

Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS and the South Atlantic Council manage the fishery for rock shrimp in the South Atlantic under the FMP for the Shrimp Fishery in the South Atlantic Region. The vessel monitoring system (VMS) regulations for the Gulf reef fish fishery and the South Atlantic rock shrimp fishery may be found at 50 CFR 622.28 and 622.205, respectively.

The FMPs and the implementing regulations contain several specific management areas where fishing is restricted or prohibited to protect habitat or spawning aggregations, or to control fishing pressure. Unlike size, bag, and trip limits, where the catch can be monitored on shore when a vessel returns to port, area restrictions require at-sea enforcement. However, at-sea enforcement of offshore areas is difficult due to the distance from shore and the limited number of patrol vessels, resulting in a need to improve enforceability of area fishing restrictions through remote sensing methods. In addition, all fishing gears are subject to some area fishing restrictions. Because of the sizes of these areas and the distances from shore, the effectiveness of enforcement through over flights and at-sea interception is limited. An electronic VMS allows a more effective means to monitor vessels for intrusions into restricted areas.

The VMS provides effort data and significantly aids in enforcement of areas closed to fishing. All position reports are treated in accordance with NMFS existing guidelines for confidential data. As a condition of authorized fishing for or possession of Gulf reef fish or South Atlantic rock shrimp in or from Federal waters, vessel owners or operators subject to VMS requirements must allow NMFS, the United States Coast Guard, and their authorized officers and designees, access to the vessel's position data obtained from the VMS.

The information collected on the "Vessel Monitoring System Installation and Activation Certification for the Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico" form provides NMFS assurance that vessels are compliant with the requirements to install and activate an approved VMS unit. Information collected on the "Vessel Monitoring System Mobile Transceiver Unit (MTU) Power-Down Exemption Request for Vessels in the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery" form provides information that allows NMFS to exempt a vessel from their the VMS reporting requirement under specific criteria.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: VMS unit installation, once; installation and activation checklist, once; power down exemption request, variable but on average less than once per year; trip declaration, variable but an average of 9 annually per vessel; and annual maintenance once per year.

Respondent's Obligation: Submission of the Installation and Activation certification is and mandatory. Transmission of fishing activity report is mandatory. Submission of a Power down Exemption Authorization request is required to obtain or retain benefits.

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

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0544.

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

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Fisheries Certificate of Origin

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite 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. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on January 24,

2022 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

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

Title: Fisheries Certificate of Origin.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0335.

Form Number(s): NOAA Form 370.

Type of Request: Regular submission, extension of a current information collection.

Number of Respondents: 540.

Average Hours per Response: 25 minutes.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,833.

Needs and Uses: This request is for an extension of a current information collection sponsored by NMFS' Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce. The information required by the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act, amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, is needed to: (1) Document the dolphin-safe status of frozen and/or processed tuna import shipments; (2) verify that import shipments of fish were not harvested by large-scale, high seas driftnets; and (3) verify that tuna was not harvested by an embargoed nation or one that is otherwise prohibited from exporting tuna to the United States.

Collected information includes the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Entry Identification, date of entry, and contact details on the exporting and importing companies. Collected information also includes harvest characteristics such as fishing vessel name, fishing trip dates, vessel flag, vessel gear type, and ocean area of harvest, as well as the declaration of the dolphin-safe status of the shipment, and if applicable, the attachment of required certifications. Forms are submitted by importers and processors. NMFS uses this information to verify the dolphin-safe status of tuna shipments.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Per applicable tuna importation.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. 1385).

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/

public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0335.

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–XB897]

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.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The Exempted Fishing Permit would allow commercial fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of research conducted by the applicant.

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 May 23, 2022.

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

- *Email: nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov.*

Include in the subject line “*NEFSC Study Fleet EFP*”.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louis Forristall, Fishery Management Specialist, (339) 674–7646.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

Citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
648.83	Multispecies Minimum Fish Sizes	Allow possession of haddock, yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, and American plaice below minimum size on Common pool and sector vessels for biological sampling purposes.
684.86(a) ..	Haddock Possession Restriction	Allow possession of haddock for biological sampling.
648.86(d) ..	Small-Mesh Multispecies Possession Restriction.	Exempt vessels from small-mesh possession restrictions for biological sampling.
648.86(g) ..	Yellowtail Flounder Possession Restriction	Exempt common pool vessels from yellowtail possession restrictions and limitations.
648.86(j) ...	Georges Bank Winter Flounder Possession Restriction.	Exempt common pool vessels from winter flounder restrictions.
648.86(l) ...	Ocean Pout, Windowpane Flounder, and Atlantic Wolffish Possession Restriction.	Exempt vessels from wolffish possession prohibitions.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Study fleet program
Applicant	NESFC Cooperative Research Branch.
Project objectives	Allow fishermen and Center staff to collect biological data and biological samples relevant to stock assessments and fish biology.
Application date	February 7, 2022.
Project period	May 1, 2022.
Project location	April 30, 2023.
Number of vessels	19.
Number of trips	40.
Trip duration (days)	3.
Total number of days	72.
Gear type(s)	Otter trawl, scallop dredge, midwater otter trawl, paired trawl.
Number of tows or sets	5.
Duration of tows or sets	2 hours.

Project Narrative

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center’s Cooperative Research Branch is requesting an EFP to allow participants in their Study Fleet Program to collect biological information on discarded

catch. The Center established the Study Fleet Program in 2002 to more fully characterize commercial fishing operations and provide sampling opportunities to augment NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service’s data collection programs. As part of the

program, the Center contracts commercial fishing vessels to collect biological data and fish specimens for the Center to use in research relevant to stock assessments and fish biology.

Under the EFP, Study Fleet participants would be allowed to