

directed to Jonathan Cusick, 206-860-3477, or at Jonathan.Cusick@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Catcher vessels participating in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and who are selected by NOAA must provide NOAA with notification at least 24 hours before departure for a fishing trip and with notification when the vessel ceases to participate in the observed portion of the fleet. The information will be used to plan for fishery observer assignments.

II. Method of Collection

Reports are made by phone to a toll-free number.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0423.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,116.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,763.

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: July 16, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-18732 Filed 7-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Office of Coast Survey; Notice of Solicitation for Hydrographic Services Review Panel

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

SUMMARY: This notice responds to the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2002, Public Law 107-372, which requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to solicit nominations for membership on the Hydrographic Services Review Panel. This advisory committee will advise the Under Secretary on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 and its amendments, and such other appropriate matters the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advise.

DATES: Résumés should be sent to the address, e-mail or FAX specified and must be received by September 29, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910, FAX: 301-713-4019, e-mail:

Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gretchen Imahori, Office of Coast Survey, NOS/NOAA, 301-713-2770, Extension 140, FAX: 301-713-4019, Gretchen.Imahori@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 33 U.S.C. 883a *et seq.* NOS is responsible for providing nautical charts and related information for safe navigation and other purposes. In fulfilling this responsibility, NOS collects and compiles hydrographic, tidal and current, geodetic and a variety of other data and information. The Hydrographic Services Panel shall advise on topics such as the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) National Survey Plan, technologies relating to operations, research and development, and dissemination of data pertaining to:

- (a) Hydrographic surveying and data;
- (b) Nautical charting;
- (c) Water level measurements;
- (d) Current measurements;
- (e) Geodetic measurements; and

(f) Geospatial measurements.

The Panel shall consist of 15 voting members appointed by the Under Secretary in accordance with the provisions and prohibitions of Section 105 of the Act. Members will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. The Director of the Joint Hydrographic Institute and no more than two employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall serve as nonvoting members of the Panel.

The voting members of the Panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic surveying, tides, currents, geodetic and geospatial measurements, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, and coastal and fishery management. The membership shall be fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the Panel. An individual may not be appointed as a voting member of the Panel if the individual is a full-time officer or employee of the United States. Any voting member of the Panel who is an applicant for, or beneficiary of (as determined by the Administrator), any assistance under the Act shall disclose to the Panel that relationship, and may not vote on any matter pertaining to that assistance. The term of office of a voting member of the Panel shall be 4 years, except that of the original appointees, five shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, five shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, and five shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, as specified by the Administrator at the time of appointment. The members will serve at the discretion of the Administrator and will be subject to ethical standards applicable to special government employees. Any individual appointed to a partial or full term may be reappointed for one additional full term. A voting member may serve after the date of the expiration of the term of office for which appointed until his or her successor has taken office.

The Panel shall select one voting member to serve as the Chair and another voting member to serve as the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair.

Meetings will occur on a biannual basis and, at any other time, at the call of the Chair or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Administrator.

Voting members of the Panel shall receive compensation at a rate

established by the Administrator, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when actually engaged in the performance of duties for such Panel and shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

Dated: June 30, 2003.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-18252 Filed 7-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030530139-3139-01; I.D. 010401B]

Marine Protected Areas and an Inventory of Existing Marine Managed Areas

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments on proposed criteria for building an Inventory of Marine Managed Areas.

SUMMARY: NOAA and the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior (DOI), jointly propose criteria, definitions, and data fields that will be used in development of an Inventory of U.S. Marine Managed Areas or MMAs. The MMA Inventory will provide information that will lead to the fulfillment of requirements of Executive Order (E.O.) 13158 on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This action requests comments on the working criteria for including existing sites in the MMA Inventory, and describes data fields to provide consistent information about each site. This notice also makes clear that the development of the MMA Inventory is Phase I, to be followed by the development of the List of MPAs (Phase II) called for in E.O. 13158. The intent of this document is to solicit public participation in the development of an inventory of existing U.S. MMAs (Federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, and tribal sites) as a resource for managers, scientists, and the general public.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 22, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the proposed MMA Inventory criteria, definitions, and data fields should be

sent to Joseph Uravitch, National MPA Center, N/ORM, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Comments also will be accepted if submitted via e-mail to mpa.comments@noaa.gov. E-mail comments should state "MMA Inventory Comments" on the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Uravitch, NOAA, 301-713-3155, x195, or Piet deWitt, DOI, 202-208-6224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document also is accessible via the Internet at the Office of the **Federal Register's** web site at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html.

Background

E.O. 13158 directs DOC and DOI, in consultation with the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, and other pertinent Federal agencies, to work with non-Federal partners to protect significant natural and cultural resources within the marine environment of the United States, including the Great Lakes, by strengthening and expanding a scientifically-based comprehensive national system of MPAs. A key purpose of E.O. 13158 is to "enhance the conservation of our Nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and the ecologically and economically sustainable use of the marine environment for future generations." A first step in developing this scientifically-based national system of MPAs is the development of an inventory of MMAs. This inventory will become the initial pool of sites from which the List of MPAs called for in section 4(d) of E.O. 13158 will be developed.

DOC and DOI were given specific roles by E.O. 13158. DOC has delegated lead responsibility to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. DOI has delegated its lead to the Assistant Secretary, Lands and Minerals Management. NOAA and DOI have stewardship responsibilities for marine resources under various Federal laws, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the

Antiquities Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and the National Park Service Organic Act. These and other authorities direct DOC and DOI agencies to manage marine areas for a wide variety of objectives. Area-based management has been used for years to protect marine habitats and submerged cultural resources, rebuild and sustain fisheries, provide recreational opportunities, promote marine research, recover endangered species, and support local economies that depend on ocean resources. These areas have been managed in different ways ranging from restricting specific activities and allowing sustainable use of natural resources within an area, to the establishment of marine reserves that limit access and close the site to all uses except research.

The MMA Inventory will be used in Phase I to inform Federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, local, and tribal agencies of the locations and characteristics of existing MMAs and to form a pool from which sites may later be considered for placement on the List of MPAs (Phase II). Resource managers and others can use this information to better manage these areas and determine the effectiveness of individual sites, as well as regional and national assemblages. The core purposes of the MMA Inventory are:

Providing centralized, easily accessed information and maps on existing Federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, local, and tribal MMAs in the United States;

- Providing information and tools for environmental assessments and effectiveness monitoring (supporting independent analyses and studies of a wide variety of marine issues by governmental and non-governmental users);

- Providing important site-specific information for developing and maintaining the official nationwide List of MPAs required by section 4(d) of E.O. 13158; and

- Providing information to fulfill other requirements of E.O. 13158.

NOAA and DOI have placed a variety of protective or restrictive measures on different marine areas to achieve different management purposes. The definitions and working criteria proposed in this notice are being used to build the MMA Inventory and may, at some future date, be used in determining which sites should be placed on the List of MPAs (Phase II). However, these definitions and criteria are not final and are subject to change based on public comment and through experience gained by using the MMA