

**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; Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program**

**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 July 17, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0269 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 to Gabrielle Aberle, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668. Telephone (907) 586–7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting extension of a currently approved information collection that contains four components necessary for NMFS to manage the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program (CDQ Program).

NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council manage the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska under the authority of the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) (Magnuson-

Stevens Act). The groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands are managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area.

The CDQ Program is an economic development program authorized under the Magnuson Stevens Act to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area, to support economic development in western Alaska, to alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska, and to achieve sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska.

This information collection is used by NMFS to manage the small vessel CDQ fisheries, transfer quota among the CDQ groups, and authorize the use of alternative harvest regulations under certain circumstances.

This information collection contains the following four components:

- The CDQ Vessel Registration System is an online system used by the CDQ groups to add small hook-and-line catcher vessels to the CDQ vessel registration list. Registered vessels are exempt from the requirements to obtain and carry a License Limitation Program license under regulations at 50 part 679. This system is also used to remove vessels from the CDQ vessel registration list.
- The Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request form is used to transfer annual amounts of groundfish and halibut CDQ and PSQ, except Bering Sea Chinook salmon, between two CDQ groups. This form is completed by the transferring and receiving CDQ groups.
- The Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations is used by a CDQ group, an association representing CDQ groups, or a voluntary fishing cooperative to request approval to use non CDQ harvest regulations when the CDQ regulations are more restrictive than the regulations otherwise required for participants in non-CDQ groundfish fisheries.

- An appeals process is provided for an applicant who receives an adverse initial administrative determination related to its Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations.

**II. Method of Collection**

The information is collected by mail, fax, delivery, email, and electronically through eFISH. The applications are available as fillable PDFs on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska->

[community-development-quota-cdq-program-applications-and-forms](#).

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0269.

*Form Number(s):* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 6.

*Estimated Time per Response:* CDQ Vessel Registration System, 10 minutes; Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and PSQ Transfer Request, 30 minutes; Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations, 5 hours; Appeals, 4 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 36 hours.

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

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

*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 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 Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC998]

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will convene Monday, June 5 through Thursday, June 8, 2023. Times are: Monday, June 5, 2023, 8 a.m.–5:15 p.m.; Tuesday, June 6, 2023 and Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; and Thursday, June 8, 2023, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., CDT.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will take place at The Battle House Renaissance Hotel, located at 26 N. Royal Street, Mobile, AL 36602-3802.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Monday, June 5, 2023; 8 a.m.–5:15 p.m., CDT**

The meeting will begin with Law Enforcement Committee reviewing the Law Enforcement Technical Committee's (LETC) Meeting Summary from the March 2023 meeting. The Ecosystem Committee will review the Ecosystem Technical Committee's (ETC) Report and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Recommendations on a Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Model

(GoMEM) to support fisheries management.

The Data Collection Committee will receive an update on the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Reporting (SEFHIER) Program and next steps. The *Shrimp* Committee will discuss the next steps for the Congressional Funding Budget for *Shrimp* Vessel Position Data Reporting and Summary of the May 2023 *Shrimp* Advisory Panel Meeting.

Sustainable Fisheries Committee will receive an overview presentation on *Rice's Whale* Status and Recent Speed Limit Petition in the Gulf of Mexico; and, review Multi-year Annual Catch Limits. The Committee will review SSC Recommendations on Report from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Transition Team on *Red Snapper* and other Species in the Gulf State Supplemental Surveys; Evaluation of Interim Analysis Process; and Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop.

The Council will convene in a CLOSED SESSION of the FULL COUNCIL to finalize selection of *Coastal Migratory Pelagic* (CMP) Advisory Panel (AP) members.

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023; 8 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT**

The *Reef Fish* Committee will discuss Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program Objectives; review State Survey Private Angling Landings and Discards for *Red Snapper*; Final Action Item: Recalibration of *Red Snapper* Recreational Catch Limits and Modifications of *Gray Snapper* Catch Limits; Draft Framework Action: Modifications to Recreational and Commercial *Greater Amberjack* Management Measures, and review the SSC Summary Report from the May 2023 Meeting including Recommendations on the *Black Grouper* and *Yellowfin Group* Catch Limits and *Mid-water Snapper* Complex Catch Limits.

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023; 8 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT**

The Reef Fish Committee will reconvene to review Final Action Item: Draft Amendment 56: Modifications to the *Gag Grouper* Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, and Fishing Seasons, and Draft *Snapper Grouper* Amendment 44/*Reef Fish* Amendment 55: Catch Level Adjustments and Allocations for the Southeast U.S. *Yellowtail Snapper*.

At approximately 11:15 a.m., CDT, the Council will reconvene with a Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes. The Council will present the 2022 Law Enforcement

Officer of the Year Award; followed by presentations on Update on the Commission's Recently-Finished *Red Drum* Fishery Profile; Exempted Fishing Permit from Mote Marine Lab; NOAA Fisheries Request for Comments on Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9; and, an update from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BEOM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Council will hold public comment testimony from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., CDT on Final Action Items: Recalibration of *Red Snapper* Recreational Catch Limits and Modifications of *Gray Snapper* Catch Limits and Draft Amendment 56: Modifications to the *Gag Grouper* Catch Limits, Sector Allocations and Fishing Seasons; Comments on *Rice's Whale* Petition and Exempted Fishing Permits; and, open testimony on other fishery issues or concerns. Public comment may begin earlier than 2 p.m. CDT, but will not conclude before that time. Persons wishing to give public testimony in-person must register at the registration kiosk in the meeting room. Persons wishing to give public testimony virtually must sign up via the link on the Council website. Registration for virtual testimony is open at the start of the meeting, Monday, June 5th at 8 a.m., CDT and closes one hour before public testimony begins on Wednesday, June 7th at 1 p.m. CDT. Public testimony may end before the published agenda time if all registered in-person and virtual participants have completed their testimony.

**Thursday, June 8, 2023; 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., CDT**

The Council will receive Committee reports from Law Enforcement, Ecosystem, Data Collection, *Shrimp*, Sustainable Fisheries, and *Reef Fish* Management Committees as well as the closed session report and recommendations on the exempted fishing permit. The Council will receive updates from the following supporting agencies: Alabama Law Enforcement Efforts; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE); Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Department of State.

The Council will discuss any Other Business items; and, receive Litigation update if any.

—Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting; both in-person and virtual participation available. You may register for the