

(SPs) 800–107 and 800–57, which can be updated in a timely fashion as the technical conditions change.

DATES: The approved changes are effective as of October 17, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elaine Barker, (301) 975–2911, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, STOP 8930, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8930, e-mail: elaine.barker@nist.gov, or Quynh Dang, (301) 975–3610, e-mail: quynh.dang@nist.gov. FIPS 180–3 is available electronically from the NIST Web site at: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/PubsFIPS.html>. NIST Special Publications (SPs) are available electronically from the NIST Web site at: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/PubsSPs.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 12, 2007, NIST published a notice in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 32282) announcing draft FIPS 180–3, and soliciting comments on the draft standard from the public, research communities, manufacturers, voluntary standards organizations and Federal, State and local government organizations. In addition to being published in the **Federal Register**, the notice was posted on the NIST web pages. Information was provided about the submission of electronic comments, and an email address was provided for the submission of comments.

Comments, responses, and questions were received from two federal government organizations, three private sector organizations and one individual. The comments that were received asked for clarification of the text of the standard, recommended editorial and formatting changes, or raised issues unrelated to the revision of the FIPS. All of the suggestions and recommendations were carefully reviewed, and changes were made to the standard, where appropriate. None of the comments opposed the approval of the revised standard. The following is a summary of the specific comments and NIST's responses to them:

Comment: A number of editorial changes were suggested.

Response: NIST made the appropriate editorial changes such as page numbering style changes for the preface and the main body of the FIPS and adding a page break before the appendix section.

Comment: Was the specification for SHA–1 changed in FIPS 180–3?

Response: The SHA–1 algorithm remains the same in the FIPS 180–3.

Comment: What are the changes between FIPS 180–2 and 180–3?

Response: There are two main technical changes in FIPS 180–3 from FIPS 180–2. The first change is that security strengths of the five secure hash algorithms are not described in the FIPS because they could change. Instead, the security strengths are discussed in NIST Special Publication 800–107. A reference to the NIST Publication 800–107 was added in Appendix A. The second change is that examples of the hash values generated by the five hash algorithms were removed from the FIPS and posted on a Web site so that they can be conveniently updated. The link to the Web site was added in the FIPS under Implementation Notes in the FIPS.

Comment: One commenter preferred having the examples of the five hash algorithms included in the FIPS.

Response: The FIPS contains only the technical specifications for the hash algorithms. NIST will provide examples on its Web site for illustrative purposes only. Since NIST is providing a link to the Web site within the standard, finding the examples should be no more onerous than if they were included in the standard.

Comment: Add a footnote to describe the compromised security status of SHA–1.

Response: This type of information will be provided in NIST Special Publication 800–107; a reference to SP 800–107 is provided in the FIPS.

Authority: In accordance with the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–106) and the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–347), the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to approve Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS). NIST activities to develop computer security standards to protect Federal sensitive (unclassified) information systems are undertaken pursuant to specific responsibilities assigned to NIST by section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (5 U.S.C. 278g–3), as amended by section 303 of the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002.

E.O. 12866: This notice has been determined not to be significant for the purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: October 9, 2008.

Patrick Gallagher,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E8–24743 Filed 10–16–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Application and Reports for Scientific Research and Enhancement Permits Under the Endangered Species Act

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 December 16, 2008.

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 Gary Rule, (503) 230–5424 or Gary.Rule@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) imposed prohibitions against the taking of endangered species. Section 10 of the ESA allows permits authorizing the taking of endangered species for research/enhancement purposes. The corresponding regulations established procedures for persons to apply for such permits. In addition, the regulations set forth specific reporting requirements for such permit holders. The regulations contain two sets of information collections: (1) Applications for research/enhancement permits, and (2) reporting requirements for permits issued.

The required information is used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity on endangered species, to make the determinations required by the ESA prior to issuing a permit, and to establish appropriate permit conditions. To issue permits under ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A), the National Marine

Fisheries Service (NMFS) must determine that (1) such exceptions were applied for in good faith, (2) if granted and exercised, will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species, and (3) will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

The currently approved application and reporting requirements are being revised to apply only to Pacific salmon and steelhead, as requirements regarding other species are being addressed in a separate information collection. Clarification of some of the instructions will also be provided, based on previous applicants' responses and submitted applications and reports.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms. Methods of submittal include e-mail of electronic forms, and mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0402.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Non-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 131.

Estimated Time per Response: Permit applications, 20 hours; permit modification requests and final reports, 10 hours; and annual reports, 5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 865.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$18,646.

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: October 6, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-24028 Filed 10-16-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XJ61

Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; Executive Order 13449; Protection of Striped Bass and Red Drum Populations

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

ACTION: Notice of agency finding.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that NMFS has determined that the regulatory requirements of Executive Order (E.O.) 13449, "Protection of Striped Bass and Red Drum Fish Populations" are fulfilled. The E.O. authorized the Secretary of Commerce to revise regulations as appropriate, to include the prohibition of sale of striped bass and red drum caught within the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Upon review of existing regulations, NMFS has determined that current prohibitions on the possession and sale of striped bass and red drum caught in the EEZ achieve the intent of the E.O., thus no further action is warranted at this time.

ADDRESSES: Questions regarding this notice may be directed to: Alan Risenhoover, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Mark the outside envelope, "Red Drum and Striped Bass." Copies of the E.O. are available online at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/state_federal/regulatory_activities.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alan Risenhoover, 301-713-2334.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 20, 2007, the President signed E.O. 13449, which states it is the policy of the United States to conserve striped bass and red drum for the recreational, economic, and

environmental benefit, based on sound science and in cooperation with State, territorial, local, and tribal governments. The E.O. contains a provision calling on the Secretary of Commerce to revise current regulations, as appropriate, to include a prohibition of sale of striped bass and red drum caught within the EEZ of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Striped bass and red drum are managed under the authorities of Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act) and the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (Striped Bass Act). At present, striped bass regulations at 50 CFR 697.7(b) already prohibit anyone from fishing for, harvesting, or possessing Atlantic striped bass in the EEZ, with the exception for possession of Atlantic striped bass near Block Island Sound, RI, and Montauk Point, NY (§ 697.7(b)(3)). Similarly, red drum regulations at 50 CFR 622.32(b)(2)(iii) (for red drum in the Gulf of Mexico), and § 697.7(f) (for red drum in the Atlantic Ocean, regulations which were formerly located at § 622.32(b)(3) and § 622.32(b)(4)(iii)) also prohibit harvest and possession of red drum from the EEZ. In addition to these species specific prohibitions, the general prohibitions at 50 CFR 600.725(a) state that it is unlawful to offer for sale or sell any fish taken or retained in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act or any other statute administered by NOAA.

NMFS published a final rule on October 6, 2008 (73 FR 58059) repealing the Atlantic Coast Red Drum Fishery Management Plan and transferring management authority of Atlantic red drum in the EEZ from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, under the Atlantic Coastal Act. Under this final rule, the current prohibitions remain in effect in a different section of the Code of Federal Regulations. Thus, this notice does not impact the final rule, nor are findings of this notice changed as a result of the final rule.

Findings

NMFS has determined that the current prohibitions on the possession of striped bass and red drum caught in the EEZ, in concert with the prohibition on sale of fish taken in violation of statutes administered by NOAA, constitutes fulfillment of the requirements of E.O. 13449.

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