

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to John Poffenberger, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149, (phone 305-361-4263).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Fishery quotas are established for species in the tilefish management unit within the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (see 50 CFR 622.42(a)(1)(iv)).

The existing methods of monitoring the tilefish quota established by the FMP are likely to be ineffective. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center intends to use the authority under section 50 CFR 622.5(c)(3)(ii) to require dealers to report purchases (landings) of species in the tilefish fishery on a monthly basis. This reporting methodology is the same as the procedures that have been established to monitor the deep-water and shallow-water grouper quotas also established under the Reef Fish FMP.

II. Method of Collection

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center will provide a reporting form to each dealer selected to report. The dealer must complete the reporting form by providing the name and permit number of the company and the amount purchased (landed) for the previous month for the individual species in tilefish management unit. This form must be faxed or sent as an e-mail attachment to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Miami, FL, within five business days of the end of each month until the quota is reached and the fishery is closed. For dealers that do not have a rapidfax machine or access to e-mail, pre-addressed, pre-paid envelopes will be provided.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations (seafood dealers and fishermen).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 85.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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: July 20, 2004.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-18054 Filed 8-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072804B]

Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Notice of affirmative finding renewal.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, (Assistant Administrator) renewed the affirmative finding for the Government of Mexico under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This affirmative finding renewal will allow yellowfin tuna harvested in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) in compliance with the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) by Mexican-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Mexican jurisdiction to continue to be imported into the United

States. The affirmative finding renewal was based on review of documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Mexico and obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Department of State.

DATES: Effective April 1, 2004, through March 31, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, California, 90802-4213; Phone 562-980-4000; Fax 562-980-4018.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, as amended by the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act (IDCPA) (Public Law 105-42), allows the entry into the United States of yellowfin tuna harvested by purse seine vessels in the ETP under certain conditions. If requested by the harvesting nation, the Assistant Administrator will determine whether to make an affirmative finding based upon documentary evidence provided by the government of the harvesting nation, the IATTC, or the Department of State. The finding will be reviewed annually to ensure that the nation continues to meet the requirements for an affirmative finding. The requirements must be met in order for the finding to remain valid for the following 12-month period (April 1 through March 31) or for such other period as the Assistant Administrator may determine.

The affirmative finding process requires that the harvesting nation meet several conditions related to compliance with the IDCP. Every 5 years, the government of the harvesting nation must request an affirmative finding and submit the required documentary evidence directly to the Assistant Administrator. A nation may provide information regarding compliance with the IDCP directly to NMFS on an annual basis or may authorize the IATTC to release the information to NMFS in years when NMFS will review and consider whether to issue an affirmative finding determination without an application from the harvesting nation.

An affirmative finding will be terminated, in consultation with the Secretary of State, if the Assistant Administrator determines that the requirements of 50 CFR 216.24(f) are no longer being met or that a nation is consistently failing to take enforcement actions on violations, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the IDCP. Every 5 years, the government of the harvesting nation must request an affirmative finding and submit the

required documentary evidence directly to the Assistant Administrator.

As a part of the annual review process set forth in 50 CFR 216.24(f), the Assistant Administrator considered documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Mexico or obtained from the IATTC and the Department of State and determined that Mexico has met the MMPA's requirements to receive an affirmative finding.

After consultation with the Department of State, NMFS renewed the Government of Mexico's affirmative finding allowing the continued importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna and products derived from yellowfin tuna harvested in the ETP by Mexican-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Mexican jurisdiction.

The Government of Mexico must submit a new application in early 2005 for an affirmative finding to be effective for the period April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006, and the subsequent 4 years.

Dated: July 30, 2004.

John Oliver,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operation, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04-18053 Filed 8-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080304A]

Draft NOAA Shrimp Issues and Options Paper Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is hosting public meetings to present the results of an analysis of different options and alternatives that may help resolve current financial and market industry challenges. The analysis was developed at the request of the shrimp industry and other interested parties. The options will be presented in their entirety and the results from those that could be analyzed will be presented. Public comment on the analysis will be taken at the meetings. See **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** for specific dates, times and locations of the meetings.

DATES: The meetings held on Monday August 23-24, are scheduled to start at

11:30 a.m. on the 23rd and end at noon on the 24th. The meeting held on August 25th is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. The meeting held on August 27th is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. The meeting held on August 28th is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Another meeting will be scheduled for September in New Orleans, LA.

ADDRESSES: The meetings August 23-24 will be held at the Holiday Inn Houston Intercontinental Airport, 15222 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Houston, TX 77032; 281-449-2311; the meeting August 25th will be held at the Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport, 4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL; 813-873-8675; the meeting August 27th will be held at the Embassy Suites Airport-Convention Center, 5055 International Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418; 843-747-1882; the meeting August 28th will be held at the New Bern Sheraton, 100 Middle Street, New Bern, NC 28560; 252-638-3585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gordon J. Helm, Deputy Director, Office of Constituent Services. Telephone (301) 713-2379.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary goal of the meeting is to present the analysis and collect public input on the DRAFT shrimp industry issues and options included in the paper. Copies of the DRAFT paper will be available at the meetings and will also be available online beginning 11 a.m. EST August 23, 2004, at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter. Those interested in obtaining a copy after the meetings may contact Dr. John Ward, Economist. Telephone (301) 713-2379.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dr. John Ward at (301) 713-2379 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 3, 2004.

Gordon J. Helm,

Deputy Director, Office of Constituent Services, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072904C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1054-1731

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the University of Florida, Aquatic Animal Program, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2015 SW 16th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32610 (Dr. Ruth Frances-Floyd, Principal Investigator), has been issued a permit to import and export marine mammal specimens for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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:

Amy Sloan or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 30, 2004, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 25374) that a request for a scientific research permit to import and export marine mammal species under NMFS jurisdiction had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The Holder is authorized to receive, import, and export marine mammal specimens for research on diseases in marine mammals. Infectious disease investigations include viral pathogens such as West Nile virus, St. Louis Encephalitis virus, herpes virus, and pox viruses. Other projects include