

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2021-11928 Filed 6-7-21; 8:45 am]

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## 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; Questionnaire for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Federal Financial Assistance Applicants

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites 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. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before August 9, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov](mailto:Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0538 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed Frank M. Sprtel, (301) 628-1641 or [frank.sprtel@noaa.gov](mailto:frank.sprtel@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This request is for a revision and extension of a currently approved information collection through the

*Environmental Compliance Questionnaire for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Federal Financial Assistance Applicants* (Questionnaire). This Questionnaire is used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to collect information about proposed activities for the purpose of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA," 42 U.S.C. 4321-4370) and other environmental compliance requirements associated with proposed activities. NEPA requires federal agencies to complete an environmental analysis for all major federal actions, including funding non-federal activities through federal financial assistance awards where federal participation in the funded activity is expected to be significant. The Questionnaire is used in conjunction with NOAA Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

The NOFO will indicate the specific questions to which an applicant must respond in one of three ways: (1) The applicable questions are inserted directly into the NOFO with reference to the OMB Approval Number (0648-0538) for this form; (2) the NOFO will specify which questions (e.g., 1, 2) an applicant must answer, with the entire OMB-approved Questionnaire attached to the NOFO; or (3) applicants to be recommended for funding will be required to answer relevant questions from the Questionnaire. The federal program officer will determine which questions are relevant to each specific applicant. Answers must be provided before the application can be submitted for final funding approval.

This Questionnaire has been revised to (1) update specific questions to use plain language, and (2) add questions that would be helpful to a wider range of NOAA programs.

##### II. Method of Collection

The information may be submitted electronically or on paper (faxed or mailed).

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0538.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission. Revision and extension of a current information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 736.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 3.375 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,030.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*Legal Authority:* National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370).

#### IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2021-12000 Filed 6-7-21; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB144]

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council, NEFMC) will hold a three-day meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Due to ongoing public safety considerations related to COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted entirely by webinar.

**DATES:** The webinar meeting will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, June 22–24, 2021, beginning at 9 a.m. each day.

**ADDRESSES:** All meeting participants and interested parties can register to join the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/575795962545827087>.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465–0492; [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492, ext. 113.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Agenda**

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

After introductions and brief announcements, the Council will receive reports on recent activities from its Chairman and Executive Director, NMFS's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Director, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaison, staff from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and representatives from NOAA General Counsel, the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel. Next, members of the public will have the opportunity to speak during an open comment period on issues that relate to Council business but are not included on the published agenda for this meeting. The Council asks the public to limit remarks to 3–5 minutes. These comments will be received through the webinar. A guide for how to publicly comment through the webinar is available on the Council website at [https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation\\_generic.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation_generic.pdf). Following the public comment period, the Council will: (1) Receive a briefing from the Acting NOAA Fisheries Assistant

Administrator on a draft White House report titled "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful"; and (2) discuss how it applies to fisheries. Related to this report, the Council also will discuss the Council Coordination Committee's (CCC) decision to form a CCC subcommittee on area-based management to address items in the draft White House report related to increasing fisheries conservation through expanded usage of area-based management. Next, the Council will receive a presentation on a draft NMFS procedural directive on applying information law to electronic monitoring (EM) data in U.S. fisheries. The Council will approve comments on the draft directive.

Following the lunch break, the Council will receive the Habitat Committee Report, which will include: (1) Updates from GARFO, NEFSC, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on offshore wind-related projects and activities; and (2) updates on the Council's habitat-related work, including efforts to revise the Council's Wind Energy Policy. The Scallop Committee Report will be next. The Council will discuss and approve research priorities for the 2022–23 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. It also will initiate Framework Adjustment 34 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which will include 2022 fishery specifications, 2023 default specifications, and other measures. Additionally, the Council will receive a short update on work being done to evaluate the scallop fishery's rotational area management program. Finally, the Council will review a letter from the Scallopers Campaign that was sent to NMFS requesting secretarial action to implement a scallop leasing program. At the request of GARFO, the Council will approve a response to this letter. As the final order of business for the day, the Council will receive an update from GARFO on the 2021 Atlantic Sea Scallop Biological Opinion to address turtle interactions in the fishery.

*Wednesday, June 23, 2021*

The Council will start off the day with a progress report from its Atlantic Herring Committee, which will begin with a discussion of Framework Adjustment 9 to the Atlantic Herring FMP. First, the Council will: (1) Receive the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) recommendations on herring rebuilding plan alternatives to address the overfished status of Atlantic herring; and (2) receive an update on the framework's rebuilding plan alternatives, as well as measures to

potentially adjust herring accountability measures. Second, the Council will receive an update on Framework Adjustment 7, which is an action to protect adult spawning herring on Georges Bank. Next, the Council will take up 2021–25 Council Research Priorities by first hearing the SSC's recommendations on research priorities and then discussing and approving the final list.

Following the lunch break, the Council will receive the Groundfish Report, which will cover three items. The first item relates to acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules. The Council will receive a presentation on a draft report titled "Evaluation of Alternative Harvest Control Rules for New England Groundfish," which will be followed by the SSC's comments on the ABC control rule presentation and report. The Council then will discuss the draft report, as well as the SSC's comments, and provide further guidance as needed on the work being done to evaluate an alternative ABC control rule for groundfish. Next, the Council will receive a progress report on the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Groups' public workshops and other activities. Then, the Council will initiate Framework Adjustment 62 to the Groundfish FMP, which will include (1) 2022 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank (GB), (2) 2022–24 specifications for GB cod, Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, GB haddock, and GOM haddock, (3) 2022–23 specifications for GB yellowtail and 2022 specifications for white hake, and (4) other measures. The Council then will adjourn for the day.

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

The Council will begin the third day of its meeting with the Skate Committee Report, which will include three items: (1) An update on 2022–23 specifications; (2) an update on Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex FMP; and (3) consideration of updating the existing control dates for both the skate wing and skate bait fisheries. Then, the Council will discuss and approve comments on a draft NMFS policy directive and procedural guidance for financial disclosures and recusals for regional fishery management councils. Next, the Council will hear from its Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Steering Committee. The Council will review and approve the Steering Committee's plan for informational workshops using public outreach materials and focusing on potential

application to a Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP).

Following the lunch break, the Council will be briefed on the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region's for-hire electronic reporting requirements and their application to New England recreational party/charter vessels that possess permits for South Atlantic species. Next, the Council will receive a presentation from the NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division on Amendment 13 to the Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan, which focuses on bluefin tuna issues. The Council will discuss and approve comments on this proposed rule. Immediately following, the Council will receive reports on recent meetings of NMFS's HMS Advisory Panel and the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The Council then will close out the meeting with other business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is being conducted entirely by webinar. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: June 3, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## 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; Applications and Reporting Requirements for the Incidental Take of Marine Mammals by Specified Activities Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act

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 January 29, 2021 (86 FR 7544) during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

**Agency:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**Title:** Applications and Reporting Requirements for the Incidental Take of Marine Mammals by Specified Activities Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

**OMB Control Number:** 0648-0151.

**Form Number(s):** None.

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

**Number of Respondents:** 699.

**Average Hours per Response:** 281 hours for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) application; 30 hours for an IHA Interim Draft Report; 140 hours for an IHA draft annual report; 28 hours for an IHA final annual report (if applicable); 1,200 hours for the initial preparation of an application for new regulations; 70 hours for an annual Letter of Authorization (LOA) application; 225 hours for an LOA draft annual report; 70 hours for a LOA final annual report (if applicable); 640 hours for a LOA draft comprehensive report; 300 hours for an LOA final comprehensive report; 140 hours for a Gulf of Mexico Rule (GOM) draft annual report; 28 hours for a GOM final annual report; and 1,540 hours for PAM/PSO Surveys. Response times will vary for

the public based upon the complexity of the requested action.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** 259,743.  
**Needs and Uses:** This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection, 0648-0151.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) prohibits the "take" of marine mammals unless otherwise authorized or exempted by law. Among the provisions that allow for lawful take of marine mammals, sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing), within a specified geographical region if, after notice and opportunity for public comment, we find that the taking will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant). NMFS also must set forth the permissible methods of taking; other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat (mitigation); and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. NMFS Office of Protected Resources leads the process for the agency.

Issuance of an incidental take authorization (Authorization) under section 101(a)(5)(A) or 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA requires three sets of information collection: (1) A complete application for an Authorization, as set forth in our implementing regulations at 50 CFR 216.104, which provides the information necessary for us to make the necessary statutory determinations, including estimates of take and an assessment of impacts on the affected species and stocks; (2) information relating to required monitoring; and (3) information related to required reporting. These collections of information enable us to: (1) Evaluate the proposed activity's impact on marine mammals; (2) arrive at the appropriate determinations required by the MMPA and other applicable laws prior to issuing the authorization; and (3) monitor impacts of activities for which we have issued Authorizations to determine if our predictions regarding impacts on marine mammals remain valid.

We do not propose any changes to the information collection beyond expecting an increased number of respondents and responses due to increases in the number of requests for incidental take authorizations and requests for Letters