

copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Paul H. Jones, Fishery Policy Analyst, NMFS, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, 978-281-9273, fax 978-281-9135, e-mail paul.h.jones@noaa.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The regulations implementing Framework Adjustments 11 and 13 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) established the Georges Bank Sea Scallop Exemption Program (Exemption Program), which provided vessels permitted in the limited access scallop program short-term access to the groundfish closed areas on Georges Bank. The management measures and provisions of Framework Adjustment 14 to the FMP propose a similar area access program for the scallop Mid-Atlantic closed areas (Hudson Canyon South and Virginia Beach) as well as an adjustment to the limited access scallop days-at-sea (DAS) allocations. Following are measures that may be included in this access program: (1) Access allowed by all scallop limited access and open access vessels (dredge, trawl, and General Category vessels); (2) establishment of a scallop total allowable catch (TAC) for each of the reopened areas; (3) an allowance of five trips per vessel; (4) a possession limit of 15,000 lb (6,804 kg) of meats per trip for limited access vessels; (5) an automatic deduction of 10 DAS for each limited access trip; (6) a season of April 1, 2001, through February 28, 2002, with the provision that the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, may allow additional trips for those vessels that made a trip prior to September 1, 2001; (7) an emergency landing provision, whereby limited access vessels would not be charged the full 10 DAS, provided the vessel has experienced an emergency condition that forces the vessel to come into port earlier than anticipated; (8) a minimum mesh twine-top of 10 inches (25 cm) for scallop dredge vessels; (9) a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirement, with double-polling for the duration of the access program; (10) a TAC set-aside to allow cooperative research; (11) a TAC set-aside to provide for observer coverage; and (12) a requirement that General Category vessels obtain a letter of authorization to fish in the scallop Mid-Atlantic closed areas. Proposed Framework 14 also may propose additional closed areas to protect concentrations of small scallops. Options for the closed areas include

areas in both the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank.

The VMS was considered to be one of the major tools for monitoring and enforcing the regulations pertaining to the exemption programs implemented under Framework Adjustments 11 and 13. Vessels participating in these Exemption Programs were required to use a VMS unit for the purposes of monitoring DAS under the scallop regulations. This submission requests comments on similar collection of information requirements, as well as new requirements, for proposed Framework 14. For limited access scallop vessels, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) gave Paperwork Reduction Act clearance for many of these reporting requirements. However, for General Category scallop vessels electing to participate in the proposed Mid-Atlantic Exemption Program, Framework Adjustment 14 proposes the following collection of information requirements: (1) Monthly reporting of intention to fish in the Exemption Program through the VMS e-mail; (2) daily reporting of scallops kept, Fishing Vessel Trip Report log page, and, for observed trips, scallops kept and yellowtail flounder caught on observed tows through the VMS e-mail messaging system; (3) installation of a VMS unit and documentation of installation of a VMS unit; (4) notice requirements for observer deployment; (5) declaration into the Exemption Program through the VMS prior to leaving the dock; (6) an increase in the polling frequency of the VMS from once every hour to once every thirty minutes; and (7) obtain a letter of authorization to fish in the scallop Mid-Atlantic closed areas. An additional collection of information requirement for limited access scallop vessels in the Exemption Program is: an emergency declaration through the VMS of a Exemption Program trip termination when fishing in the Mid-Atlantic closed areas.

##### II. Method of Collection

A combination of reporting methods will be involved, including forms, e-mail communications, phone calls, and automatic electronic transmissions.

##### III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 459.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 minutes for a monthly e-mail notification of intent to fish in the

Exemption Program; 10 minutes for an e-mail messaging of catch; 1 hour for the installation of a VMS unit; 2 minutes for a notification for purposes of observer deployment; 5 minutes for submitting proof of VMS installation; 2 minutes for declaring into the Exemption Program through the VMS prior to leaving the dock; 5 seconds for each automated VMS report; 2 minutes for a emergency notification to terminate Exemption Program trip; and 2 minutes to obtain a letter of authorization to fish in the scallop Mid-Atlantic closed areas.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 683.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$3,120.

##### 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: October 26, 2000.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102700MC]

##### Public Assessment of Improved NOAA Weather Radio Automated Voice

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 2, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Joanne Swanson/Herb White, 1325 East West Highway SSMC II Room 13202, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Abstract**

The National Weather Service (NWS) is undertaking an acquisition effort to replace the existing voice technology used for automation of the NOAA Weather Radio. The current text-to-speech voice technology has been found to be of questionable understandability and acceptability to the public, and new technology has emerged that can better serve the nation's interests in receipt of broadcast weather warnings, watches, and forecasts from NOAA Weather Radio. The NWS seeks to assess candidates for the voice replacement with the listening public and marine community prior to selecting and acquiring the new technology.

##### **II. Method of Collection**

It is intended that multiple focus groups will be formed and canvassed by playing the candidate voices speaking a variety of products and assessing the public reaction to each. In addition, some form of Web-based voluntary assessment and feedback may be offered, along with voice evaluation teams comprised of affected broadcast and public agencies.

##### **III. Data**

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business and other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; farms; Federal, State, Local, or Tribal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 800.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 2 hours for focus groups; 5 minutes for Web surveys.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 860.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

#### **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: October 26, 2000

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-28156 File 11-1-00; 8:45am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KE**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

##### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**[I.D.102600D]**

##### **Endangered Species; Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for a enhancement permit (1268) and issuance of permit (1259).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has received a permit application from The National Aquarium in Baltimore (1268) and NMFS has issued an incidental take permit to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) that authorizes incidental take of Endangered Species Act-listed sea turtles, incidental to the operation and

management of the large mesh gillnet fishery in southeastern Pamlico Sound, subject to certain conditions set forth therein (1259).

**DATES:** Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on December 4, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on any of the new applications should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

For permits 1268 & 1259: Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 301-713-1401.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Authority**

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with, and are subject to, the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.