

regulatory steps taken to carry out the conservation and management objectives is to collect data from users of the resource. Regulations at 50 CFR 648.11(g) require observer service providers to comply with specific requirements in order to operate as an approved provider in the Atlantic sea scallop (scallop) fishery. Observer service providers must comply with the following requirements: submit applications for approval as an observer service provider; formally request observer training by the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP); submit observer deployment reports and biological samples; give notification of whether a vessel must carry an observer within 24 hours of the vessel owner's notification of a prospective trip; maintain an updated contact list of all observers that includes the observer identification number; observer's name mailing address, email address, phone numbers, homeports or fisheries/trip types assigned, and whether or not the observer is "in service." The regulations also require observer service providers submit any outreach materials, such as informational pamphlets, payment notification, and descriptions of observer duties as well as all contracts between the service provider and entities requiring observer services for review to NMFS/NEFOP. Observer service providers also have the option to respond to application denials, and submit a rebuttal in response to a pending removal from the list of approved observer providers.

Regulations at § 648.11(k)(2) require that limited access, limited access general category individual fishing quota, and Northern Gulf of Maine scallop vessels notify NMFS prior to the beginning of a scallop trip to facilitate the deployment of at-sea observers. Previously, vessels either called or email to notify NMFS of an upcoming scallop trip. NMFS will be adding a new method for notification called the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS). The integration of the scallop notification requirement into the PTNS helps standardize observer operations between fisheries and modernize reporting systems. The PTNS is a mobile-friendly website that is more sophisticated and flexible than the aging interactive voice response technology. The change to the PTNS does not affect determination of scallop coverage rates or the compensation analysis. There are no changes to the requirements vessels must abide by if selected to carry an observer, such as equal accommodations, a harassment-free environment, and other safety

requirements. This change is not expected to impact the burden response time, but NOAA will continue to monitor use of this new tool, and will update the collection if it results in any burden changes at our next renewal. These requirements allow NMFS/NEFOP to effectively administer the scallop observer program.

## II. Method of Collection

The approved observer service providers submit information to NMFS/NEFOP via email, fax, or postal service.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0546.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension and revision of a currently approved information collection).

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 622.

*Estimated Time per Response:*

Application for approval of observer service provider, 10 hours; applicant response to denial of application for approval of observer service provider, 10 hours; observer service provider request for observer training, 30 minutes; observer deployment report, 10 minutes; observer availability report, 10 minutes; safety refusal report, 30 minutes; submission of raw observer data, 5 minutes; observer debriefing, 2 hours; biological samples, 5 minutes; rebuttal of pending removal from list of approved observer service providers, 8 hours; vessel request to observer service provider for procurement of a certified observer, 25 minutes; vessel request for waiver of observer coverage requirement, 10 minutes; observer contact list updates, 5 minutes; observer availability updates, 1 minute; service provider material submissions, 30 minutes; service provider contracts, 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 6,320.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$60,545.

## 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.*

[FR Doc. 2024–01925 Filed 1–30–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD688]

### Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public virtual meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) District Advisory Panels (DAPs) will hold a public virtual joint meeting to discuss the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**DATES:** The DAPs public virtual joint meeting will be held on February 21, 2024, from 10a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The meeting will be at Atlantic standard time (AST).

**ADDRESSES:** You may join the DAPs public virtual joint meeting (via Zoom) from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following addresses:

*Join Zoom Meeting:* DAPs <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88004907357?pwd=ZnRPL0g4ekMzWHRJUzA1K1FoRnV0dz09>

*Meeting ID:* 880 0490 7357

*Passcode:* 849982

*One tap mobile:*

+17879451488,,88004907357#,  
 ,, \*849982# Puerto Rico  
 +17879667727,,88004907357#,,  
 ,, \*849982# Puerto Rico

*Dial by your location:*

- +1 787 945 1488 Puerto Rico
- +1 787 966 7727 Puerto Rico
- +1 939 945 0244 Puerto Rico
- +1 669 444 9171 US

*Meeting ID:* 880 0490 7357

*Passcode:* 849982

*Find your local number:* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/849982>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Miguel Rolón, Executive Director,  
 Caribbean Fishery Management Council,  
 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401,  
 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1903;  
 telephone: (787) 398–3717.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The items included in the tentative agenda are:

**February 21, 2024**

*10 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

—Environmental Equal Justice—Heather Blough, NOAA Fisheries, SERO

*1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.*

—NOAA Fisheries Permits Process Presentation—Jessica Stephen, NOAA Fisheries, SERO

*3 p.m.–3:30 p.m.*

—Other Business

Other than the starting date and time the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items, at the discretion of the Chair.

The meeting will begin on February 21, 2024 at 10 a.m. AST, and will end on February 21, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. AST.

**Special Accommodations**

For any additional information on this public hybrid meeting, you may contact Diana Martino, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1903, telephone: (787) 226–8849.

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

Dated: January 26, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024–01916 Filed 1–30–24; 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; An Observer Program for At Sea Processing Vessels in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery**

**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 April 1, 2024.

**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 0648–0500 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 Matt Dunlap, Fishery Policy Analyst, West Coast Regional Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526–6119, or [matthew.dunlap@noaa.gov](mailto:matthew.dunlap@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

In 2011, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) mandated observer requirements for the West Coast groundfish trawl catch shares program. For all fishery sectors, observers must be obtained through third-party observer provider companies operating under permits issued by NMFS. The regulations at §§ 660.140 (h), 660.150 (j), and 660.160 (g), specify observer coverage requirements for trawl vessels and define the responsibilities for observer providers, including reporting

requirements. Regulations at § 660.140 (i) specify requirements for catch monitor coverage for first receivers. Data collected by observers are used by NMFS to estimate total landed catch and discards, monitor the attainment of annual groundfish allocations, estimate catch rates of prohibited species, and as a component in stock assessments. These data are necessary to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements to prevent overfishing. In addition, observer data is used to assess fishing related mortality of protected and endangered species.

**II. Method of Collection**

This collection utilizes both electronic and paper forms, depending on the specific item. Methods of submittal include email of electronic forms, and mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms. Additionally, this collection utilizes interviews for some information collection and phone calls for transmission of other information.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0500.

*Form Number(s):* None.

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

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 268 (5 providers (supplying a total of 75 observers or catch monitors) and 263 fishing vessels).

*Estimated Time per Response:* For providers: 15 minutes for observer training/briefing/debriefing registration, notification of observer physical examination, observer status reports, other reports on observer harassment, safety concerns, or performance problems, catch monitor status reports, and other catch monitor reports on harassment, prohibited actions, illness or injury, or performance problems; 5 minutes for observer safety checklist submission to NMFS, observer provider contracts, observer information materials, catch monitor provider contracts, and catch monitor informational materials; 10 minutes for certificate of insurance; 7 minutes for catch monitor training/briefing registration, notification of catch monitor physical examination, and catch monitor debriefing registration. For vessels: 10 minutes for fishing departure reports and cease-fishing reports.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 525 (305 for providers and 220 for fishing vessels).