

Dated: April 30, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09393 Filed 5-2-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG203

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 Acting Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit Application from the Atlantic Offshore Lobsterman's Association and Maine Department of Marine Resources contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act require publication of this notice to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 18, 2018.

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

- *Email:* NMFS.GAR.EFP@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "Comments on AOLA Lobster EFP."

- *Mail:* Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on AOLA Lobster EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Hansen, NOAA Affiliate, (978) 281-9225.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association (AOLA) and Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

on April 10, 2018, to conduct fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would authorize one commercial fishing vessel to conduct a lobster tagging study using experimental traps to track movements and migrations of American lobster in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank stock. This EFP proposes to use 300 experimental traps in Lobster Conservation Management Area (LCMA) 3 in statistical area 515. Maps depicting this area is available on request.

AOLA and ME DMR are requesting exemptions from the following Federal lobster regulations:

1. Gear specification requirements to allow for the use of traps with escape vents compliant with LCMA 1, but not LCMA 3 (50 CFR 697.21(c)(4));
2. Trap limit requirements to allow for trap limits to be exceeded (§ 697.19(a) for LCMA 1);
3. Trap tag requirements to allow for alternatively-tagged traps (§ 697.19(i)); and
4. LCMA designation requirements to allow fishing with experimental traps in LCMA 3 without an LCMA 3 designation on a Federal permit (§ 697.4(a)(7)(i)).

The purpose of this lobster study is to track migration in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank stock area, estimate growth rates via imaging technology and direct measurements, and characterize catch-per-unit-effort and spatial distribution of egg-bearing females. This study will expand on data collected in 2015 from a New Hampshire Fish and Game and ALOA's fishery dependent lobster survey, which gathered some information on the spatial and temporal distribution of mature lobsters in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank area.

Trawls will be compliant with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and consistent with LCMA 1 trap standards. Sampling will occur from June to July. Trawls will be hauled no more than 8 times over the 40-day study period. Researchers have selected four primary research sites and one alternate site. Trawls will be initially deployed by the vessel's crew alone, but all hauling activities will be supervised by ME DMR staff. All lobsters caught will be measured, tagged, and returned to the water. All other species will be immediately returned to the sea. No catch from the study will be landed for sale.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. We may grant 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. The EFP would prohibit any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activities.

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

Dated: April 30, 2018.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09385 Filed 5-2-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG198

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will host a meeting of the Council Coordination Committee (CCC), consisting of the Regional Fishery Management Council chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors on May 22 through May 24, 2018.

DATES: The CCC will begin at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, recess at 4:30 p.m.; and reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, recess at 4:30 p.m.; and reconvene at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 24, 2018 and adjourn at 5 p.m. or when business is complete. The Council Communications Group (CCG) will meet Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., recess at 5 p.m.; and reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, adjourn at 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, AK; Westmark Hotel, 330 Seward Street, Sitka, AK.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, at (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 through
Thursday, May 24, 2018

CCC Session: The agenda for the CCC's plenary session will include the following issues.

- (1) Budget Update
- (2) National Bycatch Reduction Policy
- (3) Electronic Monitoring Policy

Directive

- (4) Data Modernization
- (5) Development of Electronic

Monitoring in the North Pacific

- (6) Legislative Update
- (7) Recusal Policy
- (8) Ecosystem Based Fishery

Management Regional Implementation Plans

- (9) Exempted Fishing Permits
- (10) Best Scientific Information

Available

- (11) NMFS Policy Directive
- (12) Allocation Reviews
- (13) Research Priorities
- (14) Aquaculture
- (15) International Affairs/Seafood

Inspection

- (16) Regulatory Reform
- (17) Recreational Fisheries Overview
- (18) Citizen Science
- (19) NEFMC Program Review
- (20) NOAA Fisheries website

Transition

(21) CCC Workgroup Reports (communications group, habitat committee, scientific coordination subcommittee)

- (22) CCC Terms of Reference
- (23) Other Business

The CCG agenda will include the following issues:

- (1) Communication and technology tools and procedures
- (2) Promoting the regional Council system
- (3) Communicating effectively using social media
- (4) Public comment/input outside of Council meetings/public hearings
- (5) Working effectively with the news media
- (6) Regional and national communications coordination between councils and NOAA
- (7) Council and advisory body meeting communication protocols
- (8) Education programs and training of Council/staff
- (9) Publications and outreach
- (10) Wrap up: Path forward

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

Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted either electronically to Diana Evans, Council

staff: diana.evans@noaa.gov or through the mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 27, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09342 Filed 5-2-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Assessment of the Social and Economic Impact of Hurricanes and Other Climate Related Natural Disasters on Commercial and Recreational Fishing Industries in the Eastern, Gulf Coast and Caribbean Territories of the United States.

OMB Control Number: 0648-xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (request for a new information collection).

Number of Respondents: 18,747.

Average Hours Per Response: 15-20 minutes.

Burden Hours: 9,373.

Needs and Uses: This request is for a new information collection.

The NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology's Economics and Social Analysis Division seeks to conduct assessments of the social and economic impacts from hurricanes and other climate related natural disasters on commercial and recreational fishing industries in the eastern, gulf coast and Caribbean territories of the United States. It seeks to collect data on the immediate and long-term disruption and impediments to recovery of normal business practices to the commercial and recreational fishing industries. Data

would be collected from commercial and recreational for hire fishermen, fish dealers, bait and tackle stores, marinas and other businesses dependent on the fishing industry for livelihood. The data will improve research and analysis of potential fishery management actions by understanding the immediate effects and/or long-term compounding effects of natural disasters on communities most dependent on commercial and recreational fishing. This data collection is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and essential for implementing National Standard 8, which calls for the sustained participation of fishing communities.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: April 30, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-09375 Filed 5-2-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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

RIN 0648-XG053

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this notice announces that NMFS intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to inform its decision of whether to determine that a resource management plan (RMP) jointly developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Puget Sound Tribes (Tribes), collectively the co-managers, meets requirements under Limit 6 of the