

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek 12/02/2002
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for approval of a new information collection received on 10/03/2002.

TITLE: Economic Data Collection for the Trap Fishery in the U.S. Caribbean

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0464

EXPIRATION DATE: 12/31/2005

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	0	0	0
New	100	150	0
Difference	100	150	0
Program Change		150	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
9. Keywords	10. Abstract
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Economic Data Collection for the Trap Fishery in the U.S. Caribbean

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

There is a growing recognition that fishing with traps harms coral reef habitats. Various studies have shown that a large percentage of traps are placed haphazardly on coral reefs habitats resulting in breaks, scrapes, and tissue damage to hard corals and gorgonians. In addition to physically damaging the hard corals and gorgonians, traps target various over-exploited reef fish species, which further threaten the health and stability of coral reef habitats. Reef-fish species are particularly vulnerable to harvesting pressure because of their life history characteristics, which include sedentary behavior, slow growth, and delayed reproduction.

To protect coral reef habitats and ensure the sustainable use reef fish resources, the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) is considering implementing new conservation and management policies that call for limiting the total number of traps in the fishery. Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), CFMC is required to assess, specify and describe the likely effects of proposed regulations on fishermen and their communities. In deciding among management and conservation alternatives the CFMC is required to consider, *inter alia*, “historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery, the economics of the fishery, the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries, and the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities”. In addition, Executive Order 12,866 requires regional fishery management councils to conduct an economic analysis of the benefits and costs to society of each of the regulatory options. To the extent possible any changes in regulation should be quantified in terms of net national benefits, the effects on various user groups, and the effect on small business entities.

The goal of the proposed survey is to gather socioeconomic information on the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix) trap fishery to support the management and conservation efforts of the CFMC. The information collected will be used to satisfy regulatory objectives and analytical requirements, and to assist the CFMC in selecting policies that meet conservation and management goals and minimize to the extent possible any adverse economic impacts on fishery participants. The need for socioeconomic information and the authorization to collect these data are found in the MSFCMA (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and Executive Order 12,866. The MSFCMA establishes that the nation's fisheries should be "conserved and maintained so as to provide optimum yields on a continuing basis". Also, eight of the ten National Standards under the MSFCMA, which provide guidance to the regional fishery management councils, have implications for economic analyses. Under section 303 (a) (9) of the MSFCMA, a fishery management plan must include a Fishery Impact Statement (FIS), which assesses, specifies, and describes the likely effects of the conservation and management measures on participants in the fisheries being managed, fishing communities dependent on these

fisheries, and participants in fisheries in adjacent areas. As mentioned above, Executive Order 12,866 requires an economic analysis of the benefits and costs to society of each regulatory alternatives considered by the regional fishery management councils, and a determination of whether the rule is significant. Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the Small Business Administration needs a determination of whether a proposed rule has a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities that are to be directly regulated. For RFA purposes, a change in short-term accounting profits is an important criterion to determine significant economic impacts for small entities. The analysis for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) involves a determination of whether Federal actions significantly affect the human environment. This requires a number of different types of economic analyses including the impact on entities that are directly regulated and those that are indirectly impacted.

The absence of economic data is the main obstacle for satisfying the various regulatory requirements mentioned above. In the U.S. Caribbean most of what is available in terms of costs and returns data is revenue (price) information. Price information is only collected by Puerto Rico. Neither Puerto Rico nor U.S. Virgin Islands collect any variable or fixed cost information. Commercial catch reports collect landings, effort, and gear type information. Without additional data collections, regulatory proposals will continue to be hindered in the future. Detailed socio-economic data on capital investment (i.e., vessel and traps), variable costs (i.e., fuel, bait, labor), fixed costs (i.e., insurance, dockage) and demographic information (i.e., age, number of dependents, income derived from trapping, etc.) is sorely needed. The proposed data collection will partially fill the “economic data” void in the region. In-person interviews will be used to gather economic and socio-demographic information needed to evaluate the various conservation and management proposals. Survey information will be linked to existing commercial databases to develop suitable models to examine economic consequences diverse trap reduction alternatives.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.

A one-time survey will be used to collect socioeconomic data on the U.S. Caribbean trap fishery. A private contractor will be used to conduct in-person interviews.¹ Names, addresses, and phone numbers from a stratified random sample of commercial trap fishermen will be provided to the contractor. There will be three strata, which include Puerto Rico, St Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix. One hundred (100) interviews will be completed in total: sixty (60) in Puerto Rico, twenty (20) in St. Thomas/St. John, and twenty (20) in St. Croix.

The information sought will be used by the NMFS social scientists for descriptive and analytical purposes. The survey will not only collect social and demographic information but will also collect economic data, which otherwise would be unavailable. While Puerto Rico’s Department of Natural and Environmental Resources periodically conducts fishermen census, which collects information on number of active fishermen, hours fished, species targeted, vessel characteristics, and gears used, the Puerto Rican fishermen census data is too general to characterize the trap fishery. Furthermore, the Puerto Rican fishermen census does not collect economic information,

¹ Thomas J. Murray & Associates, Inc. PO Box 1083, Gloucester Point, Virginia, 23062-1083.

which precludes their use for regulatory (economic) analyses.² For this reason, one of the main objectives of the proposed survey is to collect economic data for the elaboration of models that quantify the economic impacts of management proposals, specifically a trap reduction plan.

The proposed questionnaire has eight sections. The first section will collect demographic information on fishermen and their household. In this section we will elicit information on the fisherman's age, number of family members that he/she supports, years of formal education, years of commercial fishing experience, primary landing dock, percentage of income derived from commercial fishing, catch disposition, and participation and revenue generated from non-fishing activities. The second section will gather information on annual catch and average output prices by gear types. Section three will ask about fishing practices and trap usage. Specifically, we will inquire about the number of traps fished last year, number of traps built last year, average trap's life span, average number of trips taken per week, number of traps pulled per trip, duration of fishing trip, soak time, etc. The fourth section will collect trip level information on revenue and variable expenditures such as fuel, oil, ice, bait, supplies, and labor, and the fifth section will inquire about the fishermen's participation in fishing and non-fishing activities throughout the year.

The sixth section will collect information on capital investment and its value. In this section we will inquire about the vessel size, vessel age, hull type, engine horsepower, number and type of traps as well as the value of the vessel, traps, and other miscellaneous equipment. The seventh section will collect information on fixed costs, which include docking fees, vessel mortgage payments, vessel insurance payments, and vessel and equipment maintenance and repair expenditures. The last section will collection information on fishermen's business motivations and reasons for certain fishing practices (e.g., factors that affect trap usage, reasons for not fishing ideal number of traps) as well as likely behavioral responses to trap plan (e.g., changes in soak time, gear switching, etc.) Finally, we ask fishermen to describe the spatial distribution of their traps.

The purpose of the first section is to provide background demographic information and to determine which factors affect the fisherman's opportunity cost. Demographic questions are necessary because they allow fishery managers to determine which communities will likely get affected the most by the proposed management and conservation measures. As noted earlier, the MSFCMA requires councils considering limited access regimes to take into account, among other things, historical and present participation in the fishery, dependence on the fishery, capability of fishing vessels to switch into other fisheries, and cultural and social characteristics of the fishery and any impacted fishing community. In addition, to providing demographic information this section will also provide information of the fisherman's opportunity cost. Fisherman's opportunity cost is defined as the forgone income for not undertaking the next best employment alternative. Information on opportunity costs is essential since it allows the estimation of (economic) profits. Economic profit is equal to the total revenue minus the opportunity cost. Factors such as age, education, number of dependents, family history in the fishery and other sources of income are important determinants of the fishermen's opportunity

² The US Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife plans to conduct their first fishermen census sometime in late 2002 or early 2003. Unfortunately, the format of the proposed census will be similar to the Puerto Rican census, precluding its use for developing economic models.

cost since the influence fishermen decision to participate in the fishing industry as opposed to other non-fishing related industries.

The intention of section two is to determine the revenue breakdown by the main species and by the main gear types. The data collected will not only help to categorize the fishermen's (fish) targeting behavior and their dependence on the trap gear but will also permit the estimation of forgone revenues due to input controls (i.e., trap limits). The purpose of section three is to provide data on fishing activities. Information on the number of trips taken, the number of traps fished and their soak time is necessary to develop production functions, which explain the relationship between inputs and outputs.

The aim of section four is to collect information on variable costs. Economists usually distinguish between variable and fixed costs. Variable costs correspond to input expenditures that vary with harvest levels such as fuel, bait, and ice. Variable cost data is useful to determine profit maximizing effort levels. In contrast, fixed costs refer to those input expenditures that do not change with fishing intensity. These costs may include such items such as docking fees and vessel insurance. Data on variable costs as well as revenue is necessary to determine the firm's profitability. In addition, to performing a financial analysis, variable cost information can be used to estimate relative profitability of fishing alternatives in response to new regulations. Knowledge on rent differentials is important since it helps to develop models that explain switching behavior and effort distribution among gear/fisheries types.

Section five expands our understanding of fisherman's opportunity cost because it provides an intra-annual picture of the available employment opportunities. As we noted earlier, fisherman's opportunity cost is defined as the forgone income for not undertaking the next best employment alternative. In addition to obtaining better estimates of economic profit, detailed seasonal information on fishermen's activities could improve managers' decision-making. From key informants, we know that many fishermen work in construction for a few months to pay for social security. Thus, if managers were to impose a closed season, thorough information on fishermen's seasonal participation in fishing and non-fishing activities could be used to select the appropriate season and season length as to minimize adverse economic impacts on the industry.

The sixth section asks about fisherman's capital investment and its value. Besides providing valuable descriptive information, data on vessel and equipment characteristics and usage will help to explain profitability and productivity differences among fishermen. Variables such as vessel size, horsepower, number of traps and electronic equipment are important determinants of revenue and productivity since they enhance fishermen's ability to locate and catch fish more swiftly. Detailed knowledge of capital investment will not only help us understand how the different trap reduction schemes will affect fisherman's bottom line but will also help us understand their (fishery) entry-exit behavior decisions (see below). Last, a capital investment inventory will provide useful information on the level of capacity utilization in the fishery.

The seventh section inquires about annual fixed costs. As noted above, fixed costs refer to those input expenditures that do not change with fishing intensity. Fishermen always have these costs regardless whether they fish or not. Knowledge of fixed costs is important because it determines whether a fisherman will remain in the fishery or exit the fishery. In general, regulations force

fishermen engage in more costly (or less productive) fishing practices, which reduce their profitability. Fishermen who cannot consistently cover their fixed costs will go out of business. In addition, to determining who exits the fishery fixed costs provide insight into who may enter the fishery. Fishermen who enter the fishery not only need to cover their opportunity cost but also need to pay off the cost of fishing capital (vessel and equipment). This information is critical since fishermen's participation in the fishery is not only driven by the difference between revenues and its opportunity cost but also by fishermen's ability to repay the fishing vessel and equipment.

The last section will gather information on fishermen's business motivations, reasons for certain fishing practices and likely behavioral responses to trap reduction alternatives. Given the likely heterogeneity in socio-economic background and fishing practices, we may expect that fishermen may react differently to the same management alternative. For example, if managers were to reduce the number of traps by 30%, some fishermen may increase the total number of days fished, while others may switch to other fisheries, yet others may even exit commercial fishing altogether. The ability to link socio-economic characteristics with their behavioral response will allow us to develop richer behavioral models to better predict future participation in the fishery.

Before moving to the next section, it is important to note that while the survey asks detailed questions about costs, experience has shown that most fishermen have a good recollection of operating costs because they tend to replicate the usage and purchase of basic inputs when planning for a fishing trip. The survey will not explicitly ask for cost and revenue information but rather for output and input quantities and output and input prices, which will allow us to calculate costs and revenues. This information should be easily recalled. Information on fixed costs and numbers of trips may be more difficult to recall. To facilitate recollection, our contractor will call fishermen to set appointments and inform them about the type of information we intend to collect. This process will allow fishermen to review their records if necessary. While a small percentage of fishermen may have trouble recollecting some of the information, we don't expect that memory (measurement) errors to be significant. Greene's *Econometric Analysis* (2000) discusses how to statistically deal with measurement errors in a regression setting. As noted earlier, the proposed data collection will play a useful role in satisfying the various regulatory requirements given the absence of economic data in the region.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The proposed survey will use in-person interviews to collect the socio-economic data sought. In-person interviews are more versatile and less burdensome than mail and/or electronic questionnaires since they do not require the interviewees to reference their business records. Also, electronic data collection methods such as email and/or Internet based questionnaires may be unsuitable given the limited access to these technologies in some of the islands. We believe that requiring the use of automated electronic technologies will be burdensome because it would force some of fishermen to travel to distant locations where these information technologies are available. In addition, it would require many Spanish-speaking fishermen to

learn English commands to operate these technologies. These activities will likely disrupt these fishermen's day-to-day fishing operations. The data collected will not be available to the public over the Internet since it is confidential.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Three groups were identified that have collected or plan to collect information about the trap fishery in US Caribbean waters: 1) the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, 2) US Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, and 3) a research group studying the effects of traps on coral habitats. While they target the same pool of potential respondents, these programs gathered or plan to gather substantially different kinds of data.

The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (Fisheries Research Laboratory) periodically conducts fishermen censuses in Puerto Rico for local management purposes. The Fisheries Research Lab collects information on the fishermen (e.g., name, age, address), vessel characteristics (e.g., vessel length, horsepower, number of engines), number and description of gears used, catch handling, and perceptions of resource status. The census targets the fishermen universe regardless of the gear they use. The Puerto Rico survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. The next Puerto Rican fishermen census is planned to begin on July-August of 2002. The survey is expected to last 3-4 months.

The U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) Department of Planning and Natural Resources (Division of Fish and Wildlife) has recently requested funds to begin conducting a fishermen census. Since funds were only released in late June, we expect that, the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Fish and Wildlife will begin surveying in late 2002/early 2003. While the final format of the U.S. Virgin Island fishermen census is not yet complete, the preliminary drafts suggest that it will collect similar information to the Puerto Rican census. The objective of both of these surveys is to describe the universe of fishermen to assist local fishery managers in tracking changes in fishing effort. The information collected on fishermen and their fishing operations does not contain economic data, which limits its contribution to economic analysis of regulatory actions as mandated by MSFCMA.

The third effort results from a research project being conducted cooperatively by NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Galveston lab), the Florida Marine Research Institute, the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez (Department of Marine Sciences), and the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (Division of Fish and Wildlife). The objective of the project is to comprehensively evaluate the physical effects of traps on coral reef habitats as part of the MSFCMA essential fish habitat mandate. The goal is to use standardized research techniques to compare the effects of trap fishing in the Florida Keys, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, using marine reserves as controls. NMFS' role is to develop standard field methods to be employed by the research partners in each locale and coordinate the analysis and dissemination of research results. The project generally consists of random boat surveys in trap-fishing areas followed by diver assessments of trap damage to corals and other structural organisms. In order to guide the selection of appropriate sample areas, local partners (a.k.a., University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez and the USVI Department of Fish and Wildlife) required

knowledge of trap distribution and chose to query fishermen about their trap placement. This non-random voluntary survey asked trap fishermen about their fishing practices (e.g., fishing areas, depths fished, target species, spatial and temporal trap movement, changes in trap usage over time) and their knowledge of habitat distributions. Researchers from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez surveyed approximately 45 fishermen in Puerto Rico between January 2002 and April 2002. Personnel from the USVI Department of Fish and Wildlife interviewed approximately 20 fishermen in St Thomas/St. John, and 10 fishermen in St. Croix between November 2001 and March 2002. The average survey lasted between 15-20 minutes. The survey did not collect any socio-economic information.

To try to minimize the burden on fishermen, we evaluated ways to combine these surveys. Different time frames,³ different information needs, and different analytical necessities prohibited us from conducting our survey in conjunction with any of the other efforts. The UPRM/USVI trap distribution surveys were a tool to define trap-fishing areas for experimental design and were needed in order to begin fieldwork in a timely fashion. Our process required additional planning and (survey) testing that could not be accomplished in their time frame. In terms of information needs, the socio-economic information currently sought is significantly different from the UPRM/USVI surveys. The socio-economic survey will collect demographic and economic information (e.g., age, income, household characteristics, variable and fixed costs, capital investments, etc.) not available elsewhere. Without the socio-economic data we could not develop the appropriate models to evaluate the economic impact of trap reduction proposals. For statistical validity our sampling must include randomization. Even though some of the questions are similar (e.g., species sought, trap ownership and usage), the non-random nature of the UPRM/USVI data collection restricts its usefulness in our efforts. Although there is a slight possibility of overlap or duplication with some trap fishers, given the non-random nature of the UPRM/USVI and the time lag between the surveys we decided not to remove the earlier respondents from the sampling universe.

We've arranged access to the UPRM/USVI data and, combined with our socio-economic survey, we should have a more encompassing picture of the fishery. For example, the trap distribution survey collected detailed information on fishermen's (fish) targeting behavior and how this in turn affects their seasonal fishing locations. Although this high level of biological detail was outside the scope of the socio-economic survey, the detailed biological data could prove useful in development of future bioeconomic models. We trust that detailed biological information coupled with our economic survey and analysis will enhance CFMC decision-making by

³ Researchers from the Galveston lab contacted us in September 2001 to inquire about the possibility of combining the research partners' information needs with the socio-economic survey. Unfortunately, our time frame was not suitable for the cooperative research group since their information was needed immediately to plan and organize field research. The USVI Dept. of Fish and Wildlife intended to begin sampling in November 2001 and the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez researchers intended to begin sampling in January 2002. Fieldwork was initiated in USVI waters in January 2002 and in Puerto Rico in February 2002 and will continue each month hence as part of a multi-year research effort. At the time we were contacted, we were in the early planning stages of our economic survey. It was not until November 2, 2001 when we first met with the contractor to discuss the project milestones, survey questions and format, and logistics. During this meeting we also acknowledged the need for having scoping meetings and (survey) pre-testing sessions to design and test the survey instrument. These additional meetings were planned for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands between January 2002 and March-April 2002. Our expectation was to begin our socio-economic survey sometime in the late Summer/early Fall of 2002.

allowing them to explicitly consider how reducing the number of traps impacts fishermen's targeting behavior and trap usage, which in turn affects the health of essential fish habitats.

After comparing the proposed socio-economic survey with the periodic Puerto Rican and planned USVI fishermen censuses, we feel that there is very little duplication. In fact, we believe that the proposed survey would complement the existing data collection mechanisms in a number of ways. First, the socio-economic survey would collect detailed trap-specific socio-demographic background information not sought by the fishermen census. The existing census data is too generic to determine fishermen's and their household's dependence on the trap fishery. Furthermore, the fishermen census would allow us to better understand what the trap fisherman's opportunity cost is. The opportunity cost captures the benefits forgone of not undertaking their most profitable alternative. This information is very useful since it can be used to predict fishermen's likely response to different management proposals. Second, the socio-economic survey will collect detailed information on variable and fixed costs, none of which are collected. The availability of detailed cost information will help us to evaluate the financial performance of the trap fleet. Third, the socio-economic survey will provide fitting information for modeling the likely behavioral response to different trap reduction schemes. For example, will a 30% reduction in their trap allocation result in fishermen switching to other fisheries or exiting fishing altogether? Unfortunately, the appropriate information to develop behavioral models is not available from the existing fishermen census data. Last, the socio-economic survey would provide a clearer picture of the fishery since the socio-economic survey information then could then be linked to the trip ticket system and used to develop more comprehensive economic models. These models could not only be used to estimate welfare losses of different trap reduction proposals (and predict the likely response of fishermen to these proposals), but may also prove useful to analyze other fisheries since some of the "trap" trips are multi-gear trips. That is, fishermen not only haul traps during these trips but may also tend other gears as well.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Fishermen census data suggests that most trap vessels are owner or family operated small businesses. Several steps have been taken to minimize the burden to these small businesses. First, the NMFS will provide the contractor with list of random trap fishermen. Fishermen not selected in the sample will not be contacted to participate in the survey. Second, the survey will be voluntary. Trap fishermen who do not wish to participate in the survey can choose not to partake. Third, surveys will be modified slightly to account for regional (strata) differences. The private contractor will work with local authorities to ensure that the wording facilitates understanding and reflects local idioms. Furthermore, surveys will be available in English and Spanish to further reduce any burden to non-English speaking fishermen. Last, interviewers will conduct their surveys at times and places that are convenient to fishermen. This will minimize any potential disruption to fishermen's fishing practices.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

The proposed socio-economic survey will collect demographic and cost information about the trap fishery. If these data were collected less frequently or not at all, then CFMC would not be able to adequately satisfy the various National Standards of the MSFCMA. These standards require regional fishery management councils to establish conservation and management measures which take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to provide sustained fishing community participation and to minimize, to the extent possible, adverse economic impacts on such communities. Furthermore, National Standards require the regional fishery management councils to establish conservation and management measures using the best available information.

The absence of detailed socio-economic information would prevent the identification of communities dependent on the trap fishery and the estimation of any adverse economic impacts on the trap dependent fishing communities. Management proposals would continue to be debated without sound information. Another consequence of not having the appropriate economic data could be court challenges on the grounds of inadequate analysis. Last, the collection of detailed socio-economic data will, allow fishery managers to make timely and better-informed decisions by having the best scientific information available.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

There are no special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and record-keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A notice was published in the *Federal Registry* on Tuesday, November 20, 2001 (Vol. 66, No. 224, pp. 58120-58121) soliciting public comments regarding the data collection process. Claudette C. Lewis, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Government of the US Virgin Islands provided one comment. Ms. Lewis' letter expressed concern over the fact that trap fishermen maybe overwhelmed by the number of surveys conducted (three within a year). She also noted that there should have been better collaboration between the different projects as to minimize any burden on fishermen.

Below find Ms. Lewis' letter

December 7, 2001

Ms. Madeleine Clayton
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6086
14th and Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Clayton:

This is in response to a notice in the Federal Register (Vol. 66, No. 224, I.D. 111401A) regarding NOAA's proposed information collection; comment request; economic data collection for the trap fishery in the U.S. Caribbean.

Over the last few months, we have learned about various efforts to collect data on the U.S. Virgin Islands commercial fishers. We applaud these efforts. The more complete information available, the better the basis for any future management actions.

However, we are becoming concerned about the number of fisher surveys planned or now on-going in the U.S. Virgin Islands. At this time, we are assisting NOAA/NMFS with a trap survey project. This project includes interviews with 20 fishers in St. Thomas/St. John, and 10 fishers in St. Croix. It also includes visually inspecting traps on the bottom to determine the extent of the damage to corals and other benthic habitats.

In the Federal Register (see above), a second NOAA/NMFS survey of trap fishers is proposed. This one is a socio-economic survey of select trap fishers, 20 in St. Thomas/St. John and 20 in St. Croix. Earlier we had suggested to NOAA/NMFS that these two trap fisher surveys be combined. They were not combined.

Also, recently there has been discussion about a proposed commercial fisher census here in the U.S. Virgin Islands. This will be done by NOAA/NMFS through a contractor. I understand from the Caribbean Fishery Management Council staff that this may occur early next year.

It appears that over the next few months our local commercial fishers will be overwhelmed with surveys. Local commercial trap fishers will be surveyed by NOAA/NMFS three times in the coming months. As you are aware, survey respondents are not paid for participation. They take time out of their work.

Studies and surveys are essential tools for monitoring the fisheries. However, surveys should be combined whenever possible so that a balance can be attained between the need for information, the condition of the stocks, and the burden on user groups.

Sincerely,

Claudette C. Lewis
Executive Assistant Commissioner

The response to Ms. Lewis comments is as follows:

April 26, 2002

Ms. Claudette C. Lewis
Executive Assistant Commissioner
Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
6291 Estate Nazareth, 101
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-1104

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I thank you for taking the time to comment on our proposal to collect socio-economic information from commercial trap fishermen. I fully understand and share your concerns regarding the need to strike a balance between the need for information and the reporting burden imposed on user groups.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has been working with the Caribbean Fishery Management Council to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to address the need to protect and, when necessary, rebuild marine resources in the U.S. Caribbean. Most regulatory proposals will likely generate economic losses for fishermen, at least in the short term. The U.S. Caribbean suffers from an acute lack of fisheries economic data, which prevents not only the quantification of the economic impacts of different management proposals but also limits the Caribbean Fishery Management Council's ability to identify the superior conservation and management alternative. For this reason, we believe our proposed data collection will enable us to fill some of the data gaps the U.S. Caribbean region has traditionally had and better quantify the likely economic effects of various conservation and management proposals regarding the trap fishery. It is our contention that the reporting burden imposed by the socio-economic survey will be far out-weighed by the benefits of having better information.

You specifically mentioned the problem of three surveys within a relatively short period of time, and suggested that one or more of them should be combined whenever possible to reduce reporting burden on the respondents. Although the surveys will be collecting different kinds of information, they will be sampling from approximately the same population of fishermen. Therefore, I agree that the project managers should work together as closely as possible. Ours will be the second of the three surveys. Unfortunately, the timing of the first survey was such that it was not possible to combine it with our data collection. The third survey is scheduled later this year, and we will work as closely as possible to coordinate with it.

I would like to describe the problem of timing between the first survey and our socio-economic survey. NMFS scientists based in Galveston are working cooperatively with the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez and the U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife, to study the physical effects of traps on coral reef habitats. As part of that project, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez and the U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife chose to survey fishermen about their trap placement to guide the selection of appropriate sample areas. In September 2001, NMFS scientists from the Galveston laboratory first contacted us to inquire about the possibility of coordinating the USVI and Puerto Rico surveys in order to minimize reporting burden on fishermen. We were selecting our contractor at this time and did not expect to begin field interviews until the late summer or early fall of 2002. The Puerto Rico and USVI could not wait for us because the data from their surveys were needed to define trap fishing areas for the experimental design of the cooperative Galveston Lab-Puerto Rico-USVI study of the effects of traps on coral reef habitats. We could not meet their schedule because our survey required questionnaire development, pre-testing and OMB approval that could not be accomplished in their time frame.

The third survey will be a fishery census to be conducted in Puerto Rico by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources Fisheries Research Laboratory and in the U.S. Virgin Islands by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The census in Puerto Rico is expected to begin in April and continue for 3 or 4 months. Its objective is to enumerate participation in the commercial fisheries of Puerto Rico, count numbers of fishing gear, and describe changes in fishing effort that have occurred since the last census in 1995-1996. We inquired about the possibility of combining our socio-economic survey with the fisheries census effort in Puerto Rico. However, Puerto Rican officials expressed some concern at using their port agents to collect sensitive socio-economic data such as income, and felt that the participation of their port agents in our survey could potentially strain their working relationship with the industry.

The U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife has requested funding to conduct a similar census of USVI fishermen. While funds have not yet been secured, we expect that, if approved, the census would begin in late 2002 or early 2003. We plan to inquire about coordinating our survey with the fishery census of USVI fishermen if funding is secured.

Thank you once again for offering your comments on our proposed data collection effort. We appreciate your concerns, and hope we have addressed them adequately. Please feel free to contact me at 252-728-8710 or by e-mail at Jim.Waters@noaa.gov if you wish to discuss them further. I apologize for the delay in responding to your concerns, but your letter apparently was delayed in delivery by the extra security measures taken in Washington, D.C. in regards to the anthrax tainted letters discovered in their postal system.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Waters
Project Manager

Center of Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research
101 Pivers Island Road
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516

8b) Results of consultations with persons outside the agency:

In January 2002, the private contractor conducted two (2) workshops in the U.S. Caribbean (Puerto Rico (1), and U.S. Virgin Islands (1)). The objective of the workshops was to explain the objectives of the survey to members of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, local fisheries authorities and local fishermen and to obtain fishermen's input in the design and formulation of the data collection forms. The end product of the workshops was a pilot questionnaire. This pilot questionnaire was then refined through a series of consultations between the contractor and NMFS staff. This revised survey questionnaire will be submitted to OMB for final approval.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts will be provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance or confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Survey respondents will be advised that any information provided will be considered private and will be treated as confidential in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidential Fisheries Statistics. It is Agency's policy not to release confidential data, other than in aggregate form, as the MSFMCA protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those submitting data. Whenever data are requested, the Agency will ensure that information identifying the pecuniary business activity of a particular individual is not identified. Only group averages or group totals will be presented in any reports, publications, or oral presentations of the study's results.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No questions will be asked about sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, or other similar matters of a personal and sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

An experienced private contractor will conduct the voluntary, one-time, and in-person interviews using the OMB approved questionnaires. The statistical design calls for 100 surveys in three different locations. These locations include Puerto Rico (60), St. Thomas/St. John (20), and St.

Croix, (20). We estimated that, on average, 1.5 hours are needed to complete the survey. Based on the above information, the estimated total number of burden hours is 150 (see table below).

	Burden hours
Number of Respondents	100
Number of Responses per respondent	1
Time per interview (hours)	1.5
Total Burden (hours)	150

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection.

Other than labor costs, the survey does not impose any costs to the respondents. This voluntary in-person survey will be conducted in the field.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

A private contractor at a cost of \$ 66,290 will perform the data collection. The costs include the development of survey instrument, training interviewers, printing of forms, data collection and processing, quality control, data entry and supervision. Additional federal costs include the time of NMFS staff. The NMFS staff will be responsible for developing and administering the contract and collaborating with the development of the survey.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I

The program change is for the collection of new socio-economic data.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The results from the proposed data collection are not planned for statistical publication. Data will be used to describe the economic performance of the trap fishery and to evaluate proposed regulatory actions. Descriptive and analytical reports will include summaries of data and will not release or reveal confidential information.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

The OMB control number and expiration date will be displayed.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used.

The sample of trap fishermen was determined from trip ticket information collected by the Puerto Rico’s Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and U.S. Virgin Islands’ Department of Planning and Natural Resources. In the case of Puerto Rico we used data from 2000 and in the case of USVI we used the data from 2000-2001. In USVI, the fishing year starts in June and finishes in May of the following year. The years chosen corresponded to the most recent and reasonably complete datasets available.

The population of licensed trap fishermen consists of 682 license holders that reported having taken at least one fishing trip during the year. There were 597 license holders in the Puerto Rico, 50 license holders in St. Thomas/St. John and 35 license holders that reported in St. Croix. The statistical design calls for 100 random surveys in three areas (Table 1). These areas include Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. John, and St. Croix. Drawing on the survey experience of our contractor, we conservatively estimated that 75% of the respondents in Puerto Rico and 60% of the respondents in U.S. Virgin Islands would participate in this voluntary survey.

Area	Population Size	Survey Sample	Expected Response Rate	Target Number of Surveys per Strata
Puerto Rico	597	80	0.75	60
St. Thomas & St. John	50	34	0.60	20
St. Croix	35	34	0.60	20
Total	682			100

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection, the estimation procedure, the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification, any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and any specific use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

A stratified random sampling design will be used. The survey will include three different geographical strata (Puerto Rico, St. Thomas & St. John, and St. Croix). The stratification is

needed because 1) the fleet's economic performance is likely to vary geographically due to the spatial and temporal availability of various reef fish species, and 2) the proposed regulations could inadvertently marginalize or exclude some of the user groups.

To minimize the burden on fishermen, a list containing a random sample of the trap fishermen for each stratum will be provided to our contractor. The list will contain the following information: fisherman name, address, and phone number. About 148 names will be provided to take into account the possibility that some fishermen will decline to participate in this voluntary survey. Should a fisherman decline to participate in the survey, the contractor could then select an additional fisherman from the list until the survey goal for the given stratum is reached.

The data collected will be used for descriptive and analytical purposes. Descriptive uses include the estimation of average harvesting costs per trip and total harvesting costs for the fleet. The procedures for estimating harvesting costs in the sampling universe will be based on the standard equations available in various statistical texts such as Thompson (1992).⁴ For a description of analytical purposes the reader is directed to section A.2.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a specialized justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Several steps will be taken to maximize the response rates. First, NMFS will provide an updated list of trap fishermen to ensure that only active trap fishermen are contacted for an interview. Second, trained interviewers will conduct their in-person surveys at times and places that are convenient to fishermen. This will minimize any potential disruption to fishermen's fishing practices. Third, our contractor will work with local authorities to ensure that the wording facilitates understanding and reflects local idioms. Last, surveys will be available in English and Spanish to further reduce any burden to non-English speaking fishermen.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

As part of the contract, the contractor is required to develop of pilot survey following a series of workshop sessions, with trap fishermen, CFCM representatives, and local authorities. After developing the pilot questionnaire, the contractor is required to pre-test the pilot in the field with 9 or less fishermen. The objective of the pre-test is to make the questions clearer and easier to complete.

⁴ Thompson, Steven K., 1992. Sampling. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 343 p.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Drs. James Waters and Juan Agar, industry economists employed by the NMFS, identified the sampling universe to be studied and prepared the sampling design.⁵ NMFS economists and the CFMC staff will use the data for regulatory analysis.

⁵James R. Waters, National Marine Fisheries Service, Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, NC 28516. Telephone: 252-728-8710.

Hello, I am _____ of T.J. Murray & Associates, an independent economic consulting firm. We are conducting a survey of commercial trap fishermen on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

These data will be used to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the trap fishery and to develop economic models of the trap fishery. The authorization to collect socio-economic data is found in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and Executive Order 12,866. The NMFS requires this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. Your input will help to identify potential socio-economic effects of future fishery management regulations.

Your name was randomly selected from a list of license holders who fish with traps. Information submitted will be treated as confidential in accordance with Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, "Confidentiality of Fishery Statistics". It is Agency's policy not to release confidential data, other than in aggregate form, as the MSFMCA protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those submitting data. Whenever data are requested, the Agency will ensure that information identifying the pecuniary business activity of a particular individual is not identified. Only group averages or group totals will be presented in any reports, publications, or oral presentations of the study's results. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

The survey is voluntary, but we encourage you to participate. We need your answers. Fishermen like yourself, who have a vital stake in the way fishery decisions are made, can provide valuable information to evaluate the economic impacts of various management options.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours per interview, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching the existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this burden to Robert Sadler, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33702.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The following questions are asked about you and the primary vessel that you use for fishing.

NAME _____

1) What is your age? _____

2) How many family members do you support (including yourself)?

Myself only 2 3 4 5 6 7 greater than 7

3) What is the last level of school you **completed**?

Grades: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Other: _____

4) How many years have you been a commercial fisherman (include years as a helper)? _____

5) How many years have you fished commercially with:

a) Fish traps? _____ years

b) Lobster traps? _____ years

6) Which port do you consider to be your primary dock or access port?

7) What approximate percentage of your total household income is derived from:

a) Commercial fishing _____ %

b) Fishing with fish traps _____ %

c) Fishing with lobster traps _____ %

8) What approximate percentage of your total catch do retain for personal or family use? _____ % lbs

9) What other paid employment do you have, if any, apart from commercial fishing, for example: construction, charter fishing, etc.?

a) Job 1 _____ # days/yr. _____ \$/day _____

b) Job 2 _____ # days/yr. _____ \$/day _____

c) Job 3 _____ # days/yr. _____ \$/day _____

ANNUAL CATCH INFORMATION

10) Please use the following table to determine your total catch and revenue last season with each gear type.

Total Catch and Average Price per Pound, By Type of Gear

Species	With Fish Traps		With Lobster Traps		With your Primary Other Gear (Please specify gear _____)	
	<i>Pounds Landed</i>	<i>Average Price</i>	<i>Pounds Landed</i>	<i>Average Price</i>	<i>Pounds Landed</i>	<i>Average Price</i>
Lobster						
Potfish						
Other Reef Fish						
Pelagics (mackerel, dolphin)						
Other Species						

TRAP INFORMATION

11) How many traps did you fish last season?

a) Fish Traps _____

b) Lobster Traps _____

12) How many traps do you build/buy per year?

a) Fish Traps _____

b) Lobster Traps _____

13) How long do traps last on average?

a) Fish Traps _____yrs

b) Lobster Traps _____yrs

14) What is the greatest number of traps your boat can normally carry per trip? # _____traps

15) Please describe your fishing activities on a typical trip last year. (*Only complete the columns that correspond to the types of fishing trips that you take.*)

	Trips with Fish Traps only	Trips with Lobster Traps only	Trips with both Fish and Lobster Traps
Number of traps pulled per trip			Fish: Lobs:
How long does it take to pull those traps (hrs)			
Total duration of each trip (hrs)			
Number of trips fished per week			
Days between pulls for each trap (soak time)			Fish: Lobs:
Number of traps on each trap line			

Page 6 - PR/US VI FISH TRAP SURVEY INSTRUMENT

BOAT INFORMATION

- 18) What is the length of your vessel? _____ft / m
- 19) What is the age of your vessel? _____ years
- 20) What is your hull material? _____
- 21) When was the last major renovation done?
a) Vessel _____ b) Engine _____
- 22) What is your engine type? (*circle one*)
INBOARD OUTBOARD Other _____
- 23) What is the age of your engine? _____ years
- 24) What is the total horsepower of your engine? _____hp
- 25) Which of the following equipment do you have on your vessel? (*circle all that apply*)
TRAP PULLER (Manual / Hydraulic / Other)
DEPTH RECORDER
GPS RADAR EPIRB
Other equipment (nets, reel, etc.) _____
- 26) Please provide your BEST ESTIMATE of the market value for the following items used for commercial fishing last season.
- a) #____vessel(s) and electronic equipment (fully rigged):
\$ _____
- b) Fish traps (complete with buoys,etc.):
i) Type_____ Number_____ \$ _____
ii) Type_____ Number_____ \$ _____
iii) Type_____ Number_____ \$ _____
- c) Lobster traps (complete with buoys, etc):
i) Type_____ Number_____ \$ _____
ii) Type_____ Number_____ \$ _____
iii) Type_____ Number_____ \$ _____
- d) Nets: Number_____ \$ _____
- e) Longline: Number_____ \$ _____
- f) Dive gear: \$ _____
- g) Other gear_____ \$ _____
- 27) How much do you owe on loans for vessel & gear? \$ _____

ANNUAL COSTS

28) Please provide your BEST ESTIMATE for the following annual cash expenses last calendar year:

- a) Docking/security fees: \$ _____
- b) Loan payments on vessel(s) and gear: \$ _____
- c) Maintenance and repairs on vessel(s) & gear: \$ _____
- d) Maintenance and repair on fish traps (wire, etc.) \$ _____
- e) Maintenance and repair on lobster traps (wire, etc.) \$ _____
- f) Helpers – approx. dollar amount you actually paid
\$ _____

(please indicate by checkmark how paid)

___% share, ___wages, ___bonuses, ___some combination)

- g) Other supplies \$ _____
- h) Licenses \$ _____
- i) Vessel Insurance \$ _____
- j) P& I insurance (including crew): \$ _____
- k) Other (for example trailer fee) \$ _____

FISH TRAP MANAGEMENT VIEWPOINT

29) If you were required to reduce your number of traps by _____ %, how would you react? (Please rank your most likely reaction with a 1 and least likely reaction with a 6)

Fishing Response	Rank	Follow up 1	Follow up 2
Will continue to fish as usual but with fewer traps (no change in number of trips, soak time, area fished, use of other gears or other employment).			By how much do you think your annual net revenues from fishing will change? _____ %
Will fish remaining traps more frequently or intensively.		How will you accomplish this? What would be your likely new soak time? _____	By how much do you think your annual net revenues from fishing will change? _____ %
Will be more selective about fishing areas		How will you accomplish this? How will move X # traps from habitat (a) _____ to habitat (b) _____ (habitat types: coral, sand, sea-grass, rubble) Or, would move # traps from <u>offshore</u> to <u>inshore</u>	By changing areas will this change your species mix too? By how much do you think your annual net revenues from fishing will change? _____ %
Will offset catch/revenue reduction by using other gears _____		How will you accomplish this? a) Take more trips w/ new gear (# _____ additional	By how much do you think your annual net revenues from fishing will change? _____ %

		trips/year) b) Combination of the above (# _____ additional trips/year and new soak time _____)	
Will stop using traps and use other gears _____		How many trips/yr would you take with gear type a? _____ How many trips would you take with gear type b? _____	By how much do you think your annual net revenues from fishing will change? _____ %
Will stop commercial fishing and do other work _____		What type of work? _____	Do you expect to earn more or less than you earn by fishing? _____ % more _____ % less

Page 9 - PR/US VI FISH TRAP SURVEY INSTRUMENT

FISH TRAP MANAGEMENT VIEWPOINT

30) During a year, what is your major business objective? (*Please indicate only ONE*)

Do you make decisions to maximize profit (revenue less costs)? _____

Do you make decisions to minimize costs? _____

Do you make decisions to maximize revenue? _____

If none of the above, what is your major objective? _____

31) What is the minimum number of crew you need per trip?

0 1 2 3 4 5 greater than 5

32) How many crewmembers do you normally take on a trip?

0 1 2 3 4 5 greater than 5

33) What is the maximum number of traps that you have fished?
_____traps

34) What is the maximum number that you could fish? _____

35) If you do not typically fish the maximum number of traps, what are your reasons (*please select all that apply*)?

a) _____Higher gear and operating costs

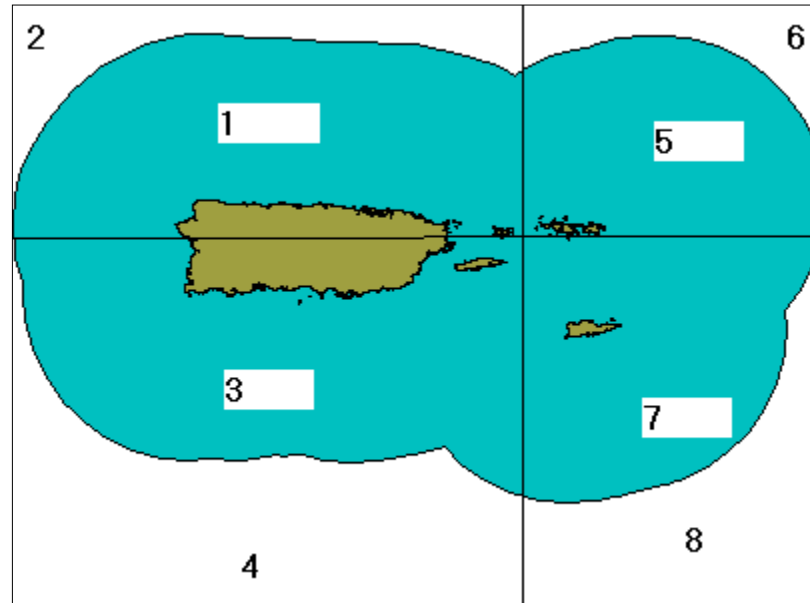
b) _____Unavailability of labor

c) _____Insufficient fish abundance

d) _____Market limitations

e) _____Other (_____)

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36) Please use the map above and the table below to estimate your total amount of catch harvested and total number of trips taken by one of the eight areas depicted in the map. Percent catch and trips must add up to 100% each. The boundaries of areas 2, 4, 6, and 8 are federal waters and extend outwards beyond the map.

PERCENT CATCH/TRIPS BY AREA									
Species	1 Catch/Trips	2 Catch/Trips	3 Catch/Trips	4 Catch/Trips	5 Catch/Trips	6 Catch/Trips	7 Catch/Trips	8 Catch/Trips	<u>TOTAL</u> Catch/Trips
a. Lobster									
b. Pot Fish									
c. Other Reef Fish									
d. Pelagics									
e. Others									
NOTE: Please state the percent catch by area AND the percent trips by area. If they are equal, then please state them as such.									

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Public Law 94-265

As amended through October 11, 1996

SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS 16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall--

(1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are--

(A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;

(B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and

(C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;

(2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;

(3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;

(4) assess and specify--

(A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),

(B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and

(C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States;

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, and charter fishing in the fishery, including, but not limited to, information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

(6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;

(7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;

(8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;

(9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--

(A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment; and

(B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants;

(10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;

(11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority--

(A) minimize bycatch; and

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--

- (A) present participation in the fishery,
- (B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,
- (C) the economics of the fishery,
- (D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,
- (E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and
- (F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and

(12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

97-453, 104-297

(c) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.--Proposed regulations which the Council deems necessary or appropriate for the purposes of--

(1) implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary simultaneously with the plan or amendment under section 304; and

(2) making modifications to regulations implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment may be submitted to the Secretary at any time after the plan or amendment is approved under section 304.

- Experience in executive level positions, such as CEO of U.S. companies;¹
- Experience doing business with or in Japan;
- Expertise in the topic to be considered by the Commission. In 2002, the topic will be “creating an environment for sustainable growth: Raising productivity and corporate revitalization;”
- Commitment to undertake any necessary preparatory work and to participate in any preparatory meetings and the Commission meeting itself;
- Commitment to assume the costs of travel, lodging and other personal expenses related to Commission participation;
- Contributions to membership diversity based on company size, type, and location; and
- Other considerations relevant to the Commission as described in the Annex to the U.S.-Japan Joint Statement by President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi on June 30, 2001.

Submission Procedures and Requirements

To be considered for membership, please provide a personal resume and materials that would identify the following: (1) Name and title of the individual requesting consideration; (2) name and address of the company where the candidate is employed; (3) company's product or service line; (4) company size (market capitalization, annual revenues, number of employees); (5) company's experience in Japan (exports, sales, employees, years in Japan); (6) why candidate wishes to be considered for the Commission; and (7) the particular sector of the business community the candidate would represent.

Third parties, such as trade associations and government officials, may nominate or endorse potential candidates, but candidates must submit their own letters to be considered for Commission membership. Referrals from political organizations and any references to political contributions or other partisan political activities will

¹ A U.S. company is defined in the Procedures and Rules for Industry Sector Advisory Committees as a firm incorporated in the United States (or an unincorporated U.S. firm with its principal places of business in the United States) that is controlled by U.S. citizens or by another U.S. entity. An entity is not a U.S. company if 50 percent plus one share of its stock (if a corporation, or a similar ownership interest of an unincorporated entity) is controlled, directly or indirectly, by non-U.S. citizens or non-U.S. entities. If the member is to represent an entity or corporation with 10 percent or greater non-U.S. ownership, the nominee must demonstrate at the time of nomination that this ownership interest does not constitute control and will not adversely affect his or her ability to serve on the Commission.

not be considered in the selection process.

Please send requests for consideration on company letterhead by fax or letter. See **ADDRESSES**. Requests sent by email will not be considered. Candidates chosen for membership will be notified in writing.

Dated: November 13, 2001.

Chiling Tong,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia and the Pacific.

[FR Doc. 01-28885 Filed 11-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111401A]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Data Collection for the Trap Fishery in the U.S. Caribbean

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Proposed information 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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 22, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Jim Waters, Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, NC 28516-9722, (252-728-8710).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to conduct a survey to collect socio-economic data from the Caribbean (Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands) trap fishery. The survey intends to collect revenue, cost

and other auxiliary economic information, e.g., vessel characteristics and capital investment, as well as socio-demographic information. The information collected is necessary to evaluate the economic impacts of potential gear regulations that are likely to be considered by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. In addition, the information will be used to strengthen and improve fishery management decision-making, satisfy legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 *et. seq.*), the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, and quantify achievement of performance measures in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans.

II. Method of Collection

The socio-economic information will be collected via personal interview with a stratified random sample of commercial trap fishermen, with strata defined as three distinct fishing areas within the U.S. Caribbean: Puerto Rico; St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI); and St. Thomas/St. John, USVI. One hundred interviews will be completed in total: sixty (60) interviews in Puerto Rico; twenty (20) interviews in St. Croix; and twenty (20) interviews in St. Thomas/St. John.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 200.

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: November 9, 2001.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-28925 Filed 11-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111301A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Texas Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The AP meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on December 4, 2001, and will conclude by 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hobby Airport Hilton, 8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77061; telephone 713-645-3000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida, 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida, 33619; telephone 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this meeting, the AP will discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service terracing project in Galveston Bay; the Jumbilee Cove habitat restoration project; the Galveston Bay Foundation terracing project in Galveston Bay; the use of oil dispersants on a shallow water oil spill of opportunity; and review the Council's Freshwater Inflow Policy. The AP will also receive an update on the Essential Fish Habitat Environmental Impact Statement.

The Texas Habitat AP is part of a three-unit Habitat Protection AP of the

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The principal role of the APs is to assist the Council in addressing issues related to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and other habitat and ecological relationships supporting the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. APs serve as a first alert system to call to the Council's attention proposed projects being developed and other activities which may adversely impact the Gulf marine fisheries and their supporting habitat. The APs may also provide advice to the Council on EFH, as well as policies and procedures for addressing environmental affairs.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agendas may come before the AP for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by November 27, 2001.

Dated: November 15, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-28928 Filed 11-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111301D]

South 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Advisory Panel Selection Committee, Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee,

Information & Education Committee, Habitat Committee, Dolphin Wahoo Committee, Controlled Access Committee, Law Enforcement Committee, Snapper Grouper Committee and a joint meeting of the Snapper Grouper Committee, Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). Public comment periods will be held during some of the meetings. There will also be a full Council Session.

DATES: The meetings will be held in December 2001. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort, 275 Waynick Drive, Wrightsville Beach, NC; telephone: (1-800) 541-1161 or (910) 256-2251.

Copies of documents are available from Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: 843-571-4366; fax: 843-769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

1. *Advisory Panel Selection Committee Meeting: December 3, 2001, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.*

The Advisory Panel Selection Committee will meet in a closed session to review membership applications and develop recommendations.

2. *Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee Meeting: December 3, 2001, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.*

The Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee will meet in a closed session to review candidates for appointment to the SSC and develop recommendations.

3. *Information & Education Committee Meeting: December 3, 2001, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.*

The Information & Education Committee will meet to review current materials, projects and activities, develop goals and objectives, and identify needs related to public outreach.

4. *Habitat Committee Meeting: December 4, 2001, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.*

The Habitat Committee will meet to review the status of the Sargassum Fishery Management Plan (FMP),