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Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2022–09829 Filed 5–5–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

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

temporarily possess catch that is below minimum size restrictions and above possession limits for the purposes of biological sampling. When directed by the Center, participating vessels would be authorized to retain and land specific amounts of fish exceeding possession limits and/or below minimum fish sizes, for research purposes only. The captain or crew would deliver these fish to Center staff or local Port Agents upon landing. In these limited circumstances, the Study Fleet Program would give participating vessels a formal biological sampling request prior to landing. This would ensure that the landed fish do not exceed any collection needs of the Study Fleet Program, as detailed below.

During EFP trips, crew would sort, weigh, measure, and collect biological data from fish prior to discarding. During sampling, some discarded fish would remain on deck slightly longer than they would under normal sorting procedures. Exemptions from minimum fish sizes and possession restrictions would allow vessels to temporarily retain catch for at-sea sampling.

Vessels would be required to comply with all other applicable regulations specified at 50 CFR part 648 and would not be exempt from any inseason quota closures. All catch would be attributed to the appropriate commercial fishing quota. For a vessel fishing on a groundfish sector trip, all catch of groundfish stocks allocated to sectors would be deducted from the vessel's sector's annual catch entitlement (ACE). Once the ACE for a stock has been reached in a sector, participating vessels would no longer be allowed to fish in that stock area unless the sector acquires additional ACE for the stock in question. For participating common pool vessels, all groundfish catch would be counted toward the appropriate trimester total allowable catch (TAC). Common pool vessels would be exempt from the possession and trip limits, but would still be subject to trimester TAC closures.

Vessels fishing under this EFP would be required to report via their Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) or the web- or app-based Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to identify trips that would be landing species below minimum size limits and/or in excess of possession limits. Vessels not landing fish for the Center, but temporarily possessing fish for at-sea sampling, would not be required to report via the IVR system or VMS.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if

they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: May 3, 2022.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

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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; Florida Fishing and Boating Survey

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 July 5, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648- 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 specific questions related to collection activities should be directed David W. Carter, Economist, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami FL 33149, Tel: (305) 361-4467 or david.w.carter@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection and is sponsored by NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC).

The objective of the data collection effort under OMB Control Number 0648-0769 is to understand how anglers respond to changes in trip costs and/or fishing regulations in the Gulf of Mexico. This will improve the analysis of the economic effects of proposed changes in fishing regulations and changes in economic factors that affect the cost of fishing such as fuel prices. The survey will be used to develop predictive models that forecast how fishing effort changes when either trip costs change or when fishing regulations (season length or bag limits) change. The survey will ask about the number of trips anglers take under current costs and regulations and anticipated number of trips when costs and/or regulations change.

The population to be surveyed consists of those anglers who fish in the Gulf of Mexico from Florida, including those who possess a license to fish, and those who are not required to have a license (e.g., seniors). The sample will be drawn from the list of licensed Florida anglers and/or Florida private boat owners using the state of Florida's boat registration list. With the boat registration list, the sample can be targeted to anglers who fish for offshore species, when desired, and will capture those who fish from a boat but may not be required to have a fishing license (e.g. seniors). Anglers and/or boat owners will be either emailed an invitation to the online survey or mailed a postcard that directs them to a website to complete the survey. A limited number of anglers who do not respond to the online survey may receive a paper survey in the mail.

II. Method of Collection

Surveys will be conducted using two modes: Internet and mail.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648- 0769.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1800.

Estimated Time Per Response: Survey, 3 minutes; Non-response survey, 3 minutes.