noon. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar with a telephone-only audio connection. Connection details are posted at <http://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2018/joint-msb-committee-ap-meeting>.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; website: www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to develop recommendations for the Council regarding modifications to the Atlantic mackerel commercial fishery closure possession limits. Currently no Atlantic mackerel possession is allowed by federally-permitted commercial vessels once 100% of the commercial landings quota is reached. The Council is considering changing the trip limit once 100% of the commercial landings quota is reached. The Council is scheduled to take final action on this issue at its June 2018 Council meeting via a Framework Adjustment to the MSB Fishery Management Plan.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to any meeting date.

Dated: April 30, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09394 Filed 5-2-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG210

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 Skate 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 Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore, 10 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will review draft alternatives to prolong the wing fishery that focus on modifying the seasonal skate wing possession limits including a potential intermediate possession limit. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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.