

Dated: February 24, 2000

Linda Engelmeier,

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

[FR Doc. 00-5064 Filed 3-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022500E]

Alaska Region Permit Family of Forms

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 May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Fishermen wanting to fish in regulated fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska must apply for a Federal Fisheries Permit, a Federal Processor Permit, a High Seas Power Troller Permit, or an Experimental Fishing Permit. The issuance of a permit is an essential ingredient in the management of fishery resources. Identification of the participants, harvest gear types, descriptions of vessels or shoreside facilities, and expected activity levels is needed to measure the consequences of management controls, and is an effective tool in the enforcement of

other fishery regulations. Experience has shown that fines for violations of specific fishery regulations are not as effective as the threat of a permit revocation that would exclude the vessel from the fishery altogether. Experimental fishing provides information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations.

II. Method of Collection

Each of the four permits is mandatory for certain fishery participants. A permit is obtained through completion of an application form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0206.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,814.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes for a Federal Fisheries Permit or Federal Processor Permit application, 30 minutes for applications for a Scallop Moratorium Permit Transfer or High Seas Power Troller Permit in the Salmon Fishery, and 30 hours for an Experimental Fishing Permit application.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 358.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$1,413.

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: February 24, 2000.

Linda Engelmeier,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.022800A]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the New England Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) will hold a joint public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, March 13, 2000, from 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Sheraton International Hotel at Baltimore International Airport, 7032 Elm Road, Baltimore, MD; telephone 410-859-3300.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils recently initiated management of spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act through the development of the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils adopted recommendations relative to second year management measures for spiny dogfish at their respective meetings in November and December 1999. The Councils failed to reach agreement relative to the preferred measures for spiny dogfish in 2000-2001. As such, the respective measures recommended by each Council were presented to the Regional Administrator. The FMP specifies that the Regional

Administrator shall review the recommendations and, if necessary, may modify the annual quota and other management measures to assure that the target F specified in the FMP will not be exceeded. The Regional Administrator may modify the recommendations using any of the measures that were not rejected by both Councils.

The purpose of the joint SSC meeting is to provide scientific peer review of analyses relating to alternative management measures for spiny dogfish not considered by the Councils during the quota setting process for the fishing year 2000–2001. The measures may include quotas, seasons, trip limits or any other measure or set of measures specified in the FMP. In addition, alternative stock rebuilding targets and schedules, as well as analyses of discard mortality, may be presented and reviewed.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Committees for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee 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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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 Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 28, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00–5068 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021800A]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research and enhancement permits (1238, 1239).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received permit applications from Mr. Ken Bergstrom, of the Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture (WMCSF)(1238) and Dr. Boyd Kynard, of USGS-BRD-Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center (CAFRC) (1239).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on either of these applications must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 pm eastern standard time on April 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on either of these applications should be sent to Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may also be sent via fax to 301–713–0376. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (ph: 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.

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species is covered in this notice: Endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

New Applications Received

WMCSF has requested a 5-year enhancement permit to maintain up to 300 captively bred juvenile shortnose sturgeon currently held by the US Fish and Wildlife Service—Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. The fish will be used as part of an education program emphasizing conservation of Connecticut River fishes.

CAFRC has requested a 5-year permit to lethally take up to 200 spawned eggs, embryos and larvae annually; capture, PIT tag and release up to 350 juvenile and adult sturgeon annually; and authorization to lethally take up to 1000 pre-spawned eggs; radio tag and release 3 pre-spawned females and 7 pre-spawned males for three years of the permit. The applicant is proposing to continue research on life history of shortnose sturgeon in the Connecticut river, and plans to collect new information on spawning, migration, habitat and fish passage of the species.

Dated: February 24, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022300B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research permits (1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244); receipt of an application to modify a permit (1136); issuance of a permit (1215); and issuance of amendments and modifications to existing permits (1119, 1130, 1140).

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: