

of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The applicant proposes to evaluate modifications to commercial fishing gear to mitigate sea turtle interactions and capture under two projects in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea and their estuarine and coastal environments: (1) Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Evaluations in Trawl Fisheries and (2) Evaluation of Longline Alternative Methods. These evaluations and subsequent gear modifications could help reduce incidental turtle bycatch in the gear types studied. The applicant proposes to conduct research on sea turtles bycaught in fisheries managed by Federal authority or during directed research to test different gear configurations. For the TED Evaluations project, the applicant requests the following annual take numbers to study turtles bycaught in commercial fisheries or directly captured by researchers using trawls: 160 loggerhead, 42 Kemp's ridley, 10 leatherback, 21 green, and 10 hawksbill sea turtles. For the Evaluation of Longline Alternative Methods project, the applicant requests the following annual take numbers for those individuals bycaught in commercial fisheries: 3 loggerhead, 2 Kemp's ridley, 18 leatherback, 2 green, and 2 hawksbill sea turtles. All individuals captured will be handled, measured, weighed, photographed, flipper tagged, passive integrated transponder tagged, skin biopsied, and released. Biological samples may be imported for analysis and curation. For each project, up to 10 unidentified sea turtle carcasses that unintentionally die in a fishery may be salvaged. The applicant requests 3 loggerhead, 2 Kemp's ridley, 2 green, and 2 leatherback sea turtle mortalities for the life of the permit for individuals that may unintentionally die during research. The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

Dated: October 25, 2021.

**Julia M. Harrison,**

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2021–23631 Filed 10–28–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XB553]

**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) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Skate Committee and 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 webinar will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6528466157133795344>.

**ADDRESSES:** *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 Skate Committee and Advisory Panel will develop Framework Adjustment 9 which the Council initiated in September to consider revising the Northeast Skate Complex FMP objectives and the Federal skate permit characteristics. They will also finalize recommendations for 2022 Council work priorities regarding skates. The Council will consider these recommendations at the December Council meeting. Other business may be discussed, as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this 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 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 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.

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

Dated: October 26, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021–23634 Filed 10–28–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XB538]

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Notice That Vendor Will Provide 2022 Cage Tags**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS informs surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota allocation holders that they will be required to purchase their fishing year 2022 (January 1, 2022–December 31, 2022) 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, 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 2022 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: October 25, 2021.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021–23530 Filed 10–28–21; 8:45 am]

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; Collection of High Resolution Spatial and Temporal Fishery Dependent Data To Support Scientific Research

**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 December 28, 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). 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 to Katie Burchard, Operations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, 28 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882, 508–667–8158, [Katie.Burchard@noaa.gov](mailto:Katie.Burchard@noaa.gov).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Abstract

This is a request for a new collection of information.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) will collaborate with regional harvesters to self-collect high resolution effort and catch fishery dependent data electronically using the Fisheries Logbook Data Recording Software (FLDRS), developed by the NEFSC. For trip level, this includes information such as sail date, trip end date, crew size, port landed. For haul level, this includes information such as date/time and location of every effort, details on gear used, catch (species and species' weight) for kept and discard of every effort. The FLDRS software is installed on a laptop which is dedicated to the data collection effort. FLDRS has the ability to collect data at the subtrip level, which can be used to satisfy Federal electronic vessel trip reporting, and at a higher resolution haul level, which is used by various Cooperative Research Branch programs and projects without the data needing to be collected more than once.

Respondents will be asked to sign a one page data waiver that documents the respondent agreement to the release of the data they collect to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Cooperative Research Branch.

The data collected will provide scientists with more precise and accurate fishery-dependent data than is collected on mandatory Federal Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).

Collection of information about commercial fisheries is necessary to fulfill the statutory requirements of the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). By collecting this high resolution, fine scale spatial and temporal fishery dependent data we are improving the data available to support improved understanding of population, ecosystem, and fishery dynamics in the northeast region. These improved understandings help the Northeast Fisheries Science Center conduct accurate stock assessments and inform fisheries management, which is essential to achieve the standards laid out in the Magnuson Stevens Act.

By collecting fine scale spatial and temporal fisheries information, fishers provide scientists with data from areas and seasons that are not sampled by Federal and state surveys. This fishery dependent data can be used with fishery independent data to improve species mapping. Fishery dependent data catch per unit effort (CPUE) calculations can

be standardized and integrated into stock assessment models as indices of abundance. Collecting this fine scale commercial fisheries data also helps scientists understand patterns in fishing effort and relationships between catch and variables such as time of day, location, temperature, and depth.

### II. Method of Collection

The data waiver can either be returned via email, fax or the postal service. The fishery dependent high resolution catch and effort data collection will be self-collected electronically by commercial harvesters using the Fisheries Logbook Data Recording Software (FLDRS).

### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission: New information collection.

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 39.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Data Waiver: 6 minutes; High Resolution Catch and Effort Data Collection: 35 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 892 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$39,025.74.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

### 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