

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

[RTID 0648-XA742]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Advisory Panel via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** All meeting participants and interested parties can register to join the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4846438759558045968>.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Agenda**

The Scallop Advisory Panel (AP) will discuss Framework Adjustment 33 (FW 33): Specifically, a review of specifications alternatives in FW 33 and make final recommendations. FW 33 will set specifications including acceptable biological catch/annual catch limit (ABC/ACLs), days-at-sea (DAS), access area allocations for Limited Access (LA) and Limited Access General Category (LAGC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) management area, target-TAC for LAGC incidental catch and set-asides for the observer and research programs for fishing year 2021 and default specifications for fishing year 2022. Review options for mitigating impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and northern windowpane flounder and make final recommendations. They will also discuss Scallop Priorities: Reviewing the existing 2021 scallop work priorities and correspondence from the Scallopers Campaign requesting the Council

consider changing the scallop priorities by adding LA scallop leasing listening sessions to the priority list and develop a recommendation for the Council to consider. The AP may recommend deleting a priority if a new priority is added. Other business may be discussed, as necessary.

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 listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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

Dated: December 31, 2020.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Individual Bluefin Tuna Quota (IBQ) Tracking and Appeals**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested

via the **Federal Register** on August 31, 2020, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Individual Bluefin Tuna Quota Tracking.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0677.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission (extension of a currently approved information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 220.

*Average Hours per Response:* 10 minutes for initial application for IBQ account; 15 minutes per IBQ allocation lease.

*Burden Hours:* 54.

*Needs and Uses:* Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan (79 FR 71510, December 2, 2014) implemented individual bluefin tuna quota (IBQ) shares and allocations for vessels permitted in the Atlantic Tunas Longline category, and also implemented distribution of Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine category quota through the IBQ online system. IBQs are intended to fairly and effectively allocate limited quota for incidental capture of Atlantic bluefin tuna among vessels in the Longline category, while minimizing dead discards and discouraging interactions with bluefin tuna, and better utilizing the Purse Seine category quota. An online system developed by NMFS tracks allocations and allocation leases, and reconciles allocation with bluefin tuna catches for quota monitoring. This collection of information accounts for the reporting burden associated with allocation and lease tracking.

First-time vessel permit holders in the affected categories must obtain and set up an IBQ account in the online "Catch Shares Online System" in order to be issued IBQ shares and resultant allocation, to lease IBQ, and to resolve quota debt. To use the electronic IBQ System, first-time participants will need to request an account and set their account up with background information. The information collected during account issuance and set-up will be used by NMFS to verify the identity of the individual/business and whether they qualify for IBQ allocation leasing.

The lease monitoring information collected by the online system will be used by each permit holder to keep track of their individual IBQ allocation, and document allocation leases with other IBQ participants. NMFS will use these data to ensure proper accounting of allocations among participants, and