

bait and/or wing fishery, as well as measures that may prevent the triggering of incidental skate possession limits, improve the precision and accuracy of catch data, and better define skate fishery participants. This notice alerts the public of a supplemental scoping period and the opportunity for public participation in that process.

DATES: Written scoping comments must be received on or before 5 p.m., local time, Friday, February 12, 2021. Two supplemental public scoping webinar meetings will be held during this comment period on January 21, 2021 and February 8, 2021. More information about the webinars is at: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-5-3>.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments on Amendment 5 may be sent by any of the following methods:

- Email to the following address: comments@nefmc.org;
- Mail to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; or
- Fax to (978) 465-3116.

Please indicate "Skate Amendment 5 Supplemental Scoping Comment" on your correspondence. Requests for copies of the supplemental Amendment 5 scoping document and other information should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, telephone (978) 465-0492. The supplemental scoping document is accessible electronically via the internet at <https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-5-3>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council), working through its public participatory committee and meeting processes, anticipates the development of an amendment that may require an environmental impact statement (EIS) to meet applicable criteria in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations and guidance for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In the development of Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the Council has been considering limited access to the skate bait and/or wing fishery. NEPA reviews initiated prior to the effective date of the 2020 CEQ

regulations may be conducted using the 1978 version of the regulations. The effective date of the 2020 CEQ NEPA regulations was September 14, 2020. The NEPA process for this action began with the initial scoping period and first notice of intent (NOI) (82 FR 825, January 4, 2017) in early 2017. Therefore, the development of this amendment will continue under the 1978 NEPA regulations.

The Northeast Skate Complex comprises seven species (barndoor, clearnose, little, rosette, smooth, thorny, and winter skate), managed as a single unit along the east coast from Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The skate bait fishery primarily targets little skate, with a small catch component of winter skate. The wing fishery primarily targets winter skate.

The Council first conducted scoping for Amendment 5 in early 2017 (82 FR 825, January 4, 2017) to address concerns that increasingly strict regulations in other fisheries, particularly in the Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery, might cause these fishermen to switch fishing effort onto skates. An increase in effort in the skate fishery could cause the fishery to attain its quota in a shorter time, trigger reduced skate trip limits, or have other negative economic impacts on current participants. The Council has been exploring the creation of a limited access skate permit as a potential solution to these concerns. In September 2020, the Council expanded the scope of this action by approving a problem statement, goals, and types of measures to consider in Amendment 5. In addition to limited access, the Council may consider measures such as creating an intermediate trigger for incidental limits, creating different landing limits for segments of the wing fishery, revising monitoring and reporting requirements, restricting switching between state and Federal fishing for the wing and/or bait fishery, modifying gear to reduce bycatch, making the Federal skate permit a year-round permit for the wing and/or bait fishery, or other measures related to the problem statement and intended to achieve the Amendment's goals. These measures could help improve the accuracy of fishery data and the long-term sustainable management of the skate fishery. Through the development of Amendment 5, the Council may also consider updates to the goal and objectives of the FMP, which are unchanged since the FMP was adopted in 2003. Following the supplemental scoping period, the Council, with input from the public, will develop a range of alternatives to address the problem

statement and goals of this action. The supplemental scoping document has more information on Amendment 5 and the topics being considered during this supplementary scoping period (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public Comment

All persons interested in the management of the Northeast Skate Complex for either the wing and/or bait fishery are invited to comment on the scope and significance of issues to be analyzed by submitting written comments (see **ADDRESSES**) and/or by participating in either of the two supplemental scoping webinar meetings for this amendment (see **DATES**).

After the supplemental scoping period, there will be additional opportunities for public comment throughout the development of a range of alternatives for Amendment 5, and, if necessary, a draft EIS to analyze their impacts. In addition to scoping comments, the public will have the opportunity to comment on the alternatives being considered by the Council through public meetings on any proposed action.

Special Accommodations

The webinar meetings are accessible to people with physical disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies (see **ADDRESSES**) at least five days prior to the meeting dates.

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

Dated: December 18, 2020.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

Acting 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; Fishermen's Contingency Fund

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 February 26, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0082 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 Elaine Saiz, Chief, Financial Services Division, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, (301) 427-8725 or elaine.saiz@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

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

United States (U.S.) commercial fishermen may file claims for compensation for losses of, or damage to, fishing gear or vessels, plus 50 percent of resulting economic losses, attributable to oil and gas activities on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. To obtain compensation, applicants must comply with requirements set forth in 50 CFR part 296.

The requirements include a "report" within 15 days of the date the vessel first returns to port after the casualty incident to gain a presumption of eligible causation, and an "application" within 90 days of when the applicant first became aware of the loss and/or damage.

The report is NOAA Form 88-166 and it requests identifying information such as: Respondent's name; address; social security number; and casualty location. The information in the report is usually completed by NOAA during a telephone call with the respondent.

The application is NOAA Form 88-164 and it requires the respondent to provide information on the property and economic losses and/or damages including type of damage; purchase date and price of lost/damaged gear; and

income from recent fishing trips. It also includes an affidavit by which the applicant attests to the truthfulness of the claim.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents may telephone NOAA and provide the information for the report verbally or submit a paper or electronic report. Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms for the application.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0082.
Form Number: NOAA Forms 88-164, 88-166.
Type of Review: Extension of a current information collection.
Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes for a report and 7 hours, 45 minutes for an application.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 160.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$500 in recordkeeping/filing costs.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

Legal Authority: Title IV of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1841) authorizes the Fishermen's Contingency Fund (Fund or FCF) program to compensate U.S. commercial fishermen for losses of, or damages to, fishing gear or vessels, plus 50% of resulting gross economic loss, attributable to oil and gas activities on the OCS. Program requirements are set forth in 50 CFR part 296.

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 Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XA745]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Community Engagement Committee will meet via web conference on January 12, 2021.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Alaska Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be a web conference. Join online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1847>.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via video conference are given under

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION, below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve MacLean, Council staff; phone: (907) 271-2809; email: steve.maclean@noaa.gov. For technical support please contact our admin Council staff, email: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

The Community Engagement Committee will meet to review and