

93940, or at [william.douros@noaa.gov](mailto:william.douros@noaa.gov), or 831-647-6452.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

William Douros Regional Director, ONMS West Coast Region, 99 Pacific Street, Bldg. 100F, Monterey, CA 93940, or at [william.douros@noaa.gov](mailto:william.douros@noaa.gov), or 831-647-6452.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background Information**

In 2014, NOAA issued a final rule establishing the sanctuary nomination process (SNP), a process by which communities may submit nominations of areas of the marine and Great Lakes environment for NOAA to consider for designation as a national marine sanctuary (79 FR 33851). The final rule establishing the SNP included a five year limit on any nomination added to the inventory that NOAA does not advance for designation. The nomination for CHNMS was accepted to the national inventory on October 5, 2015, and was scheduled to expire in October 2020.

In November 2019, NOAA issued a notice (84 FR 61546) to clarify procedures for evaluating and updating a nomination as it approaches the five-year mark. The clarified procedure is intended to ensure the inventory contains nominations that remain relevant and responsive to the 11 SNP national significance criteria and management considerations (“SNP Criteria”). The 11 SNP Criteria can be found at <https://nominate.noaa.gov>. The process to update a nomination about to expire at the five-year mark includes the following steps:

1. ONMS notifies the nominating party at about the four and a half-year mark to give the nominating party an opportunity to provide updates of the nominated area’s relevance to the SNP Criteria.
2. ONMS staff work with partners and the public to gather information on the nomination’s relevance to the SNP Criteria.
3. ONMS staff review information received from the original nominating party, partners, the public and other relevant sources against the SNP Criteria to assess if the nomination is still accurate and relevant.
4. ONMS staff produce a brief synopsis report to the ONMS Director, presenting an analysis of information that has been collected, and a recommendation regarding maintaining the nomination in the inventory, or removing it once the five-year anniversary is reached.

On May 4, 2020, NOAA issued a request for public comments on this

nomination (85 FR 26443). NOAA requested relevant information pertaining to the 11 SNP Criteria that NOAA applied to evaluate the CHNMS nomination for inclusion in the national inventory of areas that NOAA may consider for future designation as a national marine sanctuary. NOAA also hosted a virtual public meeting on May 27, 2020. A total of 14,358 public comments were received during this public process. Comments can be found at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (search for document number NOAA-NOS-2020-0063-0001). In analyzing these comments, particular attention was given to new scientific information about the national significance of natural and cultural resources, as well as increases or decreases in the threats to resources originally proposed for protection, and changes to the management framework of the area. NOAA also assessed the level of community-based support for the nomination from a broad range of interests.

NOAA reviewed information provided regarding the nomination’s merit for remaining on the inventory after five years, and has determined that new information shows: There are still significant threats to the area; it is still an area of national significance, and there is still broad community support for the nomination remaining on the inventory of possible designations, among other criteria that the nomination still continues to meet. Therefore, the ONMS Director has determined the nomination for the CHNMS should remain on the inventory. NOAA is not proposing to designate CHNMS or any other any new national marine sanctuary with this action. This notice serves to inform the public of this decision to extend the nomination on the inventory.

**I. Classification**

**A. National Environmental Policy Act**

NOAA determined that because this action is a notice of an administrative nature, and does not designate any new national marine sanctuaries, it meets the definition in Appendix E of the NOAA NEPA Companion Manual under categorical exclusion reference number G7 “Preparation of policy directives, rules, regulations, and guidelines of an administrative, financial, legal, technical, or procedural nature, or for which the environmental effects are too broad, speculative or conjectural to lend themselves to meaningful analysis and will be subject later to the NEPA process, either collectively or on a case-by-case basis.” In considering the list of extraordinary circumstances, NOAA

determined that none would be triggered by this action. Therefore, NOAA determined that this action would not result in significant effects to the human environment and is categorically excluded from the need for further review under NEPA. Should NOAA decide to designate a national marine sanctuary, each national marine sanctuary designation will be subject to case-by-case analysis as required under NEPA and section 304(a)(2)(A) of the NMSA. This NEPA determination was prepared using the 2020 CEQ NEPA Regulations. The effective date of the 2020 CEQ NEPA Regulations was September 14, 2020, and reviews begun after this date are required to apply the 2020 regulations unless there is a clear and fundamental conflict with an applicable statute. 85 FR at 43372-73 (§§ 1506.13, 1507.3(a)).

**B. Paperwork Reduction Act**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Nominations for national marine sanctuaries discussed in this notice involve a collection-of-information requirement subject to the requirements of the PRA. OMB has approved this collection-of-information requirement under OMB control number 0648-0682.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*)

**John Armor,**

*Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2020-21664 Filed 9-30-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XA324]

**Fisheries of the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet via webinar to discuss the SEDAR stock assessment process and assessment schedule. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet via webinar on Friday, October 16, 2020, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Eastern.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie Neer (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

*SEDAR address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405; [www.sedarweb.org](http://www.sedarweb.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Program Manager, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SEDAR Steering Committee provides guidance and oversight of the SEDAR stock assessment program and manages assessment scheduling. The items of discussion for this meeting are as follows:

1. SEDAR Projects Update
2. SEDAR Projects Schedule
3. SEDAR Process Review and Discussions

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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: September 28, 2020.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-21733 Filed 9-30-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XA526]

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Notice That Vendor Will Provide 2021 Cage Tags**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of vendor to provide fishing year 2021 cage tags.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS informs surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota allocation holders that they will be required to purchase their fishing year 2021 (January 1, 2021–December 31, 2021) cage tags from the National Band and Tag Company. The intent of this notice is to comply with regulations for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries and to promote efficient distribution of cage tags.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Aimee Ahles, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9373.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fishery regulations at 50 CFR 648.77(b) authorize the Regional Administrator of the Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, to specify in the **Federal Register** a vendor from whom cage tags, required under the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP), shall be purchased. Notice is hereby given that National Band and Tag Company of Newport, Kentucky, is the authorized vendor of cage tags required for the fishing year 2021 Federal surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries. Detailed instructions for purchasing these cage tags will be provided in a letter to individual transferable quota allocation holders in these fisheries from NMFS within the next several weeks.

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

Dated: September 25, 2020.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-21666 Filed 9-30-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comments Request; Patent Petitions Related to Application and Reexamination Processing Fees**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0059 (Patent Petitions Related to Application and Reexamination Processing Fees). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the information collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this information collection must be received on or before November 30, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information:

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651-0059 comment” in the subject line of the message.

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Mail:* Kimberly Hardy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-7728; or by email to [raul.tamayo@uspto.gov](mailto:raul.tamayo@uspto.gov) with “0651-0059 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this information collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**