

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 January 27, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Jill Stevenson, F/SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-2347).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

A Certificate of Eligibility for Billfishes is required under 50 CFR Section 644 to accompany all billfish except for a billfish landed in a Pacific state and remaining in the state of landing. This documentation certifies that the accompanying billfish was not harvested from the Atlantic Ocean management unit (described on the form). The certificate must accompany the billfish to any dealer or processor who subsequently receives or possesses the billfish. This collection is necessary to implement the Atlantic Billfish Fishery Management Plan whose objective is to reserve Atlantic billfish for the recreational fishery.

**II. Method of Collection**

Completion of certificate and recordkeeping.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0216

*Form Number:* None assigned.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Businesses and other for-profit (seafood importers, distributors).

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10 for completion of certificate and 250 for recordkeeping.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 20 minutes for completion of certificate and 2 minutes for recordkeeping.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 117 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* \$0 (no capital expenditures are required).

**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: November 20, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier.

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D.111497A]

**Ecosystem Principles Advisory Panel; Advisory Panel Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of advisory panel meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 406 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), which requires NMFS to establish an advisory panel to develop recommendations to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management activities, NMFS is announcing the date, time, and location of the second of three advisory panel meetings scheduled as follows:

**DATES:** The second advisory panel meeting will be held Monday, December 15, 1997, 9 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and Tuesday, December 16, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Edmond Meany Hotel, 4507 Brooklyn Ave. NE, Seattle, Washington 98104.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ned Cyr, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Telephone: (301)713-2363. Fax: (301)713-1875.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 406 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act

requires NMFS to establish an advisory panel, no later than April 11, 1997, to develop recommendations to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management activities. The panel will consist of no more than 20 individuals with expertise in the structures, functions, and physical and biological characteristics of ecosystems. The panel will also consist of representatives from the Regional Fishery Management Councils, states, fishing industry, conservation organizations, or others with expertise in the management of marine resources. The panel is required to submit a report to Congress by October 11, 1998, to include the following: an analysis of the extent to which ecosystem principles are being applied in fishery conservation and management activities, including research activities; proposed actions by the Secretary of Commerce and by Congress that should be undertaken to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management; and such other information as may be appropriate.

The first Advisory Panel meeting was held Wednesday, September 10 and Thursday, September 11, 1997, in Washington, DC.

Time will be allotted for public comments at the meeting. Persons planning to comment at the panel meeting should notify NMFS at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting (close of business Monday, December 1, 1997).

**Special Accommodations**

The review panel meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ned Cyr at (301) 713-2363 at least 10 days prior to the advisory panel meeting.

Dated: November 21, 1997.

David L. Evans.

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 111997B]

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and