

provision for public release of all obtained information.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations.

**Frequency:** Annually; Every 3 years; On occasion.

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

**Legal Authority:** Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://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](http://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 0648–0206.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

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BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

## 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; Foreign Fishing Vessel Permits, Vessel, and Gear Identification, and Reporting Requirements

**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 May 20, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0075 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 copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Jasmine Prat, Fishery Policy Analyst, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IS5), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, 301–427–8364 or [jasmine.prat@noaa.gov](mailto:jasmine.prat@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This request is for the extension of an existing information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues permits, under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*; MSA), to foreign fishing vessels fishing or operating in U.S. waters. MSA and associated regulations at 50 CFR part 600 require that vessels apply for fishing permits, that vessels and certain gear be marked for identification purposes, that observers be embarked on selected vessels, and that permit holders report their fishing effort and catch or, when processing fish under joint ventures, the amount and locations of fish received from U.S. vessels. These requirements apply to all foreign vessels fishing, transshipping, or processing fish in U.S. waters. Information is collected from persons who operate a foreign fishing vessel in U.S. waters to participate in a directed fishery or joint venture operation, transship fish harvested by a U.S. vessel to a location outside the U.S., or process fish in internal waters. Each person operating a foreign fishing vessel under MSA authority may be required to submit information for a permit, mark their vessels and gear, or submit information about their fishing activities.

To facilitate observer coverage, foreign fishing vessel operators must provide a quarterly schedule of fishing effort and upon request must also provide observers with copies of any required records. For foreign fishing

vessels that process fish in internal waters, the information collected varies somewhat from other foreign fishing vessels that participate in a directed fishery or a joint venture operation. In particular, these vessels may not be required to provide a permit application or mark their vessels. The information submitted in applications is used to determine whether permits should be used to authorize directed foreign fishing, participation in joint ventures with U.S. vessels, or transshipments of fish or fish products within U.S. waters. The display of identifying numbers on vessels and gear aid in fishery law enforcement and allows other fishermen to report suspicious activity. Reporting of fishing activities allows monitoring of fish received by foreign vessels.

##### II. Method of Collection

Foreign fishing activity reports are made by radio when fishing begins or ceases, to report on transfers of fish, and to file weekly reports on the catch or receipt of fish. Weekly reports may be submitted by fax or email.

Recordkeeping requirements for foreign vessels include a communications log, a transfer log, a daily fishing log, a consolidated fishing or joint venture log, and a daily joint venture log. These records must be maintained for three years. Paper forms are used for foreign fishing vessel permit applications. No information is submitted to NMFS for the vessel and gear marking requirements.

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0075.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 8.

*Estimated Time per Response:* For permit applications: One and one half hours for an application for a directed fishery; two hours for a joint venture application, and 45 minutes for a transshipment permit. For fishing activity reporting: 6 minutes for a joint venture report; 30 minutes per day for joint venture record-keeping; and 7.5 minutes per day for record-keeping by transport vessels. For weekly reports, 30 minutes per response. For foreign vessel and gear identification marking: 15 minutes per marking.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 82.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$3,337 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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

*Legal Authority:* The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues permits, under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*; MSA) MSA and associated regulations at 50 CFR part 600.

#### 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 Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE:

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD800]

##### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will convene Monday, April 8, 2024 through Thursday, April 11, 2024. Daily schedule is as follows: Monday, April 8, from 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 9 through Thursday, April 11, from 8 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at The Lodge at Gulf State Park, located at 21196 East Beach Boulevard, Gulf Shores, AL 36542. If you prefer to “listen in”, you may access the log-on information by visiting our website at [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org).

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Monday, April 8, 2024; 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., CDT**

The meeting will begin with the *Shrimp* Committee reviewing the Biological Review of the Texas Closure, Draft *Shrimp* Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico *Shrimp* Fishery and the 2022 Gulf *Shrimp* Fishery Effort. The committee will receive an update on Number of Valid and Renewable Gulf *Shrimp* Permits and Discussion of Management Implications and review of any remaining items from the March 19–20, 2024 *Shrimp* Advisory Panel Meeting Summary.

The Gulf SEDAR Committee will review and discuss the Gulf of Mexico SEDAR Schedule, SSC Discussions about the current SEDAR Process, and any remaining items from the March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting.

The Data Collection Committee will receive presentations on Discussion of Fisheries Economic Data Collection Methods and Amendment Draft Options.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., the Council will convene the Full Council in a Closed Session to review Preliminary Appointments to the *Reef Fish* and *Shrimp* Advisory Panels,

Appointments to the *Ad Hoc Red Snapper/Grouper Tilefish* Advisory Panel; and, selection of 2023 Law Enforcement Officer or Team of the Year.

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024; 8 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT**

The *Reef Fish* Committee will convene to review *Reef Fish* and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Landings, receive presentation on 2024 *Red Grouper* and *Gag* Recreational Season Projections, Discuss Conservation and Management of Wenchnan in the *Mid-water Snapper* Complex, including Background Draft Options: Modification of *Mid-Water Snapper* Complex Composition and Catch Limits. The committee also will review Draft Options: *Reef Fish* Amendment 58: Modifications to *Shallow-water Grouper* Complex Catch Limits and Management Measures. The committee will also hear the February 2023 Gulf SSC Meeting Summary Items: SEDAR 85: Gulf *Yellowedge Grouper* Assessment and Projections, Fishermen Feedback for SEDAR 85, Other *Deepwater Grouper* Landings Data and Catch Limits, Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Research Track SEDAR 74, Comparison of the *Reef Fish* and *Snapper Grouper* Fisheries of the Southeastern U.S., and 2024 Gulf Red Group Interim Analysis Review. Lastly, the committee will receive a presentation on *Reef Fish* Amendment 60: Individual Fishing Quota.

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024; 8 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT**

The Mackerel Committee will review Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Landings, Draft Framework Amendment 14: Modifications to Gulf Migratory Group *Spanish Mackerel* Catch Limits including CMP AP Recommendations, Gulf Migratory Group *King Mackerel* Management Discussion, CMP Special Engagement Sessions, and any remaining CMP AP Meeting Recommendations.

The Council will reconvene at approximately 10:15 a.m., CDT with a Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes.

The Council will receive presentations on a Brief Update on Recreational Initiative, Opportunities to Advance Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) in Gulf of Mexico Fisheries through the Southeast EEJ Implementation Plan and an Update from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico.