

notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business 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: November 7, 2019.

### Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-24625 Filed 11-12-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XV128]

### 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 Fishery Management Council's Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee (Committee) will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, December 2, 2019, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. Details on the proposed agenda, connection information, and briefing materials will be posted at the MAFMC's website: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).  
*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; [www.mafmc.org](http://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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee will meet to review the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Excessive Shares Amendment prior to formal action by the Council. In addition, if appropriate, the Committee will recommend preferred alternatives for

the Council to consider. An agenda and background documents will be posted at the Council's website ([www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)) prior to the meeting. The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: November 7, 2019.

### Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-24624 Filed 11-12-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Region Gear Identification Requirements

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written or on-line comments must be submitted on or before January 13, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Adrienne Thomas, PRA Officer, NOAA, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 159, Asheville, NC 28801 (or via the internet at [PRAComments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAComments@doc.gov)). All comments received are part of the public record. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information 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

This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

Regulations pertaining to gear markings are set forth at 50 CFR part 679 and in the annual management measures published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 50 CFR 300.62. This information collection contains the following gear identification requirements for participants in the groundfish fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska and for vessels using longline pot gear to fish for individual fishing quota (IFQ) sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA).

### Marker Buoys

All hook-and line, longline pot, and pot-and-line marker buoys carried on board or used by any vessel regulated under 50 CFR part 679 must be marked with the vessel's Federal Fisheries Permit number or Alaska Department of Fish and Game vessel registration number. Regulations that marker buoys be marked with identification information are essential to facilitate fisheries enforcement and actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of regulations.

### Longline Pot Gear Vessel Registration and Tags

A vessel owner using longline pot gear to fish for IFQ sablefish in the GOA must annually register their vessel with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and be assigned pot tags for that vessel. Each pot tag is printed with a unique serial number for identification, and is specific to the IFQ regulatory area to which the tag is registered and where the pot gear will be fished. A valid pot tag must be securely attached to each pot used to fish for IFQ sablefish in the GOA.

Vessel owners submit the form "Vessel Registration and Request for IFQ Sablefish Pot Gear Tags" to annually register their vessels and to request new pot tags if a vessel does not have previously issued tags. Tags assigned to a vessel in previous years are valid as long as the tag can be secured to a pot and the serial number is legible. Vessel owners submit the form "Request for Replacement of Longline Pot Gear Tags" if previously issued tags need to be replaced.

NMFS requires all vessel operators using longline pot gear in the GOA sablefish IFQ fishery to complete logbooks (see OMB Control Numbers 0648-0213). When the number of pots

deployed by a vessel is self-reported through logbooks, the use of pot tags provides an additional enforcement tool to ensure that the pot limits are not exceeded. The use of pot tags allows at-sea enforcement and post-trip verification of the number of pots fished.

## II. Method of Collection

The forms to request pot gear tags and register a vessel are available on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/alaska> as fillable PDFs and may be downloaded and printed. These forms are submitted to NMFS by mail, fax, or delivery. Marker buoys are marked with identification information.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0353.

*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:* 988.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Marking longline pot gear marker buoys, 15 minutes per buoy; marking groundfish hook-and-line marker buoys, 10 minutes per buoy; 15 minutes each for the Vessel Registration and Request for IFQ Sablefish Pot Gear Tags form and for the Request for Replacement of Longline Pot Gear Tags form. These estimates are based on the most recent supporting statement prepared for this information collection in 2017. This supporting statement is available on NOAA's Paperwork Reduction Act web page at <https://www.cio.noaa.gov/itmanagement/pdfs/0353ext2017.pdf>.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,841 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$11,310 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques

or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2019–24578 Filed 11–12–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### United States Patent and Trademark Office

#### Pro Bono Survey

**ACTION:** Notice of renewal of information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on a proposed revision and extension of an existing information collection: 0651–0082 (Pro Bono Survey).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 13, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651–0082 comment” in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Chief, Records and Information Governance Branch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to James M. Silbermann, Senior Counsel for Enrollment and Intellectual Property Legal Services, Office of Enrollment and Discipline, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by telephone at (571) 272–4097; or by email to [James.Silbermann@uspto.gov](mailto:James.Silbermann@uspto.gov) with “0651–0082 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

## I. Abstract

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA), Public Law 112–29 § 32 (2011) directs the USPTO to work with and support intellectual property law associations across the country in the establishment of pro bono programs designed to assist financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses. To support this, the USPTO—in collaboration with various non-profit organizations—has established a series of autonomous regional hubs that act as matchmakers to help connect low-income inventors with volunteer patent attorneys across the United States. The regional hubs comprise law school IP clinics, bar associations, innovation/entrepreneurial organizations, and arts-focused lawyer referral services that are strategically located to provide access to patent pro bono services across all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Additionally, the Study of Underrepresented Classes Chasing Engineering and Science Success Act (SUCCESS Act), Public Law 115–273 (2018) directs the agency to provide recommendations on how to increase the number of women, minorities, and veterans who apply for and obtain patents.

To support the purposes described above, the pro bono survey would continue to collect information regarding the activity of the regional hubs. The USPTO has worked with the Pro Bono Advisory Council (PBAC) to determine what information is necessary to ascertain the effectiveness of each regional pro bono hub's matchmaking operations. PBAC is a well-established group of patent practitioners and patent pro bono regional hub administrators who have committed to provide support and guidance to patent pro bono programs across the country. The data presently gathered, and which would continue, provides USPTO with valuable information, including the number of inventor inquires, referral sources, number of applicants successfully matched with attorneys, and types of patent filing activity. PBAC, in conjunction with the regional hubs, is responsible for the collection of this information, which is collected on a quarterly basis. The information, at its highest level, will allow PBAC and the USPTO to ascertain whether the regional hubs are matching qualified low-income inventors with volunteer patent attorneys and help establish the total economic benefit derived by low-income inventors in the form of donated legal services. This information also helps the USPTO determine which