

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.

[FR Doc. 05-23408 Filed 11-28-05; 8:45 am]

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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 vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR assessments of the Gulf of Mexico stocks of vermilion 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Atran, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC), 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa FL 33607. telephone: (813) 348-1630. John Carmichael, SEDAR Coordinator, 1 Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29414. (843) 571-4366.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR includes three workshops: (1) Data Workshop, (2) Stock Assessment Workshop and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop and the Stock Assessment Workshop is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The Assessment Report is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Consensus Summary which reports Panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office (SERO), and the NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), and include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The stock assessments assigned to SEDAR 9 were not completed during the August Assessment Workshop. Therefore, an additional workshop will be held in December 2005 to finalize the stock assessment reports and complete the Assessment Workshop tasks. As a result of delay in completing the stock assessments, the Review Workshop will be moved from December 2005 to March 2006. The original announcement of the SEDAR Workshops for the Gulf of Mexico vermillion snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish published at 70 FR 25018, May 12, 2005.

SEDAR 9 Workshop Schedule:

December 19–20, 2005. SEDAR 9 Assessment Workshop II

December 19, 2005, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. and December 20, 2005, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Participants will review proposed assessment models and recommend the most appropriate methods and configurations for determining stock status and estimating population parameters. Participants will review assessment reports, compare and contrast various assessment approaches, and determine whether the assessments are adequate for submission to the review panel.

March 27–31, 2006. SEDAR 9 Review Workshop

March 27, 2006, 1 p.m.–8 p.m., March 28–30, 2006, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. and March 31, 2006, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

The Review Workshop is an independent peer review of the assessment developed during the Data and Assessment Workshops. Workshop Panelists will review the assessment and document their comments and recommendations in a Consensus Summary. Panelists will summarize the assessment results in an Advisory Report.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

Dated: November 23, 2005

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E5-6650 Filed 11-28-05; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 110905B]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing, Scientific Research, Display, and Chartering Permits

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to issue exempted fishing, scientific research, display, and chartering permits; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), Scientific Research Permits (SRPs), Display Permits, and Chartering Permits for the collection of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS). The permits would authorize collections of a limited number of tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico for the purposes of scientific data collection and public display. Generally, these permits would be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2006. NMFS also announces the intent to consider issuing permits upon receiving applications from U.S. fishermen whose vessels fish for Atlantic HMS while operating under chartering arrangements within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of other nations to collect data consistent with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations and to ensure consistency with that country's regulations without violating U.S. regulations.

DATES: Written comments on these collection, research, and fishing activities will be considered by NMFS when issuing EFPs, SRPs, Display, and/or Chartering Permits if received on or before December 29, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Email: ID110905B@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following identifier: I.D. 110905B.
- Mail: Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- Fax: (301)713-1917.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Stirratt, by phone: (301)713-2347; or fax: (301)713-1917.