

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

[RTID 0648–XD725]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of the following: Mackerel Cobia Committee, Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) Committee, and Snapper Grouper Committee. The meeting week will also include a formal public comment session and meetings of the Full Council.

DATES: The Council meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024, until 12 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Villas by the Sea Resort, 1175 Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527; phone: (912) 635–2521. The meeting will also be available via webinar. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 302–8440 or toll free: (866) SAFMC–10; fax: (843) 769–4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting information, including agendas, overviews, and briefing book materials will be posted on the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/council-meetings/>. Webinar registration links for the meeting will also be available from the Council's website.

Public comment: Public comment on agenda items may be submitted through the Council's online comment form available from the Council's website at: <https://safmc.net/events/march-2024-council-meeting/>. Written comments will be accepted from February 16, 2024, until March 8, 2024. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration. A formal public comment session will also be held during the Council meeting.

The items of discussion in the individual meeting agendas are as follows:

Council Session I, Monday, March 4, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m.

The Council will receive reports from NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, The Council's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (AP), the U.S. Coast Guard, Council liaisons, and state agencies, and an update on Best Fishing Practices and Outreach conducted thus far in 2024. The Council will discuss potential modifications to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program and also consider limited-entry in South Atlantic For-Hire Fisheries.

Mackerel Cobia Committee, Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 10 a.m.

The Committee will receive recommendations from the Law Enforcement AP and is scheduled to approve a plan for the Council to conduct port meetings for the mackerel fishery in 2024.

SEDAR Committee, Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 10 a.m. Until 12 p.m. (Partially-Closed Session)

The Committee will meet in Closed Session to approve appointments to SEDAR Panels and workgroups. The Committee will meet in Open Session to approve Terms of Reference for upcoming stock assessments and other business related to stock assessments.

Snapper Grouper Committee, Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 3:45 p.m., and Thursday, March 7, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 12 p.m.

The Committee will receive a briefing on Exempted Fishing Permit applications and a presentation on projections for 2024 recreational seasons for red snapper and gag from NOAA Fisheries. The Committee will consider recommendations from the Wreckfish Subcommittee for Amendment 48 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan addressing the wreckfish fishery and is scheduled to approve the amendment for public hearings. The Committee will receive Law Enforcement AP recommendations and public scoping comments relative to Regulatory Amendment 36 addressing gag and black grouper vessel limits and on-demand gear for black sea bass, and receive a stock assessment presentation and recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) relative to black sea bass and the development of Snapper Grouper Amendment 56.

The Committee will receive Law Enforcement AP recommendations relative to Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 addressing a private

recreational permit for the snapper grouper fishery and consider modifications to actions currently in the amendment, review preliminary analysis for Amendment 55 addressing management measures for scamp and yellowmouth grouper, and discuss Regulatory Amendment 35 addressing red snapper management and consider modifications and additional actions. The Committee will receive an update on development of a Management Strategy Evaluation for the Snapper Grouper Fishery and consider SSC recommendations, an overview of commercial permits, and discuss topics for the March 2024 meeting of the Snapper Grouper AP.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 4 p.m.— Public comment will be accepted from individuals attending the meeting in person and via webinar on all items on the Council meeting agenda. The Council Chair will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter based on the number of individuals wishing to comment.

Council Session II, Thursday, March 7, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Until 5 p.m. and Friday, March 8, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Until 12 p.m.

The Council will receive a litigation brief if needed, receive a staff report, and a presentation from NOAA Fisheries on Equity and Environmental Justice. The Council will receive reports from NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and review the Council's workplan and upcoming meetings. The Council will receive Committee reports and discuss any other business as needed.

Documents regarding these issues are available from the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: February 9, 2024.

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; Greater Atlantic Region Vessel Identification Requirements

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 15, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0350 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 Laura Hansen, Fishery Management Specialist, NOAA, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, (978) 281-9225, Laura.Hansen@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for the extension of a current information collection.

Regulations at 50 CFR 648.8 and § 697.8 require that owners of vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length that have federal permits to fish in the Greater Atlantic Region display the vessel's name and official number. The name and number must be of a specific size at specified locations: the vessel name must be affixed to the port and starboard sides of the bow and, if possible, on its stern. The official number must be displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be clearly visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. The success of fisheries management programs depends upon regulatory compliance. The vessel identification requirement, which is required of all federally permitted fishing vessels in the Greater Atlantic region, is essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing or other activities to a vessel owner or operator is crucial to the enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. When this information is clearly displayed, it enables enforcement personnel to easily identify Federal permit holders while engaged in fishing.

II. Method of Collection

No information is submitted to NMFS as a result of this collection. The vessel's identification information must be affixed to the vessel in the designated locations, as specified in the regulations.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0350.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,935.

Estimated Time per Response: 45 minutes (.75 hours) to affix vessel information to the required locations.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,952

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$59,025.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: 50 CFR 648.8.

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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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Public Meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda for a meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB). OEAB members will discuss and provide advice on the Federal ocean exploration program, with a particular emphasis on the topics identified in the section on Matters To Be Considered.

DATES: The announced meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 12 p.m.–4 p.m. (EST).

ADDRESSES: This will be a virtual meeting. Information about how to participate or observe virtually will be posted to the OEAB website at <https://oeab.noaa.gov/>.