

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Council Meeting With the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Recreational Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

Review outcomes and recommendations from November 8–9 core stakeholder group workshop

Update on project timeline and tasks

2022 Summer Flounder Recreational Measures

Review Advisory Panel and Monitoring Committee recommendations

Recommend conservation equivalency or coastwide management and associated measures for 2022

2022 Scup Recreational Measures

Review Advisory Panel and Monitoring Committee recommendations

Recommend 2022 recreational management measures for federal waters

2022 Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures

Review Advisory Panel and Monitoring Committee recommendations

Recommend conservation equivalency or coastwide management and associated measures for 2022

Final Action on Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment

Review alternatives
Review staff recommendations
Consider final action

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Biennial Review of 2020–24 Research Priorities Document

Review proposed research priority changes and Research Steering Committee recommendations

Approved updated research priorities document

Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements

Review white paper and identify next steps

Climate Change Scenario Planning

Summary of scoping input and update on next steps

Ocean City, Maryland Video Project

Update on data collection and next Habitat Activities

Update from Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Habitat Conservation Division on activities

of interest (aquaculture, other projects) in the region

Sea Turtle Bycatch in Trawl Fisheries

(Carrie Upite, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator)

GARFO presentation on outreach process for development of bycatch reduction measures to reduce takes of sea turtles in trawl fisheries

Acknowledgements and Awards

Thursday, December 16, 2021

2022 Implementation Plan

Review and approve 2022 Implementation Plan

Business Session

Committee Reports (SSC, Research Steering Committee, Executive Committee); Executive Director's Report; Organization Reports; and Liaison Reports

Other Business and General Public Comment

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c).

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: November 16, 2021.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–25279 Filed 11–18–21; 8:45 am]

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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; Recreational Angler Survey of Sea Turtle Interactions

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information

collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite 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. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on August 19, 2021 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

Title: Recreational Angler Survey of Sea Turtle Interactions.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0774.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Average Time per Response: 10 minutes for the Angler Intercept Survey, 5 minutes for the Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Form.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,153 hours.

Needs and Uses: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) proposes to extend a current information collection designed to assess the extent of hook and line interactions between recreational anglers on piers and other shore-based fishing locations and sea turtles. The collection comprises an Angler Intercept Survey, a Fishing Site Characterization Form, a Survey Cover Sheet, and a Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Form. The Angler Intercept Survey will be verbally administered on piers and shore-based fishing locations within NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region and Southeast Region, and will be administered to approximately 20,000 individual recreational fishermen. The respondents will be verbally asked a series of questions about their fishing practices and observations of sea turtles and the interviewer will record their answers. The survey will also assess the feasibility of an intercept survey for this purpose in terms of response rates and data collection. The Fishing Site Characterization Form will be completed by the survey administrator at each fishing location and collects information on the structure and operation of the pier or shore-based fishing location. The Site Characterization Sheet will be completed by the survey administrator during each survey period and collects

information on the environmental conditions for that particular day, the number of anglers fishing, number of lines in the water, and the number of surveys completed. Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Form will be filled out by a Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network participant when a turtle is incidentally captured, regardless of if the capture occurs during a specific survey period, and collects information on the specific interaction with fishing gear. This information is necessary to compare to the angler survey data, to identify if certain factors or fishing practices influence the rate of interactions. In this extension, minor revisions will be made to the Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Form to eliminate duplication with other sea turtle stranding data collection efforts.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Once.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Collection of these data on sea turtle interactions in the shore-based recreational fishing sector is necessary to fulfill statutory requirements of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.).

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648-0774.

Sheleen Dumas,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-25313 Filed 11-18-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB516]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures; 2022 Research Fishery

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

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for applications.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its request for applications for the 2022 shark research fishery from commercial shark fishermen with directed or incidental shark limited access permits. The shark research fishery allows for the collection of fishery-dependent and biological data for future stock assessments and to meet the research objectives of the Agency. The only commercial vessels authorized to land sandbar sharks are those participating in the shark research fishery. Shark research fishery permittees may also land other large coastal sharks (LCS), small coastal sharks (SCS), smoothhound, and pelagic sharks. Commercial shark fishermen who are interested in participating in the shark research fishery need to submit a completed Shark Research Fishery Permit Application to be considered.

DATES: Shark Research Fishery Applications must be received no later than December 20, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Please submit completed applications via email to NMFS.Research.Fishery@noaa.gov.

For copies of the Shark Research Fishery Permit Application, please email a request to NMFS.Research.Fishery@noaa.gov. Copies of the Shark Research Fishery Application are also available at the HMS website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-exempted-fishing-permits>. Additionally, please be advised that your application may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karyl Brewster-Geisz, at (301) 427-8503 (phone) or Delisse Ortiz at (202) 930-1304 or email NMFS.research.fishery@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens

Act). The 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP), as amended, is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635. Specifics regarding the commercial shark quotas and the shark research fishery can be found at §§ 635.27(b) and 635.32(f).

The shark research fishery was established, in part, to maintain time series data for stock assessments and to meet NMFS' research objectives. Since the shark research fishery was established in 2008, it has allowed for: The collection of fishery-dependent data for current and future stock assessments; the operation of cooperative research to meet NMFS' ongoing research objectives; the collection of updated life-history information used in the sandbar shark (and other species) stock assessment; the collection of data on habitat preferences that might help reduce fishery interactions through bycatch mitigation; evaluation of the utility of the mid-Atlantic closed area on the recovery of dusky sharks and collection of hook-timer and pop-up satellite archival tag information to determine at-vessel and post-release mortality of dusky sharks; and collection of sharks to determine the weight conversion factor from dressed weight to whole weight.

The shark research fishery allows selected commercial fishermen the opportunity to earn revenue from selling additional sharks, including sandbar sharks. Only the commercial shark fishermen selected to participate in the shark research fishery are authorized to land sandbar sharks subject to the sandbar quota available each year. The base quota for sandbar sharks is 90.7 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) per year, although this number may be reduced in the event of overharvests. The selected shark research fishery permittees will also be allowed to land other LCS, SCS, smoothhound, and pelagic sharks consistent with any restrictions established on their shark research fishery permit. Generally, the shark research fishery permits are valid only for the calendar year for which they are issued.

One hundred percent observer coverage is required on shark research fishery trips. The specific 2022 trip limits and number of trips per month will depend on the availability of funding, number of selected vessels, the availability of observers, the available quota, and the objectives of the research fishery, and will be included in the permit terms at time of issuance. The number of participants in the research fishery changes each year. In 2021, four fishermen were chosen to participate. From 2008 through 2021, there has been