

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

[I.D. 121803D]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements; Regulatory Amendment to Modify Seafood Dealer Reporting Requirements

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

ACTION: Notification of clearance of collection-of-information requirements.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of collection-of-information requirements for a regulatory amendment to modify the reporting and recordkeeping regulations for federally permitted seafood dealers participating in the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, Atlantic sea scallop, Northeast (NE) multispecies, monkfish, Atlantic mackerel, squid, butterfish, Atlantic surfclam, ocean quahog, Atlantic herring, Atlantic deep-sea red crab, tilefish, Atlantic bluefish, skates, and/or spiny dogfish fisheries in the NE Region, whereby permitted dealers must report all purchases of fish via electronic means. The purpose of this notification is to announce to the public that OMB has cleared the collection-of-information requirements for that action.

ADDRESSES: Any comments regarding burden-hour estimates for collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule should be sent to Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, and by e-mail to David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov, or by fax to (202) 395-7285.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Pentony, Senior Fishery Policy Analyst, (978)281-9283, fax (978)281-9135, email Michael.Pentony@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 23, 2004 (69 FR 13482), NMFS published a final rule to implement measures contained in a regulatory amendment to modify the reporting and recordkeeping regulations for federally permitted seafood dealers. Section 648.7(a), (d), (e), and (f) of that final rule contains collection-of-information requirements that apply to any seafood dealer that is permitted under § 648.6. The March 23, 2004, final rule, which becomes effective on May 1, 2004,

requires daily electronic reporting of all fish purchased (including fish received) by federally permitted dealers who are determined to be large dealers, while delaying the daily reporting requirement for all small dealers who initially will be required to report electronically on a weekly basis. Also, it eliminates dealer reporting via the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system; implements a trip identifier requirement for dealers; requires dealers to report the disposition of purchased fish; and modifies the dealer reporting requirements for the surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries to make them consistent with the requirements of other fisheries. Details concerning the justification for and development of the regulatory amendment and the implementing regulations were provided in the preambles to the proposed rule (69 FR 2870, January 21, 2004) and the final rule (69 FR 13482, March 23, 2004) and are not repeated here.

In the March 23, 2004, final rule, NMFS indicated that it would inform the affected public through a follow-up notification announcing OMB's clearance of the collection-of-information requirements related to § 648.7(a), (d), (e), and (f) of that rule. On April 14, 2004, OMB cleared the collection-of-information requirements under OMB control numbers 0648-0018 and 0648-0229. The intent of the notification is to inform the public of the OMB clearance of these requirements that become effective on May 1, 2004.

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

Dated: April 14, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E4-884 Filed 4-19-04; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 122203A]

RIN 0648-AN17

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 13

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

ACTION: Notice of partial approval of a fishery management plan amendment.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 13) has been partially approved by NMFS, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce. Amendment 13 was developed by the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) to end overfishing and rebuild NE multispecies (groundfish) stocks managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and to make other changes in the management of the groundfish fishery. The intent of this announcement is to inform the public of the partial approval of Amendment 13 and of the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendment 13 in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

DATES: Amendment 13 was partially approved on March 18, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Warren, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9347, fax: 978-281-9135; email: thomas.warren@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS intends to comply with a Court-ordered implementation of Amendment 13 through publication of a final rule in the **Federal Register** by May 1, 2004.

A proposed rule to implement Amendment 13 published in the **Federal Register** on January 29, 2004 (69 FR 4362), with public comment ending on February 27, 2004. A total of 4,941 comments were received on Amendment 13. A summary of the comments received and NMFS's responses will be published in the final rule.

On March 18, 2004, NMFS approved all measures in Amendment 13 with the exception of the following proposed measures, which have been disapproved: 1) The Closed Area (CA) II Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) and the CA I Hook Gear Haddock SAP; 2) the prohibition on surfclam and ocean quahog dredge gear in NE multispecies closed areas (the result of this disapproval is that such gear will be allowed in the groundfish closure portion of the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) Closure Area, and the Cashes Ledge Closure Area); 3) the exemption for shrimp trawl gear in the WGOM Closure Area; 4) the abbreviated process to implement SAPs; 5) the Georges Bank Cod Trip Limit Program; and 6) the removal of the Flexible Area Action System. A full explanation of the reasons for disapproval will be included

in the final rule implementing Amendment 13.

NMFS is under a Court-ordered deadline to implement Amendment 13 by May 1, 2004. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Division H, Section 105), however, prohibited NMFS from expending funds to implement the Amendment during this fiscal year. However, on April 13, 2004, President Bush signed into law H.R. 2584, which contains a provision repealing Section 105 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, thus enabling NMFS to implement Amendment 13 and publish the final rule. NMFS will publish the final rule in the **Federal Register** in the near future.

In addition, the public is informed that the ROD for Amendment 13 in compliance with NEPA is available on the NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center's website: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/groundfish/#mg>

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

Dated: April 14, 2004.

John Oliver,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04-8766 Filed 4-15-04; 3:35 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041404E]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Fisheries Issues Focus Committee, Research Set-Aside Committee, Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee, Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee, and Executive Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 4, through Thursday, May 6, 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Meadowlands, Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, NJ 07094; telephone: 201-348-6900.

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: *Tuesday, May 4, 2004, 12 noon to 1 p.m.* – The Fisheries Issues Focus Committee will meet.

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. – The Research Set-Aside Committee will meet.

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. – The Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee will meet.

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. – The Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee will meet.

Wednesday, May 5, 2004, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. – The Executive Committee will meet.

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Council will meet.

3:30 to 4 p.m. – There will be a NMFS Outreach Briefing.

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. – There will be a South Atlantic Council Scoping Hearing on Amendment 15 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan.

Thursday, May 6, 2004, 8 a.m. until approximately noon – The Council will meet.

Agenda items for the Council's committees and the Council itself are: Review status of states recreational saltwater fishing license programs; Review of New England Council (NEC) process to incorporate research results into NMFS scientific data bases; Address strategies to optimize use of multi-year quota setting mechanisms for surfclams and ocean quahogs; Review action on herring and its impacts on mackerel; Receive report from annual Council Chairmen's meeting; Review and resolve Advisory Panel appointment issues; Receive update on Council's FY04 budget; Receive reports on Climatic Impacts on East Coast Fishery Stocks and Clean Ocean Zone Initiative; Review and adopt Framework 5 regarding multi-year total allowable landings (TALs) for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass; Discuss items related to Dogfish Amendment 1; Receive a NMFS Outreach Briefing on the Northeast Regional Bycatch Workshop; the Council will also receive and hear committee and organizational reports, and act on any new and/or continuing business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal

Council action during this meeting. Council 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 actions to address such emergencies.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Collins at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 15, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. E4-895 Filed 4-19-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040504D]

Endangered Species; Permit No. 1198

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a request for modification of scientific research Permit No. 1198 submitted by the Florida Marine Research Institute, Jacksonville Field Laboratory, 6134 Authority Avenue, Building 200, Jacksonville, FL 32221, has been granted.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289, fax (301)713-0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hubard or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Endangered