

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Questionnaire To Support Review of Federal Assistance Applications**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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 January 30, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Shelby L. Mendez, (301) 713-1622 ext. 207 or shelby.l.mendez@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 through 4327) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) require that an environmental analysis be completed for all major Federal actions significantly affecting the environment. NEPA applies only to the actions of Federal agencies. While those Federal actions may include a Federal agency's decision to fund non-Federal projects under grants and cooperative agreements, NEPA requires agencies to assess the environmental impacts of actions proposed to be taken by these recipients only when the Federal agency has sufficient discretion or control over the recipient's activities to deem those actions as Federal actions. To determine whether the activities of the recipient of a Federal financial assistance award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement) involve sufficient Federal discretion or control, and to undertake the appropriate environmental analysis

when NEPA is required, NOAA must assess information which can only be provided by the Federal financial assistance applicant. Thus, NOAA is developing an environmental information questionnaire to provide grantees and Federal grant managers with a simple tool to ensure that project and environmental information is obtained. The questionnaire will apply only to those programs where actions are considered major Federal actions or to those where NOAA must determine if the action is a major Federal action. The questionnaire will include a list of questions that encompasses a broad range of subject areas. The applicants will not be required to answer every question in the questionnaire. Each program will draw from the final comprehensive list of questions to create a relevant subset of questions for applicants to answer. The information provided in answers to the questionnaire will be used by NOAA staff to determine compliance requirements for NEPA and conduct subsequent NEPA analysis as needed. The information provided in the questionnaire may also be used for other regulatory review requirements associated with the proposed project, such as permitting.

II. Method of Collection

Methods of submittal include paper forms through the mail, Internet and facsimile transmission.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; not-for-profit institutions; state, local or tribal government; and Federal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,750.

Estimated Time Per Response: 3 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,250.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$8,750.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be

collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 22, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 050905A]

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeastern Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper, Greater Amberjack, and Gray Triggerfish

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

ACTION: Notice of change in SEDAR Workshops for Gulf of Mexico vermillion snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR assessments of the Gulf of Mexico stocks of vermillion snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish will consist of a series of three workshops: a Data Workshop, an Assessment Workshop, and a Review Workshop. This is the ninth SEDAR. The Data and Assessment workshops are completed. An additional workshop to complete the assessment will be held in December 2005 and the review workshop will be delayed until March 2006, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The Second Assessment Workshop will take place December 19–20, 2005; and the Review Workshop will take place March 27–31, 2006, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The Second Assessment Workshop will be held at the Doubletree Club Hotel Atlanta Airport, 3400 Norman Berry Drive, Atlanta GA, telephone: (404) 763–1600. The Review Workshop will be held at the Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, telephone: (504) 523–3341.