

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before June 11, 2013.

**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 [Jjessup@doc.gov](mailto:Jjessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Melissa Yenko, (301) 427-8193 or [melissa.yenko@noaa.gov](mailto:melissa.yenko@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for extension of a current information collection.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) annually collects information from seafood and industrial fishing processing plants on the volume and value of their processed fishery products and their monthly employment figures. NOAA also collects monthly information on the production of fish meal and oil. The information gathered is used by NOAA in the economic and social analyses developed when proposing and evaluating fishery management actions.

**II. Method of Collection**

In the current survey, NOAA Fisheries provides each processor with a pre-printed survey form that includes the products produced by that processor in the previous year. The processor only needs to fill in the quantity of product, value of product, monthly employment, and add any new products. New firms to the survey are provided blank forms. Responses are submitted by mail, via postage-paid envelopes provided by NOAA Fisheries.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0018.

*Form Number:* NOAA Forms 88-13, 88-13C.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 855.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 30 minutes for an Annual Processed Products Report and 15 minutes for a Fishery Products Report Fish Meal and Oil, Monthly.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 440.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

**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: April 8, 2013.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XC597**

**Magnuson-Stevens 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, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has made a preliminary determination that an exempted fishing permit application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This exempted fishing permit would facilitate compensation fishing under the monkfish Research Set-Aside Program by exempting vessels from monkfish days-at-sea possession limits. The compensation fishing is in support of a 2012 Monkfish Research Set-Aside project that is attempting to validate monkfish aging methods. The project is being conducted by the University of

Massachusetts, Dartmouth, School for Marine Science and Technology.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed exempted fishing permits.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 29, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [nero.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nero.efp@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line "Comments on SMAST Monkfish RSA EFP."

- *Mail:* John K. Bullard, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on SMAST monkfish RSA EFP."

- *Fax:* (978) 281-9135.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jason Berthiaume, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9177.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** To conduct compensation fishing in support of the project, SMAST initially submitted an application for an EFP on April 20, 2012, requesting exemptions from the monkfish DAS possession limits. However, due to complications resulting from the listing of Atlantic sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act, an EFP was not issued. The applicant has since modified their EFP application by stating that vessels would only fish under the EFP in depths greater than 50 fathoms (91 m), where Atlantic sturgeon interactions are extremely rare. The revised application was submitted on March 18, 2013. Twenty-five vessels have been identified by the applicant to conduct monkfish compensation fishing under the requested EFP. The vessels conducting the compensation fishing would use standard commercial gillnet gear.

Monkfish EFPs that waive possession limits were first issued in 2007, and each year thereafter through 2011. The EFPs were approved to increase operational efficiency and to optimize research funds generated from research set-aside (RSA) DAS. To ensure that the amount of monkfish harvested by vessels operating under the EFPs was similar to the amount of monkfish that was anticipated to be harvested under the 500 RSA DAS set-aside by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, NMFS associated 3,600 lb (1,633 kg) of whole monkfish per RSA DAS. This amount of monkfish was the equivalent of a double

possession limit of Permit Category A and C vessels fishing in the SFMA. This was deemed a reasonable approximation because it is reflective of how the standard monkfish commercial fishery operates. Further, it is likely that RSA grant recipients would optimize their RSA DAS award by utilizing this possession limit.

Prior to the submission of SMAST's RSA proposal, Amendment 5 to the Monkfish FMP was implemented. This adjusted the tail-to-whole-weight conversion factor from 3.32 to 2.91, which essentially reduced the whole weight possession limits. However, SMAST has noted that, because its RSA proposal and budget were developed in a manner that was consistent with previously approved EFPs, the request is justified. Therefore, if approved, participating vessels could use up to 129 DAS, or up to 464,400 lb (210,648.3 kg) of whole monkfish under the EFP, whichever limit is reached first.

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.

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

Dated: April 9, 2013.

**Kara Meckley,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-08659 Filed 4-11-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XC618**

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Public hearing for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Omnibus Recreational Fishery Accountability Amendment.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 5 p.m., EST, on

May 15, 2013. The public hearings will be held on April 29, 30, May 1, 2, and 3, 2013 during this comment period. All public hearings will be held from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. For details on hearing times and locations, see **ADDRESSES**.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearings will be held, in chronological order, as follows: April 29, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, (401) 732-6000; April 30, 2013 at Hyatt Place Long Island/East End, 431 East Main St., Riverhead, NY 11901, (631) 574-8008; May 1 at the Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050, (609) 481-6100, May 2 at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842, (800) 638-2100, and May 3 at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 3001 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (757) 213-3000. Written comments should be mailed to the Council office at the address below and marked "RECREATIONAL AM AMENDMENT." The public hearing document can be obtained by contacting the Council at the address below or at the Council's Web site: <http://www.mafmc.org>.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** If approved, the Omnibus Recreational Accountability Amendment (AM) will modify accountability measures for the recreational Atlantic mackerel, bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. The Amendment evaluates AMs that are alternatives to the current pound-for-pound reductions and in-season closures. The Amendment considers AMs that take into account the biological cost of a catch overage and the generally uncertain nature of recreational fishery catch estimates and management controls. A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the proposed actions is available by contacting the Council office and at the Council's Web site: <http://www.mafmc.org> after April 15, 2013.

#### Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids

should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 9, 2013.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-08627 Filed 4-11-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XC619**

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Plan Team (CPT) will meet in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held April 30 through May 3, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Clarion Suites, 1110 West 8th Avenue, Heritage Room, Anchorage, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diana Stram; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Plan Team meeting agenda includes preparation of the Economic Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report, and recommendations of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and Overfishing level (OFL) for 4 BSAI crab stocks—Aleutian Island Golden King Crab (AIGCK), Norton Sound Red King Crab (NSRKC), Pribilof Island Golden King Crab (PIGKC), Adak red king crab. Model update and reviews for Snow Crab, Tanner Crab, Saint Matthew Blue King Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBRKC). See full detailed agenda on Council Web site.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those