

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Survey of Recreational Steelhead Fishermen in Washington State**

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

ACTION: Notice.

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 12, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at pracomments@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Robby Fonner, (206) 302-2469 or robby.fonner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

This request is for a new collection of information.

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Southwest Fisheries Science Center are undertaking an economics research project to assess the preferences of recreational steelhead anglers for trip attributes including opportunities for catching wild and hatchery steelhead. The Economic Survey of Recreational Steelhead Fishermen (ESRSF) will yield information on angling preferences that will inform management of recreational steelhead resources and steelhead hatchery operations in The Pacific Northwest. More specifically, the ESRSF will collect data needed to (1) assess the socioeconomic characteristics of recreational anglers; (2) assess the economic value of steelhead recreational fishing trips through statistical estimation of models; and (3) assess the change in these values associated with possible changes in recreational steelhead angling opportunities, including catch rates of

wild and hatchery fish, site attributes, and travel costs.

II. Method of Collection

A sample of Washington State fishing license holders who intended to fish for steelhead will be screened with an email survey (screener), followed by an internet survey. Sampled anglers who do not have an email address in the license database used for sampling will be sent an invitation by mail to the web-based screener and subsequent survey. Respondents to the internet survey will submit data online.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (new information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 629.

Estimated Time per Response: Five minutes for the screening survey; 25 minutes for the full survey.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 102.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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: January 5, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-00312 Filed 1-10-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XF929

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) will hold a meeting that is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held Monday, January 29 through Friday, February 2, 2018. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. the first day and at 8:30 a.m. each subsequent day. The meeting will end each day at 5 p.m., or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Pacific Conference Room of the NOAA SWFSC, 8901 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037-1508.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kerry Griffin, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820-2409 or Dale Sweetnam, SWFSC; telephone: (858) 546-7170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a methodology review of the NOAA acoustic-trawl survey methodology (ATM), conducted regularly to collect fisheries and oceanographic information in U.S. West Coast waters. The ATM survey has been approved for use in stock assessments for Pacific sardine, but has not yet been approved for use in stock assessments for northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, or jack mackerel. At its April 2018 meeting, the Pacific Council will consider the results of this review, and will consider whether to approve the ATM for use in stock assessments for stocks other than Pacific sardine. An agenda and other meeting materials will be available by January 15, 2018, on the Pacific Council's ftp site: <ftp://ftp.pcouncil.org/pub/2018%20ATM%20Methodology%20Review/>.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be

discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This public listening station is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Dale Sweetnam (858) 546-7170 at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 8, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-00374 Filed 1-10-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF942

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01950; phone: (978) 777-2500.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The committee will provide recommendations to the Council on FY2018 recreational measures for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock, and possibly Georges Bank cod. The committee will also consider providing a recommendation to the Council for a new control date for the party/charter fishery. They will also receive an overview of the Council's priorities for 2018. The committee plans discuss the progress on Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

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 these meetings. 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 Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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

Dated: January 8, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-00379 Filed 1-10-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Fishery Capacity Reduction Program Buyback Requests

AGENCY: National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 12, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at prcomments@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Paul Marx, (301) 427.8771 or Paul.Marx@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a current information collection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) established programs to reduce excess fishing capacity by paying fishermen to surrender their vessels/permits. These fishing capacity reduction programs, or buybacks, are conducted pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 109-479). The buybacks can be funded by a Federal loan to the industry or by direct Federal or other funding. Buyback regulations are at 50 CFR part 600.

The information collected by NMFS involves the submission of buyback requests by industry, submission of bids, referenda of fishery participants and reporting of collection of fees to repay buyback loans. For buybacks involving State-managed fisheries, the State may be involved in developing the buyback plan and complying with other information requirements. NMFS requests information from participating buyback participants to track repayments of the loans as well as ensure accurate management and monitoring of the loans. The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR parts 600.1013 through 600.1017 form the basis for the collection of information.

II. Method of Collection

Paper reports or electronic reports are required from buyback participants. Methods of submittal include mailing of paper reports, electronic submission via the internet, and/or facsimile transmission.