

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

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

11/09/2005

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 04/11/2005.

TITLE: Assessing Stakeholder Attitudes and Concerns
Toward Ecosystem Management

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITH CHANGE
OMB NO.: 0648-0523
EXPIRATION DATE: 11/30/2008

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	0	0	0
New	10,000	3,333	0
Difference	10,000	3,333	0
Program Change		3,333	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

This information collection is approved as amended by the attached agency response. Final versions of all instruments and protocols should be sent to OMB for inclusion in the docket. The agency is reminded of the importance of complying with OMB's standards for classification data in the design of its collection instruments. OMB notes that this collection will only produce results which are generally representative of 'stakeholders' and self-identified members of the public. These results should not be used to represent or as a proxy for attitudes of the general public. The agency should ensure that any report released to policymakers or the general public include this limitation and a complete discussion of the effect of nonresponse bias on the results. OMB requests a copy of any final report based on these results.

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
ASSESSING STAKEHOLDER ATTITUDES AND CONCERNS
TOWARD ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) increasingly supports an ecosystem approach to fisheries management; however, relatively little information has been collected in a systematic manner concerning stakeholder perceptions of an ecosystem approach to management. An understanding and knowledge of stakeholder preferences for broad-level management objectives, as well as opinions toward the current management system and status of marine resources, would assist the agency in making decisions that maximize the total societal benefits from marine resources.

The objective of the survey will be to elicit the range of concerns regarding the use of ecosystem-based management measures, the types of goals and objectives that should be pursued (e.g., in developing guidelines), and overall attitudes and concerns regarding the use of ecosystem approaches in fisheries management. Given the increasing emphasis on ecosystem issues in the Councils and in impending legislation, the questionnaire is well timed to establish a baseline for outreach and planning and as an approach that will potentially have applicability nationwide.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The information will provide fisheries managers with quantitative information on stakeholder preferences for Ecosystem Management, so that when goals and objectives of fisheries management are being reviewed or developed, managers will understand the priorities and preferences of a diverse group of fisheries stakeholders. One of the most timely and relevant uses of the information will be to help inform the Guidelines for Ecosystem Management, currently being developed by NOAA Fisheries with collaboration from the Fishery Management Councils. Council staff and staff from NOAA Fisheries may refer to the information periodically as the Ecosystem Management guidelines are revised, and future decisions concerning fisheries management may refer to the information to anticipate what stakeholder responses might be to particular management decisions.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the previous paragraph,

the information gathered has utility. NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

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 data will be collected via a voluntary mail survey, and thus the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques is minimal with the exception of a mail merge to create personalized cover letters and mailing labels. The cover letter will involve the merging of the sampling database with prepared cover letters to create a personalized introduction to the survey.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Canvassing NOAA Fisheries economists and social scientists determined that no similar survey efforts have been or will be undertaken by NOAA Fisheries. Additionally, a survey development workshop held in November 2004 and attended by social scientists from four Fishery Management Councils (NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC, and GMFMC) and economists and social scientists from Michigan State University, Texas A&M, the University of New Hampshire, and Central Florida University revealed that, to the participant's knowledge, no prior survey efforts on the topic of ecosystem approaches to marine fisheries management had been undertaken.

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

Since some of the respondents are considered small businesses, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data are requested.

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

As stated above, NOAA Fisheries lacks data collected in a systematic manner that describes stakeholder's attitudes toward and preferences for Ecosystem Management. This situation is due to the fact that NOAA and NOAA Fisheries are in the initial stages of implementing Ecosystem Management, and thus until this point the need for preference and attitudinal information pertaining to Ecosystem Management has been minimal. However, as NOAA and NOAA Fisheries move toward an ecosystem approach

to management, it is vital to collect survey data to facilitate stakeholder understanding of the process, and to allow stakeholders to express preferences and concerns about the overall approach. Without this type of information, fisheries managers will lack information on what types of goals and objectives stakeholders consider important in fisheries management, thus making it more difficult to maximize societal benefits from management decisions. In addition, lacking the type of information that will be collected in this research will reduce the efficiency of planning and outreach activities.

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

The collection will be conducted in a manner consistent 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.

Two comments were received in response to the Federal Register Notice. In one case, the respondent was provided a copy of a draft survey instrument prior to the closure of the comment period. In the second case, the respondent had left a general inquiry about the nature of the survey and requested a copy of the survey instrument. The respondent was phoned and provided general information on the survey, its intent, how the data would be used, a description of the respondent universe and told that the survey instrument was not available at that time. For the purposes of the comment period, the background information sufficed for this respondent, who asked that the final survey instrument be forwarded to Laural Bryant, NOAA Fisheries Public Affairs to provide for informational purposes to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC). **The final survey instrument has been provided to Bryant for forwarding to MFAC.**

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

No payments or gifts are made.

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

The data collected will be kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

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.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

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

The proposed collection will require approximately 3,333 burden hours (10,000 estimated respondents X 20 minutes per response).

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

There are no start-up, capital, or maintenance costs associated with this collection. No new or specialized equipment is needed to respond to this collection. The forms are provided with postage-free envelopes.

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

The estimated Cost to Government is \$3,700 for printing and mailing the survey.

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

This is a new submission.

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

All results will be entered using standard QA/QC procedures in survey research. Economists from NOAA Fisheries will analyze the data using standard software (e.g. SAS) and standard statistical procedures that are appropriate for survey data. Results from this collection may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications, and would follow prescribed statistical tabulations and summary table formats. Data are available to the general public on request in summary form only.

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 expiration date for OMB approval will be displayed on the forms.

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

There are no exceptions to Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

(If your collection does not employ statistical methods, just say that and delete the following five questions from the format.)

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The potential respondent universe consists of key stakeholders associated with fisheries management from states in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions. These regions were chosen to be consistent with the Ecosystem Pilot Projects being conducted by NOAA Fisheries in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA Fisheries has developed a sampling frame that consists of fisheries stakeholders from the regions specified above. The sampling frame was developed using mailing lists of fisheries stakeholders maintained by the following:

- NOAA Fisheries Office of Constituent Services
- NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology
- New England Fishery Management Council
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOAA Fisheries will use a stratified random sample to select the sampling population from the frame. The sampling frame has been cleaned to remove duplicates, entries with incomplete contact information, all congressional entries, all NOAA entries, and entries that are not associated with the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico regions. The table below describes data on each stakeholder entity.

Stakeholder Entity	Number of Entries in Sampling Frame	Proportional Allocation (55% of each strata)
Aquaculture	700	385
Seafood Company (Import, Export, Wholesale)	1,715	944
Non-NOAA Scientific Community	2,950	1,623
Commercial Fishing	6,500	3,575
Tribe	50	28
State or Local Government	120	66
Non-Governmental Organizations	425	234
Private Citizen*	5,500	3,025
Total	17,960	9,880
Expected Response Rate		60% (n=5,928)

* This entity consists of individuals who have attended Fishery Management Council meetings or who have written an FMC, Commission, or NOAA Fisheries with an expressed interest in fisheries management.

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 use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

A stratified random sample of the population frame will be used to draw the sample population. The allocation method for each of the l strata (Stakeholder Entity) will be a proportional allocation ($n_1/N_1 = n_2/N_2 \dots n_l/N_l$). This allocation method is appropriate when unequal variances for each stratum are assumed, which NOAA Fisheries assumes to be true for stakeholder entities in the frame (Rice 1995).

Note that each of the four regions are represented within each l strata. Because the regions manage different species and complexes, Section 2 of the instrument will be tailored for each region's needs. The table below illustrates the species or complexes that will be included for each of the regions. Other than the different species or complexes contained in Section 2, the instrument will look the same for all four regions (with exceptions for specific references to 'South Atlantic', 'North Atlantic', 'Mid-Atlantic', or 'Gulf of Mexico' in explanatory text or questions).

North Atlantic	Mid-Atlantic	South Atlantic	Gulf of Mexico
Sea Scallops	Summer Flounder	Dolphin (Mahi Mahi)	Red Drum
Groundfish	Scup	Spiny Lobster	Spiny Lobster
Whiting/Red Hake	Black Sea Bass	Snappers/Groupers	Snappers/Groupers
Monkfish	Bluefish	Mackerels	Mackerels
Red Crab	Tilefish	Shrimp	Shrimp
Atlantic Sea Herring	Mackerels	Bottlenose Dolphin	Bottlenose Dolphin
Atlantic Salmon	Squid	Sea Turtles	Sea Turtles
Skates	Butterfish		
Bottlenose dolphins	Surf Clams		
Right Whales	Ocean Quahog		
	Spiny Dogfish		
	Bottlenose Dolphin		
	Sea Turtles		
	Harbor Porpoises		

As described in Dillman (2000), each sampling unit will receive a pre-notice letter informing the potential respondent of the survey effort, purpose, and forthcoming survey instrument. Approximately 9 days after the pre-notice, a survey instrument and cover letter will be mailed to all sampling units. A reminder postcard will be sent to all respondents 2 weeks after the survey mailing, and a second survey mailing will be sent to all respondents who have not completed and returned their survey within 2 weeks of the reminder postcard.

Following Dillman (2000), a sample of approximately 1,013 respondents are required to represent the true value for a population of 20,000, given a yes/no variable and assuming 3% sampling error and the most conservative estimate of variance (50/50 split). Assuming a 60% response rate, the stratified sampling design proposed – 55% of each stratum – would represent the true population values for fisheries stakeholders in the aggregate. It should be noted that the majority of the survey questions will not be yes/no, and this fact complicates the calculations of sample sizes needed. However, the expected number of completed responses will provide a large buffer around the minimal 1,013 needed for simple yes/no questions for the population size of 20,000.

This collection is a one-time data collection.

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

The mail survey implementation will follow state-of-the-art protocols described in ‘The Tailored Design Method’ (Dillman 2000). The tailored design method is designed to

maximize response rates, and components of the design have been scientifically tested and determined to increase response rates for mail surveys (Dillman 2000). In addition, the survey will be designed to be easy to understand and will minimize the response burden by providing categorical answer choices for the majority of the questions.

A small random sample of non-respondents will be contacted by telephone to determine the extent, if any, of non-response bias.

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.

Prior to the survey implementation, NOAA Fisheries will conduct a focus group with 9 individuals to improve the draft survey instrument and ensure that the questions and any explanatory material are easily understood and interpreted by the respondent as intended. The instrument will be refined based on the focus group feedback.

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.

Contractors for Survey Implementation and Data Entry:
Heather Driscoll at ORC Macro 802-864-3672 x 1009

Sampling Design, Data Analysis and Report Writing:
Kristy Wallmo, NOAA Fisheries 301-713-2328
Brad Gentner, NOAA Fisheries 301-713-2328
Steve Edwards, NOAA Fisheries 401-782-3313
Vishwanie Maharaj, South Atlantic FMC 843-571-4366
Kathi Kitner, South Atlantic FMC 843-571-4366

References

Dillman, D. 2000. Mail and Internet Surveys. The Tailored Design Method. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, New York.

Rice, J. 1995. Mathematical Statistics and Data Analysis, Second Edition. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, California.

(PRENOTICE LETTER)

Name
Address

Date

In a few days you will be receiving a questionnaire from the National Marine Fisheries Service. This is a voluntary questionnaire asking a sample of fisheries stakeholders about their opinions, attitudes, and concerns toward fisheries management.

We have found that many people like to know ahead of time that they will be receiving a questionnaire, so we are sending this notice to you in advance. Understanding your opinions and concerns will help fisheries managers in their decision-making, and we look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Kristy Wallmo, Ph.D.
National Marine Fisheries Service

(SURVEY COVER LETTER)

Name

Address

Date

You may recall from an earlier letter that you will be receiving a voluntary questionnaire about fisheries management. That questionnaire accompanies this letter, and is part of an effort by the National Marine Fisheries Service to understand opinions and concerns of fisheries stakeholders toward fisheries management.

You have been selected to participate in the questionnaire because of your expressed interest in fisheries management or your work in a fisheries-related field. Your opinions and concerns will help fisheries managers understand the needs and concerns of a variety of stakeholder interests.

Please take a few minutes to share your viewpoint by filling out the questionnaire. All responses are completely confidential - **your name and address will never be connected to your responses in any way.**

Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any questions concerning this effort by the National Marine Fisheries Service. We appreciate your time and look forward to your completed questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Kristy Wallmo, Ph.D.
National Marine Fisheries Service
301-713-2328 ext. 129
Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

Marine Fisheries Management

What do you think?



A survey sponsored by
NOAA Fisheries

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov
This survey is voluntary. All responses are anonymous and confidential.
OMB Control Number

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Collection of information through mail surveys provides data on preferences for fishery management goals and objectives from a diverse group of fisheries stakeholders. This information aids NOAA Fisheries in developing and analyzing an array of fishery management guidelines and policies. Public reporting burden is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to: NOAA Fisheries, F/SF5, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Providing the requested information is voluntary. In accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, "Confidentiality of Fishery Statistics", any information submitted to NOAA Fisheries by any person in response to this survey shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed except to: (1) federal employees and council employees who are responsible for fishery management plan development and monitoring; (2) state employees pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary of Commerce that prevents public disclosure of this information; or (3) when required by court order. 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 of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. This is an approved information collection under OMB#0648-0523

NOAA Fisheries is asking a sample of individuals with an interest in fisheries management about their opinions of the marine environment and current and future approaches to fisheries management.

Your opinions are important! By completing the survey, you are helping us understand a wide range of opinions about fisheries management. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Section 1. Personal Behavior and Knowledge

We would like to begin by asking you a few questions about yourself and the types of activities you like to do. This information will help us understand the attitudes and opinions of different stakeholders.

B1. In general, how important are each of the following reasons for choosing to visit or live in a coastal community?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important at All
Visit family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit a natural area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
View marine animals (such as whales, sea turtles, manatees, etc..)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snorkeling or diving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buy fresh local seafood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enjoy being around a working commercial fishing marina/dock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other reasons (please specify)				

- B2. During the past year, how many days have you spent:
- Recreational fishing in freshwater
 - Recreational fishing in saltwater
 - Collecting shellfish or other marine resources for personal consumption
 - Participating in marine-based recreation like visiting a beach, boating, sightseeing, snorkeling, scuba diving, whale watching, etc.
 - Commercial fishing in saltwater
 - Providing marine recreational services for hire (charter or headboat fishing, whale watching, sightseeing, etc.)
- B3. During the past year, how many meetings of the following types have you attended:
- Fishery management councils, subcommittees, or advisory
 - Town planning
 - Environmental organizations
 - Recreational fishing club or association
 - Other (please specify)
- B4. Do you or does anyone in your household make a living part-time or full-time from work directly associated with marine resources, such as tourism, commercial fishing, shipping, or recreational fishing?
- Yes
 - No
 - I am unsure
- B5. Have you seen, heard, or read about fisheries management in the past 3 months?
- Yes
 - No
- B6. Have you ever altered your recreation or vacation plans because of fisheries management decisions or fisheries regulations?
- Yes
 - No
- B7. Have you changed how much seafood you eat because of problems in fisheries management?
- Yes
 - No

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

This survey is voluntary. All responses are anonymous and confidential.

OMB Control Number 0648-0523

- B8. How concerned are you that fisheries management decisions will impact your life or livelihood?
- Concerned
 - Slightly concerned
 - Not concerned
- B9. We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. With this in mind, do you think we're spending too much, too little or about the right amount of money on protecting and improving the environment?
- Too much
 - About the right amount
 - Too little
 - I am unsure
- B10. There are differing opinions about how far we've gone in this country with environmental protection laws and regulations. At present, do you think our environmental protection laws and regulations have gone too far, not far enough, or have struck about the right balance?
- Too far
 - About the right balance
 - Not far enough
 - I am unsure
- B11. State and federal marine waters are managed for the benefit of current and future generations. Which of the following should be emphasized in the management of our marine waters?
- Improving their natural conditions, such as wildlife, water and scenery
 - Developing commercial opportunities such as commercial fishing, energy development and shipping
 - Balancing natural conditions and commercial opportunities about equally
 - I am unsure

B12. Access to fish stocks can be allocated between commercial and recreational uses. Which of the following uses should be emphasized when allocating harvest levels?

- Give preference to recreational interests when making allocation decisions
- Give preference to commercial interests when making allocation decisions
- Balance recreational and commercial interests when making allocation decisions
- Give preference to the highest valued use when making allocation decisions
- I am unsure

B13. In general, how informed are you about environmental issues and problems? Would you say...

- Very informed
- Somewhat informed
- Not very informed
- Not informed at all

B14. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 meaning don't trust at all and 5 meaning completely trust, please indicate how much you would trust each of the following organizations to manage marine resources.

- _____ Federal agencies
- _____ State agencies
- _____ Local governments
- _____ Independent boards made up of local interests
- _____ Independent boards with both business and environmental interests
- _____ Scientists

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

This survey is voluntary. All responses are anonymous and confidential.

OMB Control Number 0648-0523

Section 2. Current Fisheries Management in the Mid Atlantic Region

In this section, we would like to know what you think about the current status of some marine fish and other animals in the Mid Atlantic region. The Mid Atlantic region includes the marine waters between 3 and 200 miles off the coast of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.

Please answer the questions below **based on your opinions and knowledge of the Mid Atlantic region.**

C1. For Summer Flounder in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Summer Flounder is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Summer Flounder are...

- Stable
- Overfished but recovering
- Overfished, not recovering
- I am unsure

C2. For Black Sea Bass in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Black Sea Bass is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Black Sea Bass are...

- Stable
- Overfished but recovering
- Overfished, not recovering
- I am unsure

C3. For Bluefish in the Mid Atlantic region...

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

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In your opinion, current management of Bluefish is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Bluefish are...

- Stable
- Overfished but recovering
- Overfished, not recovering
- I am unsure

C4. For Tilefish in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Tilefish is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Tilefish are...

- Stable
- Overfished but recovering
- Overfished, not recovering
- I am unsure

C5. For Mackerel in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Mackerel is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Mackerel are...

- Stable
- Overfished but recovering
- Overfished, not recovering
- I am unsure

C6. For Squid in the Mid Atlantic region...

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

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OMB Control Number

In your opinion, current management of Squid is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Squid are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C7. For Butterfish in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Butterfish is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Butterfish are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C8. For Surf Clams in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Surf Clams is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Surf Clams are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C9. For Ocean Quahog in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Ocean Quahog is

- Excellent

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

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- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Ocean Quahog are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C10. For Spiny Dogfish in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Spiny Dogfish is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Spiny Dogfish are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C11. For Bottlenose Dolphin in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Bottlenose Dolphin is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Bottlenose Dolphin are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C12. For Sea Turtles in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Sea Turtles is

- Excellent
- Good

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- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Sea Turtles are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C13. For Harbor Porpoises in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Harbor Porpoises is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Harbor Porpoises are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

C14. For Scup in the Mid Atlantic region...

In your opinion, current management of Scup is

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I am unsure

In your opinion, Scup are...

- Stable
- Endangered or depleted, but recovering
- Endangered or depleted, not recovering
- I am unsure

Section 3. Your Preferences for Managing the Marine Environment

In this section, we would like to know about your preferences for managing the marine environment in the Mid Atlantic region. Listed below are a number of objectives that managers can consider when developing management plans for the marine environment. We would like to know, in YOUR OPINION...

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

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- How important each objective should be when developing managing plans for the marine environment in the Mid Atlantic region
- How satisfied you are with the way current management addresses each objective in the Mid Atlantic region

P1. For the next set of questions, we would like you to read each statement below and use the scales shown to indicate your importance, satisfaction, and familiarity with each objective:

	Importance	Satisfaction
	1 = Extremely Important	1 = Extremely Satisfied
	2 = Somewhat Important	2 = Somewhat Satisfied
	3 = Not Very Important	3 = Not Very Satisfied
	4 = Not Important at All	4 = Not Satisfied at All
	5 = I Am Unsure	5 = I Am Unsure
Ensure that all stakeholder interests are represented in management decisions	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Maintain employment from the marine-based industries	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Protect marine biodiversity	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Restore fish stocks that have been depleted	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Reduce pollution in the marine environment	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Protect marine habitat	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Protect sensitive species such as marine mammals and sea turtles	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Base management decisions on the economic impacts on all stakeholders	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Base management decisions on the social impacts on all stakeholders	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Base management decisions on the biological impacts to the managed species	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Protect habitat that is necessary for fish spawning, breeding, feeding, and growth	Importance =	Satisfaction =

	Importance 1 = Extremely Important 2 = Somewhat Important 3 = Not Very Important 4 = Not Important at All 5 = I Am Unsure	Satisfaction 1 = Extremely Satisfied 2 = Somewhat Satisfied 3 = Not Very Satisfied 4 = Not Satisfied at All 5 = I Am Unsure
Minimize bycatch	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Maintain public access to the marine environment	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Set aside a portion of the fishing quota for marine mammals and endangered species to eat	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Reduce overfishing	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Protect native marine species	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Promote stewardship of the marine environment	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Allocate harvest privileges to fishermen such as Individual Fishing Quotas	Importance =	Satisfaction =
Reduce the total number of vessels in the fishing industry	Importance =	Satisfaction =

P2. For the next set of questions, we would like you to read each statement below and place a check in the one box that most closely represents your opinion

Always Sometimes Rarely Never I am unsure
--

	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	I am unsure
It is acceptable to decrease fish harvest quotas if doing so improves the overall health of the marine environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to close large areas of the ocean to fishing in order to preserve marine biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to manage fisheries using command and control regimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to manage fisheries using cooperative management regimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to buy back commercial fishing vessels to reduce overfishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to allocate harvest privileges such as Individual Fishing Quotas in fisheries management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to discard harvested fish due to regulatory restrictions, even when those fish may be marketable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to prohibit certain types of fishing gear to protect essential fish habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to preserve marine-based employment opportunities even if doing so decreases the overall profits from marine-based industries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is acceptable to discard harvested fish if they do not have a market value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 4. Ecosystem Approaches to Management

In this section, we would like to ask you about your opinions of an Ecosystem Approach to Management, or EAM. There is no universal definition of EAM, but this definition captures the elements most often mentioned by scientists:

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

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An ecosystem approach to management is geographically specified, adaptive, takes into account ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties, considers multiple external influences, and strives to balance diverse societal objectives.

In other words,

- EAM should extend the single-species approach of current fisheries management to also consider ecological relationships such as predation, competition, and habitat.
- EAM should consider the quality of the marine ecosystem
- EAM should promote integrated, regional management of marine ecosystems with all relevant authorities and stakeholders
- EAM should consider the ability of the marine ecosystem to sustain all types of benefits, such as food, minerals, recreation, employment, cultural or religious value, and life support services such as climate regulation and nutrient cycling, and ways to balance these demands.
- EAM should manage risk when information is uncertain or incomplete.

E1. For the next set of questions, we would like you to read each statement below and place a check in the one box that most closely represents your opinion

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I am unsure
In the Mid Atlantic.....					
...EAM will improve the overall health of marine ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...EAM will increase the overall profits in the region's fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...EAM will benefit fishing communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...EAM will improve the status of targeted fish stocks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...EAM will increase the protection of Essential Fish Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...EAM will improve the status of marine mammals and sea turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...EAM will be more representative of all types of fisheries stakeholders than the current management system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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In the Mid Atlantic.....	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I am unsure
...EAM is too complex to use as a management system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...EAM is too costly to use as a management system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the space below, please tell us what you believe an Ecosystem Approach to Management should include.

Section 5. Respondent Characteristics

In this last section, we would like to ask you a few questions about yourself.

R1. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school

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- High school graduate
- 2-year degree or technical school
- Some college
- College graduate
- Professional or doctoral degree

R2. Are you.....

- Male
- Female

R3. What best describes your employment status? (Please check all that apply)

- Unemployed
- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Full time homemaker
- Retired
- Student (part-time)
- Student (full-time)
- Other (specify)_____

R4. If employed, what is your occupation?

R5. Do you consider yourself to be...? (Please check all that apply)

- Commercial fisherman
- Tour operator
- Charter or head boat captain
- Recreational fisherman
- Member of an environmental organization
- Fishery manager
- Fishery scientist
- Academic (professor, researcher)
- Government employee
- Other (specify)_____

R6. Which of the following categories best describes your household's total annual income before taxes in 2004?

- Less than \$15,599
- \$15,600 - \$31,199
- \$31,200 - \$46,799
- \$46,800 - \$62,399

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- \$62,400 - \$77,999
- \$78,000 - \$93,599
- \$93,600 - \$109,199
- \$109,200 - \$124,799
- \$124,800 - \$139,999
- Greater than \$140,000

R7. What is your race? (Please check all that apply)

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

R8. Are you?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

R9. What year were you born?

Year: _____

Questions? Email Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

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OMB Control Number 0648-0523

(REMINDER POSTCARD)

Dear

You were recently sent a questionnaire concerning fisheries management. If you have returned the questionnaire, *thank you*. If you have not yet completed the questionnaire, please take a few minutes to do so now. Your input is important in helping fisheries management meet your needs.

Sincerely,

Kristy Wallmo, Ph.D.
National Marine Fisheries Service

(COVER LETTER FOR SECOND SENDING OF SURVEY)

Name
Address

Date

We recently sent you a questionnaire about fisheries management. Although we have received completed questionnaires from many of the fisheries stakeholders that were selected to participate, to date we have not heard from you. Your opinions and concerns are very important, as they will help fisheries managers understand the needs and concerns of a variety of stakeholder interests.

Please take a few minutes to share your viewpoint by filling out the questionnaire. All responses are completely confidential - **your name and address will never be connected to your responses in any way.**

Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any questions concerning this effort by the National Marine Fisheries Service. We appreciate your time and look forward to your completed questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Kristy Wallmo, Ph.D.
National Marine Fisheries Service
301-713-2328 ext. 129
Kristy.Wallmo@noaa.gov

Dated: June 4, 2004.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-13206 Filed 6-10-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060704C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Assessing Stakeholder Attitudes and Concerns Toward Ecosystem Management

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 13, 2004.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Rita Curtis, Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, #12752, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-2328).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The objective of the survey will be to elicit the range of concerns regarding the use of ecosystem-based management measures, the types of goals and objectives that should be pursued (e.g., in developing guidelines), and overall attitudes and concerns regarding the use of ecosystem approaches in fisheries management. Given the increasing emphasis on ecosystem issues in the Councils and in impending legislation, the questionnaire survey is well timed to establish a baseline for outreach and

planning and as an approach that will potentially have applicability nationwide.

II. Method of Collection

The survey will be conducted as a mail survey.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; state, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,333.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$3,700.

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: June 4, 2004.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-13207 Filed 6-10-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060104B]

Nominations for the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)

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

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (the "Committee") is the only Federal Advisory Committee with the responsibility to advise the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on all matters concerning living marine resources that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary to assist in the development and implementation of Departmental regulations, policies and programs critical to the mission and goals of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Committee is composed of leaders in the commercial, recreational, environmental, academic, state, tribal, and consumer interests from the nation's coastal regions. The Department of Commerce is seeking up to four highly qualified individuals knowledgeable about fisheries and living marine resources to serve on the Committee.

DATES: Nominations must be postmarked on or before July 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to MAFAC, Office of Constituent Services, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, 9538, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurel Bryant, Designated Federal Official; (301) 713-1276 x 171. E-mail: Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The establishment of MAFAC was approved by the Secretary on December 28, 1970, and initially chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5, U.S. C. App.2, on February 17, 1971. The Committee meets twice a year with supplementary subcommittee meetings as determined necessary by the Secretary. Individuals serve for a term of three years for no more than two consecutive terms if reappointed. No less than 15 and no more than 21 individuals may serve on the Committee. Membership is comprised of highly qualified individuals representing commercial and recreational fisheries interests, environmental organizations, academic institutions, governmental, tribal and consumer groups from a balance of geographical regions, including the Hawaiian and the Pacific Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties involved with or representing interests affected by the Agency's actions in managing living