

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

[RTID 0648-XC466]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice; public hearings and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold three public hearings (one as a webinar) and accept written comments regarding an action intended to revise the species separation requirements in the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries.

DATES: The hearings will be held between November 10, 2022 and November 17, 2022. Written comments must be received by November 23, 2022. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details, including the dates and times for all hearings.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for hearing details.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; www.mafmc.org.

Written comments may be submitted to:

- Email to: jcoakley@mafmc.org (use subject "SCOQ Species Separation")
- Via webform at: <https://www.mafmc.org/comments/scoq-species-separation>

• Mail to: Chris Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope "SCOQ Species Separation."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold three public hearings and accept written comments regarding an action intended to modify the current species separation requirements in the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries. Additional details, including the public hearing document can be found at: <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-species-separation>.

Hearing 1—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thursday, November 10,

2022. 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport. 9000 Bartram Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153, telephone: (215) 365-4500;

Hearing 2—Fall River, Massachusetts. Monday, November 14, 2022. 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Hampton Inn. 53 Old Bedford Road, Westport, MA 02790, telephone: (508) 675-8500; and

Hearing 3—Webinar: Thursday, November 17, 2022. 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Connection details can be found at the Council's website calendar or <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-species-separation>.

Written comments are accepted at the hearings or via the submission methods described above, by November 23, 2022.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 17, 2022.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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; Reporting Requirements for Commercial Fisheries Authorization Under Section 118 of 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 July 19, 2022 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

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

Title: Reporting Requirements for Commercial Fisheries Authorization under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0292.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Number of Respondents: 200.

Average Hours per Response: 15 minutes.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 50.

Needs and Uses: This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection and is sponsored by National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources.

Reporting injury to and/or mortalities of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing activities is mandated under section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This information is required to determine the impacts of commercial fishing on marine mammal populations. This information is also used to classify commercial fisheries into Categories I, II, or III on the annual Marine Mammal Protection Act List of Fisheries. Participants in the first two categories must be authorized to take marine mammals, while those in Category III are exempt from that requirement. All three categories must report injuries or mortalities to the National Marine Fisheries Service using the OMB approved form.

Minor administrative changes are being made to the form to clarify the instructions for completing the "Description of the mortality/injury incident" (DESCRIPTION OF UNKNOWN SPECIES OR CIRCUMSTANCES OF MORTALITY/INJURY INCIDENT field) and the "Coast Guard document number" (COAST GUARD DOCUMENT NO. or VESSEL'S STATE REGISTRATION NO field).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; Individuals or households; State, local, or tribal government.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1387 Sec. 118.

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

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the