

East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone 301-713-2347).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under the proposed information requirement, vessels fishing for Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) with pelagic longline gear on board would be required to install and operate a vessel monitoring system (VMS). On May 28, 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a regulation, 50 CFR 635.69(a), requiring all commercial pelagic longline vessels fishing for Atlantic HMS to install a NMFS-approved VMS.

The Bluewater Fisherman's Association filed a lawsuit challenging the VMS requirement, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia remanded the regulation to the Secretary of Commerce for further consideration. On August 29, 2001 NMFS submitted a reconsideration memorandum to the court analyzing alternatives to and reaffirming the need for fleetwide implementation of VMS in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. On October 15, 2002, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a final order that denied plaintiff's objections to the VMS regulation. Based on this ruling, NMFS is seeking to reinstate OMB approval for this information collection as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act.

If approved, automatic position reports would be submitted on an hourly basis whenever the vessel is at sea. The information would aid in the enforcement of fishery regulations and could allow for delayed offloading after a closure.

Vessel operators would also be required to follow an equipment installation checklist and submit it to NMFS. The checklist provides information on the hardware and communications service selected by each vessel. NMFS would use the returned checklists to ensure that position reports are received and to aid NMFS in troubleshooting problems.

II. Method of Collection

Checklists would be submitted in paper form. Position reports would be automatically sent electronically by the vessel monitoring system units.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0372.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 320.

Estimated Time Per Response: 4 hours for installation of equipment; 2 hours for annual maintenance of the equipment (beginning in the second year); 0.033 seconds per automated position report from the automated equipment; and 5 minutes to complete and return a one-time installation checklist.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,101.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$654,423.

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.

Dated: November 8, 2002.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-29182 Filed 11-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102902A]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Advisory Panel Meetings.

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

ACTION: Notification of Advisory Panel meetings.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold joint meetings of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel (HMS AP) and the Atlantic Billfish Advisory Panel (Billfish AP), February 10 through 12, 2003, in Silver Spring, MD. The intent of these meetings is to consider

alternatives for the conservation and management of highly migratory species.

DATES: The joint HMS-Billfish AP meetings will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, February 10; from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11; and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The AP meetings will be held in the Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Ave. (Rt. 97), Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 301-589-0800.

An agenda and materials related to the AP meeting will be available after January 2, 2003. Please contact Carol Douglas or Othel Freeman, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2347, for meeting logistics or materials.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald G. Rinaldo, 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The actions to be discussed by the APs are necessary to address requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and to implement recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas as required by the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, for the conservation and management of highly migratory species.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dr. Rinaldo (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days prior to the meetings.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 961 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 8, 2002.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 02-29185 Filed 11-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111202C]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Industry Advisors will hold a public meeting.

DATES: Wednesday, December 4, 2002, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Renaissance Hotel Philadelphia Airport, 500 Stevens Drive, Philadelphia, PA, telephone 610-521-5900.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904. ASMFC, 1444 Eye Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, MAFMC, telephone 302-674-2331, ext. 19. Vince O'Shea, Executive Director, ASMFC, telephone 202-289-6400, ext. 304.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2003 recreational management measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issue arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address this emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 12, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-29186 Filed 11-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111202E]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Oversight in December, 2002. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will held on Monday, December 2, 2002, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to review the Draft Amendment 13 and accompanying Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) prior to its submission to NMFS. This document is being prepared for submission in December based on a court order in the case of Conservation Law Foundation et al. v. Secretary of Commerce. NMFS has petitioned the court to allow a delay in submitting the document, and the Council has sent a letter for the court asking for at least a one year delay. If a delay is granted by the court, further work will be completed before the Amendment is submitted.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: November 13, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-29217 Filed 11-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111202D]

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 hold public meetings December 2-9, 2002, in Anchorage, Alaska.

DATES: The meetings will be held on December 2, 2002 through December 9, 2002. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, December 2, and continue through Friday, December 6, 2002. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 2, and continue through Wednesday, December 4, 2002. Other Committees to be held during the week: Joint Protocol/Council/Board of Fish, 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3 in the King Salmon Room. Ecosystem Panel (Council, SSC, AP) 1 p.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3 in the Aspen/Spruce Room.

The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, continuing through Tuesday December 9. All meetings are