

The full agenda and additional information will be posted on <https://gulfcouncil.org/recreational-initiative/>.

This meeting is being held in-person at the Gulf Council office, Tampa, FL. You may register for the webinar to listen-in only by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and click on the meeting on the calendar.

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on the website as they become available.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid or accommodations should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348-1630, at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 7, 2024.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-23463 Filed 10-9-24; 8:45 am]

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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; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan Data Collection

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 December 9, 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 0648-0491 in the subject line of your comments. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. 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 Colette Tweeddale, Fishery Management Specialist, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930, (978)-281-9335, colette.tweeddale@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request for a renewal of an approved information collection.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Secretary of Commerce has the responsibility for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. Much of this responsibility has been delegated to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). NMFS manages the Atlantic sea scallop (scallop) fishery through a set of regulations that limit catch of scallops and fishing vessel activity. In addition, regulations limit catch of certain other species of fish in order to minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality (bycatch is the catch and discard of species that are not targeted in the scallop fishery). Finally, the regulations control vessel permitting and the exchange of effort and quota allocations between vessels. In order to effectively manage these resources, track fishing effort and catch, and to allow vessel owners to exchange fishing trips and quota, NMFS must collect information through the reporting requirements included in this renewal. This renewal contains the following information collections: Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements; Access area trip exchange application procedures; Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) transfers; Cost recovery; and IFQ sector program.

Access Area Trip Exchange Application

The one-for-one access area trip exchange program provides flexibility to scallop vessels about where they may fish. Participants need to send an access area trip exchange application to NMFS with the following information: Vessel

name and permit number, owner name and signature, specification of the areas involved in the exchange. Both vessels involved in the exchange are required to submit forms for cross verification. This measure provides flexibility to vessels regarding which areas to fish, thereby reducing the possibility of revenue loss to those vessels that are unable to access some distant areas due to vessel capacity constraints.

IFQ Transfers

IFQ permit holders can temporarily and/or permanently transfer individual fishing quota from one IFQ vessel to another. Quota transfers are requested through the submission of transfer applications. Required information includes vessel information, quota transfer information, and authorizing signatures from both parties. The IFQ transfer program is entirely optional, and provides greater flexibility for IFQ permit holders by enabling them to increase their vessel's IFQ or for individuals to lease or sell IFQ if they choose not to fish the allocation.

Cost Recovery

Section 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) requires an IFQ cost recovery plan to recover management and enforcement costs for IFQ fisheries. The FMP includes an IFQ cost recovery program, whereby NMFS will collect up to 3% of ex-vessel value of landed product to cover actual costs directly related to enforcement and management of the IFQ program. IFQ permit holders are required to submit a cost recovery payment annually via a pre-existing Federal payment system called www.pay.gov, which is also currently used by the Alaska Region and the Southeast Region. Information submitted via the internet would require the user to establish an online account, including personal and financial information. This requirement is necessary in order to comply with the provisions of the MSA and to collect payments from individuals that have been granted an allocation to a public resource.

IFQ Sector Program

The FMP contains provisions that authorize allocation of a portion of the overall IFQ fishery total allowable catch (TAC) to a self-selected group of IFQ permit holders (sector), provided the sector provides adequate information describing the formation of the sector and its intended plan of operations. Individuals or other entities (corporations, cooperatives, etc.) proposing a sector are required to submit a Sector Allocation Proposal and

Operations Plan. Any person may submit a Sector Allocation Proposal for a group of limited access general category scallop vessels to the Council, at least 1 year in advance of the start of a sector, and request that the Sector be implemented through a framework procedure specified at § 648.55. A group that wants to form a Sector and receive an allocation is required to submit a legally binding Operations Plan to the Council and the Regional Administrator. The operations plan must be agreed upon and signed by all members of the sector and, if approved, would constitute a contract. This information is necessary to describe the proposed sector and the proposed rules under which the sector would operate. This information is used to determine whether this sector would maintain consistency with the goals and objectives of the FMP.

II. Method of Collection

Participants will submit paper applications by mail, facsimile, or email.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0491.
Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].

Affected Public: Businesses and other for-profit organizations are primarily affected.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 647.

Estimated Time per Response: Cost recovery, 2 hours; Sector proposals, 150 hours; Sector operations plans, 100 hours; IFQ transfer application 35 hours; Access area trip exchange, 45 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 980.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$23,932.

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 information collection request. 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,

Departmental PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2024–23437 Filed 10–9–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE371]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public hybrid meeting of its Groundfish Recreational and Advisory Panels to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This meeting will be held in-person with a webinar option. Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 High Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431–1499.

Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/>

meeting/register/tjYkd-GgpjsGtx9oyjDbrnhazzPqUCH59WZ.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Groundfish Recreational and Advisory Panels will meet to receive an update on development of draft alternatives in Framework Adjustment 69/Specifications and Management Measures, including potential recommendations to the Groundfish Committee. They will receive an update on development of the Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan. The Panel’s will also make recommendations to the Groundfish Committee, as appropriate. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 7, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024–23468 Filed 10–9–24; 8:45 am]

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