

notice to *OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: September 20, 2018.

**Sarah Brabson,**

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG478

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review Workshops Advisory Panel

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

**ACTION:** Notice; nominations for shark stock assessment Advisory Panel.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS solicits nominations for the “SEDAR Pool,” also known as the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Workshops Advisory Panel. The SEDAR Pool is comprised of a group of individuals who may be selected to consider data and advise NMFS regarding the scientific information, including but not limited to data and models, used in stock assessments for oceanic sharks in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. Nominations are being sought for a 5-year appointment (2019–2024). Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, and non-governmental organizations will be considered for membership on the SEDAR Pool.

**DATES:** Nominations must be received on or before October 26, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit nominations and request the SEDAR Pool Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [SEDAR.pool@noaa.gov](mailto:SEDAR.pool@noaa.gov).
- *Mail:* Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Include on the envelope the following identifier: “SEDAR Pool Nomination.”

- *Fax:* 301-713-1917.

Additional information on SEDAR and the SEDAR guidelines can be found at <http://sedarweb.org/>. The terms of reference for the SEDAR Pool, along

with a list of current members, can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/southeast-data-assessment-and-review-and-atlantic-highly>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karyl Brewster-Geisz, (301) 425-8503.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 302(g)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, states that each Council shall establish such advisory panels as are necessary or appropriate to assist it in carrying out its functions under the Act. For the purposes of this section, NMFS applies the above Council provision to Atlantic HMS management (See section 304(g)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which provides that the Secretary will prepare fishery management plans for HMS and consult with Advisory Panels under section 302(g) for such FMPs). As such, NMFS has established the SEDAR Pool under this section. The SEDAR Pool currently consists of 26 individuals, each of whom may be selected to review data and advise NMFS regarding the scientific information, including but not limited to data and models, used in stock assessments for oceanic sharks in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. While the SEDAR Pool was created specifically for Atlantic oceanic sharks, it may be expanded to include other HMS, as needed.

The primary purpose of the individuals in the SEDAR Pool is to review, at SEDAR workshops, the scientific information (including but not limited to data and models) used in stock assessments that are used to advise NMFS, as a delegate to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), about the conservation and management of Atlantic HMS, specifically but not limited to, Atlantic sharks. Individuals in the SEDAR Pool, if selected, may participate in the various data, assessment, and review workshops during the SEDAR process of any HMS stock assessment. In order to ensure that the peer review is unbiased, individuals who participated in a data and/or assessment workshop for a particular stock assessment will not be allowed to serve as reviewers for the same stock assessment. However, these individuals may be asked to attend the review workshop to answer specific questions from the reviewers concerning the data and/or assessment workshops. Members of the SEDAR Pool may serve as members of other Advisory Panels

concurrent with, or following, their service on the SEDAR Pool.

#### Procedures and Guidelines

##### A. Participants

The SEDAR Pool is comprised of individuals representing the commercial and recreational fishing communities for Atlantic sharks, the environmental community active in the conservation and management of Atlantic sharks, and the academic community that have relevant expertise either with sharks and/or stock assessment methodologies for marine fish species. In addition, individuals who may not necessarily work directly with sharks, but who are involved in fisheries with similar life history, biology and fishery issues may be part of the SEDAR Pool. Members of the SEDAR Pool must have demonstrated experience in the fisheries, related industries, research, teaching, writing, conservation, or management of marine organisms. The distribution of representation among the interested parties is not defined or limited.

Additional members of the SEDAR Pool may also include representatives from each of the five Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Councils, each of the 18 Atlantic states, both the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and each of the interstate commissions: The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

If NMFS requires additional members to ensure a diverse pool of individuals for data or assessment workshops, NMFS may request individuals to become members of the SEDAR Pool outside of the annual nomination period.

SEDAR Pool members serve at the discretion of the Secretary. Not all members will attend each SEDAR workshop. Rather, NMFS will invite certain members to participate at specific stock assessment workshops dependent on their ability to participate, discuss, and recommend scientific decisions regarding the species being assessed.

NMFS is not obligated to fulfill any requests (e.g., requests for an assessment of a certain species) that may be made by the SEDAR Pool or its individual members. Members of the SEDAR Pool who are invited to attend stock assessment workshops will not be compensated for their services but may be reimbursed for their travel-related expenses to attend such workshops.

### *B. Nomination Procedures for Appointments to the SEDAR Pool*

Member tenure will be for 5 years. Nominations are sought for terms beginning early in 2019 and expiring in 2024. Nomination packages should include:

1. The name, address, phone number, and email of the applicant or nominee;
2. A description of the applicant's or nominee's interest in Atlantic shark stock assessments or the Atlantic shark fishery;
3. A statement of the applicant's or nominee's background and/or qualifications; and
4. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall participate actively and in good faith in the tasks of the SEDAR Pool, as requested.

### *C. Meeting Schedule*

Individual members of the SEDAR Pool meet to participate in stock assessments at the discretion of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS. Stock assessment timing, frequency, and relevant species will vary depending on the needs determined by NMFS and SEDAR staff. In 2019, NMFS intends to conduct a benchmark assessment for Atlantic blacktip sharks. In 2020, NMFS intends to begin a research track assessment for the hammerhead shark complex. During an assessment year, meetings and meeting logistics will be determined according to the SEDAR Guidelines. All meetings are open for observation by the public.

Dated: September 20, 2018.

**Margo B. Schulze-Haugen,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Survey of Uses of NOAA Ecological Forecasting Products in Western Lake Erie, the Gulf of Mexico, and Chesapeake Bay**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on

proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before November 26, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at [pracomments@doc.gov](mailto:pracomments@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Lonnie Gonsalves, NOAA National Ocean Service, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, 1305 East West Hwy., Rm 8325, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (240) 533-0303, and [lonnie.gonsalves@noaa.gov](mailto:lonnie.gonsalves@noaa.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Abstract**

This request is for a new information collection.

In recent years, harmful algal blooms (HABs) and waterborne pathogens such as *Vibrio vulnificus* have caused major health, ecological, and economic concerns. HABs and other waterborne pathogens can lead to a number of impacts including impaired drinking water, reduced recreational opportunities, and human health impacts from either ingesting affected fish/water or contact with the bloom. To better serve the public and its stakeholders, NOAA has developed forecasts of HABs extent and severity in the western Lake Erie and in the Gulf of Mexico and is finalizing development of a forecast for *Vibrio vulnificus* in Chesapeake Bay. These forecast products are designed to provide stakeholders and the public with information that can be used to make better decisions that would mitigate the impacts of HABs and waterborne pathogens.

This request is for a set of related surveys to collect information on how stakeholders use NOAA's ecological forecast products in western Lake Erie, the Gulf of Mexico (the western shore of Florida and the Texas coastline), and Chesapeake Bay. The surveys are designed to collect similar information from the public and other stakeholders across the three geographic regions covered by the forecast products. The information from these surveys will assist NOAA in understanding how stakeholders, including the public, would use the forecast products. This information will help NOAA further

improve upon research, development, and delivery of forecast products nationwide.

For western Lake Erie and the Gulf of Mexico, NOAA plans two related surveys in each region. First, NOAA will collect information from the public on how using the information in the forecast products would affect decisions related to fishing, swimming and boating. A companion survey would ask charter boat operators on Lake Erie how information in the forecast would affect their decisions regarding fishing operations. These activities (fishing, swimming and boating) reflect the types of activities likely to be affected by HABs in each area. Drinking water is also at risk in Lake Erie due to HABs, but NOAA has information on how drinking water facilities respond to HABs and is also discussing use of the forecast products with a small (fewer than 10) number of drinking water facilities.

For Chesapeake Bay, NOAA would implement one survey focused on recreational swimmers. The primary risk posed by *Vibrio vulnificus* is through contact with the bacterium; thus, NOAA determined that focusing on recreational swimmers use of the forecast product would be the most productive approach.

##### **II. Method of Collection**

NOAA plans to collect these data using an online data collection firm to select public samples and administer the survey via the internet. For the charter boat surveys, NOAA will work with charter boat associations in the Lake Erie and Gulf of Mexico areas to distribute the survey link to their memberships. Data collection will focus on a small sample of drinking water and natural resource managers, public health officials, charter boat operators, and the public. NOAA is not concerned with collecting statistically representative data at this time as the limited sampling will adequately address how the public may use the data from the aforementioned HAB and pathogen forecasts.

##### **III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-xxxx.

*Form Number(s):* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 600.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 15 minutes.