information will assist in determining the performance of the MEP Centers at both local and national levels, provide information critical to monitoring and reporting on MEP programmatic performance and assist management in policy decisions. Responses to the collection of information are mandatory per the regulations governing the operation of the MEP Program (15 CFR parts 290, 291, 292, and H.R. 1274—section 2). The information collected will include center inputs and activities including services delivered, clients served, center staff, expenses and revenues that are reported annually, semi-annually, and quarterly, partners, strategic plans, operation plans, and client success stories. No confidentiality for information submitted is promised or provided. In order to reflect new initiatives and new data needs, NIST MEP has identified a need to revise its existing reporting processes by modifying existing reporting elements that will enable NIST MEP to better monitor and assess the extent to which the Centers are meeting program goals and milestones.

II. Method of Collection

The information will be collected from the MEP Centers through the MEP Enterprise Information System (MEIS), *https://meis.nist.gov.*

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693–0032.
Form Number(s): None.
Type of Review: Regular submission, extension of a current information collection.
Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 51.
Estimated Time Per Response: Recipients of NIST MEP Base awards should anticipate an additional burden based on the requirements of the cooperative agreement as follows, 22 Hours for Quarterly Review, 6 Hours for Semi-Annual Review, 30 hours for the Annual Review; 80 hours for Panel Review. *Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 6,120 hours for quarterly, semi-annual, and annual Review; and 1,360 hours for Panel Review.
Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0.
Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2024–20266 Filed 9–6–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE257]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR). Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 24, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by email to *nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov.* Include in the subject line ''ME DMR Ventless Trap EFP.''

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Ford, Fishery Management Specialist, *Christine.Ford@noaa.gov,* (978) 281–9185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ME DMR submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would provide distribution, abundance, and biological data on juvenile lobsters and Jonah crabs from times and areas with low coverage from traditional surveys. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
50 CFR 697.21(c)	Gear specification requirements	To allow for closed escape vents and smaller trap mesh and entrance heads.
§ 697.19	Trap limit requirements	To allow for 3 additional traps per fishing vessel, for a total of up to 60 additional traps.

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS—Continued

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
§ 697.19(j)	Trap tag requirements	To allow for the use of untagged traps (though each modified trap will have the participating fisherman's identification attached).
§§ 697.20(a), 697.20(d), 697.20(g), and 697.20(h)(1)–(2).	Possession restrictions	To allow for onboard biological sampling of undersized, v-notched, and egg-bearing lobsters and undersized and egg-bearing Jonah crabs.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Maine lobster fishery dependent offshore ventless and commercial trap research program.
Project start	11/04/2024.
Project end	11/03/2025.
Project objectives	To develop a new survey, in partnership with Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF), to provide distribution, abundance, and biological data on juvenile lobsters and Jonah crabs from times and areas in Federal waters with low coverage from traditional surveys.
Project location	Gulf of Maine: Statistical Areas 511, 512, and 513.
Number of vessels	Up to 20.
Number of trips	Up to 36 per vessel; up to 720 total.
Trip duration (days)	Up to 3.
Total number of days	Up to 108 per vessel; up to 2,160 total.
Gear type(s)	Trap.
Number of tows or sets	1 per trip.
Duration of tows or sets	7–10 days.

Project Narrative

This project would contribute to the ongoing effort by the CFRF to collect data on juvenile lobster and Jonah crab abundance and distribution in areas and times of the year with low or no coverage by traditional surveys.

This project would include up to 20 federally permitted Maine lobster vessels. Each vessel would fish with 3 modified, ventless traps designed to catch juvenile lobsters, totaling up to 60 modified traps. The ventless trap configuration is as follows: 40-inch length x 21-inch width x 14-inch height (101.6-centimeter (cm) length x 53.34-cm width x 35.56-cm height), single parlor, 1-inch (2.54-cm) square rubber-coated 12-gauge wire, standard shrimp mesh netting, cement runners, and 4- by 6-inch (10.16- by 15.24-cm) disabling door. The modified traps would adhere to the standard coastwide survey gear for lobster and Jonah crab set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and would be fished with standard Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan-compliant trawls.

This study would take place during regular fishing activity of the participating vessels, but catch from the modified traps would remain separate from that of standard gear. Operators would collect data on size, sex, presence of eggs, and shell hardness for lobsters and Jonah crabs, and v-notch and shell disease for lobsters. Operators would return all specimens from modified gear to the ocean once sampling is complete.

The study is designed to inform management by addressing questions about changing reproduction and recruitment dynamics of lobster and to develop a foundation of knowledge for the data-deficient Jonah crab fishery. All data collected by the participants using the CFRF data collection app would be sent to ME DMR for processing. ME DMR would then share final datasets with CFRF, to further share with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter ''anonymous'' as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

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

Dated: September 3, 2024.

Lindsay Fullenkamp,

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

[FR Doc. 2024–20156 Filed 9–6–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE268]

Endangered Species; File No. 28262

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Kori Johnsen, 1792 Harrison Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32935, has applied in due form for a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 9, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting ''Records Open for Public Comment'' from the ''Features'' box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, *https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov,* and then selecting File No. 28262 from the list of available applications. These documents are also