

access to these devices to authorized personnel on request and test alternate methods to a physical signature. Ideas that are currently under consideration include a digital signature component for validation, using a personal identification number (PIN) for each operator.

Vessel operators would also assist in the testing methods for transferring logbook data to observers, IPHC port samplers and other authorized personnel either directly from the electronic device or via electronic communications. This project aims to improve overall efficiency, provide access to necessary ELB data and enable an end-to-end testing of a fully electronic logbook data collection and submission framework.

Exemptions

Two exemptions are necessary to conduct this project. First, an exemption would be necessary from the requirement at § 679.5(f)(3) for printed copies of ELB logsheet and discard reports on board participating vessels.

The second exemption would be from § 679.5(f)(4)'s requirement for physical signatures on printed ELB logsheets and discard reports on board participating vessels. Physical signatures would be replaced by electronic signatures using PINs.

Permit Conditions, Review, and Effects

The applicant would be required to submit to NMFS a report of the EFP results six months after the close of the 2025 IFQ fishing season. The report would include the method(s) chosen for digital signature and a comparison among methods if applicable; interactions with observers, port samplers and an analysis of both benefits and challenges of transferring required data to them electronically; and an analysis of cost savings, efficiency and impact aboard participating vessels. Under the current regulations, observers and port samplers both collect physical hard copies of the logbooks. Since there would no longer be physical pages under this EFP, best methods for the vessel operator to provide that information electronically must be developed. The activities that would be conducted under this EFP are not expected to have a significant impact on the human environment, as detailed in the categorical exclusion for this action (see **ADDRESSES**).

In accordance with §§ 679.6 and 600.745, NMFS has determined that the application warrants further consideration and has forwarded the application to the Council to initiate consultation. The Council is scheduled

to consider the EFP application during its February 2024 meeting, which will be held in person in Seattle, WA with an option to participate virtually. The EFP application will also be provided to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee for review at the February Council meeting. The applicant has been invited to speak in support of the application.

Public Comments

Interested persons may comment on the application during the February 2024 Council meeting during public testimony or the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES**) until February 12, 2024 when the comment period ends. Information regarding the meeting is available at the Council's website at <http://www.npfmc.org>. Copies of the application and categorical exclusion are available for review from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**). Comments may also be submitted directly to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**) by the end of the comment period (see **DATES**).

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

Dated: January 17, 2024.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD660]

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

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils (Councils) will hold a public meeting of their joint Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., EDT. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be conducted in person with a virtual option available.

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203; telephone: (703) 717-6200. Webinar registration details will be

posted to the calendar at www.mafmc.org prior to the meeting.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Councils' Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel will meet to review recent developments related to relevant fishery surveys, the Industry Based Multispecies Bottom Trawl Survey white paper, and Henry B. Bigelow bottom trawl survey contingency plan next steps. The Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel will also discuss topics related to survey redesign and mitigation, receive an update on the restrictor rope research manuscript and discuss potential expansion of that work, as well as brainstorm future research projects.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids 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: January 18, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

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CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

[Docket No. CFPB-2024-0004]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is requesting the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) approval for a new information collection titled "Auto Finance Data Project."

DATES: Written comments are encouraged and must be received on or before March 25, 2024 to be assured of consideration.