

21668, Juneau, AK, 99802-1668.
Telephone (907) 586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is requesting extension of a currently approved information collection for the Alaska Subsistence Halibut Program.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and NMFS manage fishing for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) through regulations established under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). The IPHC promulgates regulations governing the Pacific halibut fishery under the Convention between the United States and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, signed at Ottawa, Ontario, on March 2, 1953, as amended by a Protocol Amending the Convention (signed at Washington, DC, on March 29, 1979). The Halibut Act also authorizes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop halibut fishery regulations, including limited access regulations, in its geographic area of concern that would apply to nationals or vessels of the United States. Regulations governing the subsistence halibut fishery are at 50 CFR 300.2, 300.4, and Subpart E, and in the annual management measures published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 50 CFR 300.62.

Subsistence halibut means halibut caught by a rural resident or a member of an Alaska Native tribe for direct personal or family consumption as food, sharing for personal or family consumption as food, or customary trade. The subsistence halibut program is intended to allow eligible persons to practice the long-term customary and traditional harvest of Pacific halibut for food in a non-commercial manner. This program provides NMFS the opportunity to learn more about the subsistence fishery and enhance estimates of subsistence removals for stock assessment purposes.

Before fishing under subsistence halibut regulations, fishermen must obtain a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC). Special permits for community harvest, ceremonial, and educational purposes are available to qualified Alaska communities and Alaska Native Tribes. NMFS designed the permits to work in conjunction with other halibut harvest assessment measures.

This information collection contains the application for a SHARC; the application for a Community Harvest

Permit, a Ceremonial Permit, or an Educational Permit; the harvest logs for community, ceremonial, and educational permits; an appeals process for denied permits; and gear marking requirements for subsistence fishery setline gear. Each of these instruments is designed to minimize the reporting burden on subsistence halibut fishermen while retrieving essential information.

Information collected by the permit applications includes permit holder information or applicant information, and depending on the permit type, may include information on the educational program or a description of the cultural or ceremonial occasion the permit will be used for. NMFS uses this information to determine the eligibility of applicants to receive or renew permits.

The permit coordinators submit the harvest logs for Community Harvest Permits, Ceremonial Permits, and Educational Permits. Harvest logs collect identification information and harvest information for the subsistence fishermen fishing under that permit.

An appeals process is provided for an applicant who receives an adverse initial administrative determination related to their permit application.

Subsistence setline gear buoys must be marked with identification information that consists of the subsistence fisherman's name and address and an "S" to indicate subsistence gear. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of regulations.

II. Method of Collection

Information is collected primarily via mail. Harvest logs and SHARC applications also may be submitted by fax, and SHARC renewals may be submitted online through eFISH on the NMFS Alaska Region website. The application forms and harvest logs are available as fillable pdfs on the NMFS Alaska Region website. The fishing gear identification information is marked on buoys and is not submitted to NMFS.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0512.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Extension of a current information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,337.

Estimated Time per Response: Permit applications, 10 minutes; Harvest logs, 30 minutes; Appeal for permit denial, 4 hours; Gear marking, 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,438.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$25,288.

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,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2020-04597 Filed 3-5-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Greater Atlantic Region, Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan Data Collection

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 take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 5, 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). 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 or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Cynthia Ferrio, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930, (978) 281-9180, Cynthia.ferrio@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a revision and extension of a current 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 is expected to provide 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.

VMS Requirements

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements are now collected under the approved OMB Control No. 0648-0202 and are being removed from 0648-0491.

II. Method of Collection

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

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0491.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (revision and extension of a currently approved 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.

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,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2020-04596 Filed 3-5-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XX031]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: At the request of the public, NMFS is reopening the comment period for an Exempted Fishing Permit application. The Exempted Fishing Permit would allow commercial fishing vessels to use dredge fishing gear with a forward facing camera within the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area to characterize habitat substrate types where dredge fishing occurs, and conduct compensation fishing that would support research conducted by the Coonamessett Farm Foundation. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 23, 2020.

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

- *Email:* nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "CFF Great South Channel HMA Clam EFP."
- *Mail:* Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic

Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on CFF Great South Channel HMA EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Hansen, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9225.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 27, 2020, we published a notice soliciting public comment on an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application (85 FR 4638) and received requests from the public to extend the comment period. At the request of the public, we are reopening the comment period for 15 days. A full description of the requested exemptions and research plan are available in the original notice and are not repeated here.

In an effort to address some of the New England Fishery Management Council's research priorities for the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (GSC HMA), Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) developed a multi-phase research project that would attempt to:

1. Characterize substrate types where surfclam and mussel fishing occurs within the GSC HMA;
2. Track spatiotemporal habitat change and benthic macrofauna distribution in an active fishing ground; and
3. Determine spatiotemporal occurrence of Atlantic cod and other species within the HMA that are subjected or adjacent to commercial clam and mussel dredging activities.

CFF submitted a complete application for an EFP on November 8, 2019, to enable research in support of the objective 1, above. The exemptions would authorize participating vessels to fish with dredge gear in portions of the GSC HMA in order to characterize substrate types where surfclam and mussel fishing occurs, and to enable compensation fishing, which would fund research associated with objectives 2 and 3.

We received 27 comments on the original notification and discussed the EFP request at the January 2020 New England Fishery Management Council meeting. Based on that discussion and comments received, we are reopening the comment period for an additional 15 days.

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

Dated: March 3, 2020.

Karyl K. Brewster-Geisz,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2020-04616 Filed 3-5-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA068]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held March 30, 2020 through April 6, 2020. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 West Third, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone (907) 271-2809.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Evans, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. in the Aleutian Room on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 continuing through Monday, April 6, 2020. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. in the King Salmon/Iliamna Room on Monday, March 30, 2020 and continue through Wednesday, April 1, 2020. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Dillingham/Katmai Room on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 and continue through Friday, April 3, 2020. The IFQ Committee will meet on Monday, March 30, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD). The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee will meet on Monday, March 30, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD). The Ecosystem Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD).

Agenda

Monday, March 30, 2020 Through Monday, April 6, 2020

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

- (1) Executive Director's Report
- (2) NMFS Management Report