

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 08/06/2008

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Suzanne Hilding
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 06/02/2008

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200804-0648-011
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Large Pelagic Fishing Survey
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0380
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 08/31/2011 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	24,457	2,370	0
New	34,607	4,869	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	10,150	2,499	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Large Pelagics Fishing Survey - Telephone Survey	NA, NA	Large Pelagics Telephone Survey questions, Large Pelagics Telephone Survey logsheet	
Large Pelagics Fishing Survey - Dockside Intercept	NA, NA	LPS Dockside Intercept Telephone Validation Questionnaire, LPS Dockside Intercept Survey	
Large Pelagic Fishing Survey - Biological Sampling	NA	LPS Biological Sampling Questionnaire	
Large Pelagics Fishing Survey - Headboat Survey	NA	LPS Headboat Survey	
Large Pelagics Fishing Survey - North Carolina Winter Bluefin Tuna Dockside Survey	NA	LPS Dockside Intercept Survey (for use in NC Winter BF Tuna Intercept Survey)	
Large Pelagics Fishing Survey - HMS Characterization Survey	NA	HMS Characterization Survey	

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
LARGE PELAGIC FISHING SURVEY
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0380**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This action seeks to add a survey component (Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Characterization Survey) to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No.: 0648-0380 which will characterize the highly migratory species fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean regions.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for monitoring and managing United States (U.S.) marine fisheries resources. Collection of information regarding fishing for large pelagic species (tunas, billfishes, swordfish, and sharks) is necessary to fulfill the following statutory requirements: Atlantic Tunas Convention Act ([16 U.S.C. 971 et seq.](#)), the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act ([16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.](#)), and to meet administrative requirements of the NMFS Marine Recreational Fishery Policy implemented to comply with Executive Order 12962 on Recreational Fisheries.

The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act at 16 U.S.C. 971d(c)(3)(I) provides the Secretary of Commerce the authority to “require any commercial or recreational fisherman to obtain a permit from the Secretary and report the quantity of catch of a regulated species” (attached, relevant sections). Section 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies data and analyses to be included in Fishery Management Plans (FMP), as well as pertinent data, which shall be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce under the plan. Recommendation one of the NMFS Marine Recreational Fishery (MRF) Policy focuses on developing “a comprehensive data acquisition and analysis system (participation, catch, effort and socio-economic data) on a regular, continuing basis” in support of the Executive Order 12962 requirement to assess the implementation and evaluate achievements of the “Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan.”

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act, signed into law in January 2007, require that the Secretary of Commerce, “establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS).” NMFS has organized a joint federal-state-community initiative to accommodate the requirements and timelines specified by Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and to address recommendations by the National Research Council in their 2006 report titled “Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods.” This new initiative, called Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), established four work groups to address specific shortcoming identified with the current MRFSS program. The Highly Migratory Species Work Group has been specifically charged with improving and expanding existing recreational data collection programs for large pelagic (i.e., highly migratory) species to meet management needs. The MRFSS is currently conducted on the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Because highly migratory species are only sought on a relatively small proportion of the total marine recreational angler fishing trips made, the fishing effort directed at such species, and the resulting angler catches are generally not estimated very

precisely or accurately by the MRFSS. Therefore, the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) was designed as a specialized survey that would focus specifically on the recreational fishery directed at large pelagic, also called highly migratory, species. This specialization has allowed higher levels of sampling needed to provide more precise and accurate estimates of pelagic fishing effort and catches of large pelagic species. However, due to funding limitations the LPS has only been conducted from Maine through Virginia in past years. Therefore, despite its significant limitations the MRFSS is still the primary data source for large pelagic recreational catch and effort in the South Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean sub-regions.

HMS Characterization Survey

This action seeks to add the HMS Characterization Survey as a new component under OMB Control No.: 0648-0380. The proposed additional component will characterize the HMS recreational fisheries in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. Characterization studies are an important initial step in the development and implementation of full-scale catch and effort data collection programs that can be used for fishery monitoring and management. Information obtained from such studies is often essential in selecting the appropriate methodology and in defining the scope of new data collection programs. The anticipated long-term benefit of this project is improved accuracy, precision and reliability of highly migratory recreational fisheries data collected in the Southeast United States.

The characterization survey will be conducted throughout the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean in an effort to improve HMS data accuracy and precision in these regions. HMS characterization information will be collected primarily for the private boat sector. An attempt will be made to administer the survey to all permit holders in the HMS Angling and Atlantic Tunas General categories. The HMS charter boat fishery in Texas will also be characterized since existing data on HMS charter boat fishing in Texas is lacking.

The HMS characterization questionnaire will include questions related to the following:

- Approximate number of HMS trips vessel made in past 12 months,
- Approximate percent (or number) breakdown of 12-month trips by
 - access site type (public/private, boat ramp/marina, etc.)
 - site name
 - month
 - species targeted
 - departure and return time blocks
 - areas fished, and
 - tournaments participated in,
- Estimated number of fish landed and released in past 12 months (select species only).

Notification letters will be mailed to all representatives of vessels that have been selected for the survey one week prior to the week the vessel will be contacted for an interview. The notification letter will serve the following purposes: 1) inform each vessel representative that he/she has been selected for participation in the HMS characterization survey, 2) provide a brief description of the project and the purpose or objectives of the survey, 3) inform each vessel representative of the date(s) when they will be called for an interview, 4) provide respondents with the toll-free number and instructions for scheduling an interview, and 5) provide respondents with contact information for a NMFS representative to contact with additional questions about the project.

A minimum of 6 call attempts will be made to contact each vessel representative selected for the survey. Telephone calls will be made during the time of day that maximizes the potential to contact vessel operators. Dialing effort will include both daytime and nighttime attempts with no calls attempted after 9:00 PM (local time).

Current Surveys under this information collection, with no requested changes to questions or burden:

Large Pelagics Telephone Survey

The telephone survey collects data to determine on a weekly basis the average number of large pelagic fishing trips per active boat in the recreational large pelagics fishing fleet. The survey is conducted weekly by interviewing a random sample of charter boat captains and private boat owners (bi-weekly for private boats) who have obtained permits that allow them to fish for large pelagic fishes.

Large Pelagics Dockside Intercept Survey

The dockside intercept survey collects data needed to determine the average weekly catches per charter and private boat trips of bluefin tuna (BFT) by market category and of other large pelagic fishes by species or species group. The survey is conducted continuously over the course of the fishing season by intercepting and interviewing charter boat captains and private boat owners who have just finished a fishing trip for large pelagic fishes. Individuals interviewed would be selected at random during 2 to 8 hour field assignments distributed randomly across fishing access sites and days, where expected numbers of active fishing vessels would weight selection of fishing sites. Response is mandatory for persons holding fishing permits and for persons landing regulated species. The questionnaire is designed to obtain information on the fishing methods, locations and catches of all large pelagic species.

Biological Sampling

Supplemental sampling may be conducted for collecting supplemental length and weight information on certain key management species (e.g., bluefin tuna). Data collection for this survey will be unique not only for data obtained but also in the number of species encountered on an assignment. Biosampling consists of intercepting captains/mates/owners at weighing or cleaning stations who have just finished fishing trips for large pelagic fishes and recording various lengths and weights by species. Most of the information collected during a biological sampling assignment is obtained directly from the fish rather than the angler/captain, thus the reporting burden for the respondents is extremely small.

Headboat Survey

Headboats (also known as party boats) are vessels that take anglers fishing for a relatively modest fee paid on an individual basis and tend to be licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry more than six passengers. There is a small component of the Atlantic headboat fleet that, among other more usual trips, seasonally schedules trips targeted at large pelagics (e.g., bluefin, yellowfin, and bigeye tunas). The Headboat Survey is conducted for collecting data

needed to determine, on a weekly basis, the total catch by headboats of bluefin tuna by size category and of other large pelagic fishes by species. This component includes both telephone interviews with headboat captains and at-sea sampling aboard headboats during large pelagic trips.

North Carolina Winter BFT Tuna Dockside Survey

The primary purpose of the NC Winter BFT Dockside Survey is to collect catch data needed to generate estimates of the recreational fishing effort directed at large pelagic species and the actual recreational catch of BFT and other large pelagics. Boat captains returning from large pelagic fishing trips are interviewed to obtain catch per unit effort.

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 applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

NMFS, regional fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions, and state fishery agencies use the data in developing, implementing and monitoring fishery management programs. Failure to conduct these data collections would prevent the Secretary from meeting statutory requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In addition, NMFS would be unable to implement Recommendation One of its Marine Recreational Fisheries (MRF) Policy with a resulting loss in service and credibility to the MRF constituency. Catch and effort statistics are fundamental for assessing the influence of fishing on any stock of fish. The quantities taken, the fishing effort, and both the seasonal and geographic distributions of the catch and effort are required for the development of regional management policies and plans. Accurate and timely catch statistics collected over the range of a species must be used in association with biological studies to perform the stock assessments necessary for monitoring the effectiveness of fishery management planning for optimum yield. Several large pelagic species are now being managed under FMP quota or landings limit systems, which include recreational fishery components. For example, this collection has been the key source of data used to monitor recreational quotas for the harvest of BFT in the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England regions.

This collection, if funding allows full implementation, would provide coastwide information on quantity, species composition, and size distribution of catch. Such information is not available from any other source. For example, catch distributions and harvested size distributions obtained in this data collection have formed the basis of the FMP developed for tunas, swordfish and sharks of the Atlantic Ocean.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, 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 of other forms of information technology.

A computer assisted telephone interview system is used to minimize interview time and ensure accurate recording of responses. LPS Dockside interview forms are scanned using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology for maximum efficiency and data accuracy. The methodological approach for the LPS has been developed and refined over numerous years, employing the experience of NMFS statisticians and contractors in statistical sampling and survey methods. State-of-the-art interviewing methods have been used to minimize response times: computer assisted telephone interviewing programs have such time-saving capabilities as pre-filling responses that are then confirmed with the respondent, allowing interviewers to select standard responses from drop-down lists (reduces key entry time on the phone), and improving the flow of the interview when there are complicated ship patterns. These are just a few examples.

None of the surveys included in this submission can be submitted via the Worldwide Web. Most of the proposed data collections require interviewer-mediated reporting of data by respondents in order to minimize non-response and maximize accuracy of the statistics estimated from the data.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

NMFS has the lead Federal responsibility for collection of data from marine recreational fishermen and coordinates informational needs with other agencies. NMFS has also worked with State fishery agencies each year to coordinate data collection efforts and avoid duplication. In some cases, NMFS employs State personnel under contract to conduct field interviewing. A specialized data collection such as the LPS overlaps to a minor extent with NMFS' more comprehensive MRFSS and its related data collections. Such overlap is minimal because the MRFSS is designed to cover marine recreational fishing for all finfish species, including many sites on inland bays and estuaries. Because large pelagic species typically occur further offshore, requiring larger vessels and specialized gear, the participants tend to use specific ports located at points of ocean access. Contacts with anglers who fished for large pelagic species are relatively rare in the MRFSS samples and both the LPS and the MRFSS would contact very few respondents. However, anglers who fish for large pelagic species, but also fish for other species, are not excluded from the MRFSS sampling because representative sampling of their fishing trips in relation to other marine recreational angler fishing trips is necessary to avoid biasing catch estimates for any given species.

NMFS also requires anglers to report their landings of Atlantic BFT directly via toll-free number, via the Internet, or via landings cards in the states of North Carolina and Maryland for real-time quota monitoring. Although these other data collections overlap to a minor extent with the LPS (i.e., only trips landing BFT are affected), none of them collect information on all the other finfish species caught on large pelagic fishing trips. The LPS is the only survey designed to obtain accurate and precise marine recreational fishery catch information for all large pelagic species. In addition, to the extent overlap occurs (i.e., a person directly reporting BFT also is selected for a dockside or telephone interview), the information is useful to assess compliance

with the direct reporting requirement. Therefore, data from these other programs have been used in a complementary manner along with LPS data.

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

Charter and headboat businesses are frequent respondents due to the high level of fishing effort relative to private recreational vessels. The survey instrument has been restricted in length to minimize response time per interview, and randomized sampling will distribute dockside reporting burdens among individual charter or headboat operators.

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

An annual survey of recreational anglers is required to monitor changing conditions in the fishery and support modifications in fishery regulations for each fishing year. A continuous time series of data is scientifically essential. Start up costs in hiring and training of interviewers and in overhauling the site selection frame for biannual surveys would greatly exceed the budgeted amount for the LPS and reduce funds available to collect sufficient interviews to meet statistical objectives.

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

The collection is 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 recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice published on February 4, 2008 (73 FR 6483) solicited public comment on this collection. One comment was received. The commenter suggests that the agency estimates fish landings and sizes based entirely on what the fishermen tell them they caught. This is not the case. The Large Pelagics Intercept Survey interviewers inspect catches, identify fish to the species level, and take length measurements of landed fish as part of the routine dockside interviews.

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

Neither payments nor gifts will be provided to respondents.

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

Responses are 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. Section 402(b) stipulates that data required to be submitted under an FMP shall be confidential and shall not be released except to Federal employees and Council staff responsible for FMP monitoring and development or when required under court order. Data such as personal addresses and phone numbers will remain confidential.

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 of a sensitive nature are requested in this collection of information.

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

The total annual burden for the LPS is estimated at 4,869 hours: the HMS Characterization Survey adds 2,500 to the current total but one hour of the current total is being removed due to a rounding up error in the last request. There will be a total estimated 34,457 responses (10,000 added to current total) by 18,000 unduplicated respondents (1,000 added to current total).

An estimated 10,000 permit holders will be asked to participate in the characterization survey. Of these approximately 1,000 will be new respondents who will not participate in any of the other survey components. The response burden is estimated to average 15 minute per interview for a total of 2,500 burden hours.

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).

These data collections will incur no cost burden on respondents beyond the costs of response time.

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

At a fully funded level, the average annual cost to the Federal government is approximately \$1,485,000, divided as follows: \$1,285,000 in contract award money and \$200,000 in professional staff, overhead and computing costs.

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

The increase of 2,500 hours is due to the addition of the HMS Characterization Survey component. One hour was subtracted from the current burden, to correct a mistakenly rounded up figure.

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

All data collected and analyzed will be included in annual catch reports to International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and several documents frequently produced in support of NMFS rulemakings (e.g., Environmental Assessments, Regulatory Impact Reviews, Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports). It is also planned that catch summaries will be reprinted in a format available on the web page of the Division of Fisheries Statistics, Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service (<http://www.st.nmfs.gov/stl>). Additional summaries of data may be included in the annual NMFS publication "Fisheries of the United States".

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.

Not seeking approval to not display expiration date.

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 identified in Item 19 of OMB 83-I.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

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 LPS utilizes a "complemented surveys" approach, which includes both a telephone survey of permit holders (about 22,500 potential respondents) to estimate fishing effort and an intercept survey of anglers and captains at fishing sites to obtain catch data and biological data. This approach was developed and tested over a period of several years to minimize response and sampling errors for the different data elements. NMFS is a leader in the field of survey sampling of marine recreational fishermen.

Refusal rates of eligible LPS respondents intercepted for dockside interviews and biological sampling are consistently less than 5%. Large pelagic telephone survey refusal rates (of those eligible respondents actually contacted) vary by state but are typically between 5% and 10%. In general, higher response rates are expected on the Large Pelagic Survey since participation is mandatory and is a condition of receiving an HMS permit to fish for large pelagic species.

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.

The LPS is used by NMFS to monitor recreational fisheries for large pelagics including tunas, billfish, sharks, dolphinfish, amberjack and wahoo. The LPS is used to collect the data needed for generating estimates of both the recreational fishing effort directed at large pelagic fishes and the recreational landings of these species.

Accurate landings estimates are needed for effective quota monitoring of the recreational fishery for bluefin tuna because the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has recommended that countries limit harvest of school size West Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) to 8% of the national quota. The LPS is also used to collect landings data for seasonal catch estimates for billfishes, sharks, and tunas other than BFT (e.g., yellowfin, albacore), and to collect biological data on BFT and other large pelagic species.

The LPS estimates recreational BFT landings by multiplying the estimated average number of BFT landed per trip by the total number of vessel trips. Due to the migratory nature of large pelagic fishes, the LPS design considers geographic and seasonal variation in fish distribution and the differences in effort catch characteristics of the fishing fleet. Given this variation and the data requirements for estimating the components of the generalized catch equation, the survey incorporates a multi-frame, stratified random sampling design. Specifically, the LPS consists of two complementary components: a directory frame telephone survey of tuna and/or HMS permit holders to obtain fishing trip information, and a dockside survey that collects landings information from anglers as they complete each trip and that also estimates the proportion of vessels fishing for large pelagics that are not in the telephone frame (non-permitted vessels and vessels fishing out of state).

The telephone sample frame is determined by sorting vessels by state and boat type using tuna and/or HMS permit listings. The stratification scheme includes seven geographic strata, corresponding to a state or groups of states, weekly (or bi-weekly) temporal strata, and two fishing vessel strata, private boats and charter boats. This level of stratification is necessary due to the pulsed nature of the fishery as pelagic fish undertake summer feeding migrations through the mid-Atlantic and southern New England areas. Thus, estimates of sample frame size, average catch, and average fishing effort are needed for each combination of geographic, temporal and vessel type strata and the estimated total annual catch is the sum of the estimates produced for each stratum.

Landings data are collected by interviewing boat captains or boat owners at the completion of a fishing trip for large pelagics and recording data on permit status of the vessel and the size, number, and species composition of the catch by all anglers on the vessel from that trip. Dockside interviews are conducted throughout the fishing season on a weekly basis, generally from June through October. The intercept sample frame consists of a random cluster of individual vessel trips at selected fishing sites. Selection of sampling sites or sites clusters (i.e., nearby sites grouped together for sampling) is based on the expected number of large pelagic fishing trips at each site/cluster, a determination based not only on the number of vessels docked

at a port but also on the expected fishing pressure given the current distribution of large pelagic fish. Thus, heavily used sites/clusters are more likely to be selected for sampling.

Fishing effort data are collected through a weekly (charter boats) or bi-weekly (private boats) telephone survey of boat captains and vessel owners about trips taken during the previous one or two week period. The telephone survey sample frame consists of a list of boat owners and captains compiled from tuna and/or HMS permit files. Data collected on the telephone survey include participation status and, if verified as a participant in the fishery, the number of large pelagic fishing trips taken during the week (or two weeks) prior to the call, on a per boat basis. To calculate total trips, the number of vessels on the frame multiplies the average number of trips by respondents. An adjustment is necessary because a vessel may not be present on the permit frame, or may be intercepted in a state other than the vessel's identified homeport. This adjustment provides a better estimate the total number of vessel trips by both in and out of frame vessels, and allows the matching of information from the dockside survey with that from the telephone survey.

The total landings are estimated by multiplying the adjusted total trips for each state and boat type by the average landings recorded for that state and boat type. Variances, standard errors and coefficients of variation are estimated for each estimate of effort and catch. Control of response biases such as time-related recall error, telescoping, fish misidentification and prestige bias have resulted in the choice of the unique complemented surveys approach.

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.

As discussed in Item #1 above, due to the mandatory nature of the survey response rates for Large Pelagics Surveys are typically high. Field interviewers are instructed on how to be non-intrusive in soliciting cooperation. Providing telephone survey respondents with the option of faxing in their data or calling back a toll-free number at their convenience were put in place to maximize response rates.

Intensive interviewer training and tested methodological approaches are employed to maximize response rates. Interviewers are tested for skills in fish identification, effective communication with potential respondents, and/or accurate coding of responses before they are hired for training. Training familiarizes interviewers with procedures and develops their interviewing skills through role playing exercises. Supervision and additional training of interviewers occurs during the conduct of both the telephone and intercept surveys. Field supervisors visit intercept survey interviewers periodically to observe their performance and provide additional training as needed. Contractor staff and NMFS staff to ensure consistency in survey administration monitor telephone interviewers. Other data quality assurance and quality control measures include phone validation of dockside interviews, surprise field visits by interviewer supervisors, data review meetings (local and coast-wide), and automated error-checking programs. Procedures for maintaining the integrity of the various sampling designs are clearly outlined in the statement of work and closely tracked by NMFS to ensure proper execution.

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.

More than 10 years of testing, methodological research and professional experience in survey work were used in formulating the present methodology.

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.

Ronald Salz (301-713-2328) is the NMFS contact for the Large Pelagics Survey. The present contractor for the dockside intercept survey is QuanTech, Inc. of Rosslyn, Virginia. The present contractor for the telephone interview survey is also QuanTech. Data collections are performed under contract; NMFS staff performs analyses.

HMS Characterization Survey Questionnaire.

Hello, I'm calling for a survey being conducted for NOAA Fisheries as part of the Marine Recreational Information Program or MRIP. Can I please speak to name of contact? **If person sought is not available, ask if they will be available anytime this week. If yes, schedule convenient time to call back to talk to that person, thank respondent, and terminate interview. If no, thank respondent and terminate interview.**

Are you still the captain, owner or designated representative of the vessel name(s)?

(Note: CATI should allow for more than one vessel per captain/owner. Try to obtain information for each vessel from permit holder during the same call. Loop through all questions for as many vessels as the captain can provide fishing information on. Permit holders with multiple vessels should be given the option to reschedule since the interviewer may get very long.)

If "yes", ask: Can you provide information on the activity of the vessel name (or vessels) during the past 12 months?

If "yes", continue to survey description.

If "no", ask: Is someone else currently operating the name of the vessel (s)?

If "yes", then ask: Do you know the name and telephone number of new contact?

If "yes", take name and telephone number, thank respondent and terminate interview.

If "no", denote whatever information is given and terminate interview.

Your name and phone number were obtained from a list of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling/General/Charterheadboat category permit holders. The purpose of this study is to gather information about recreational fishing activities targeting highly migratory species such as tunas, sharks, billfish, and swordfish. This survey is being conducted in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974. Any information you provide will remain confidential. The survey should only take about ?? minutes of your time. **(Continue with interview.)**

Q1. How many years total have you been saltwater fishing for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish?

Q2. How many years have you gotten the HMS Angling/General/charterheadboat category fishing permit for any vessel?

Q3. Thinking about the past 12 months, about how many **recreational** saltwater fishing trips targeting tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish did the name of vessel make in North Carolina through Texas?

(Note: trips targeting bonnethead or Atlantic sharpnose should not be included; clarify this if respondent asks about these species)

If none skip to Q15

Else go to Q4

Q4. All of the remaining questions have to do with those response to Q3 trips taken on the vessel name in the past 12 months for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish in NC-TX? What state did you leave from on the majority of those trips (from Q3)?

A.1

Q4b. How many of the trips targeting tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish in the past 12 months were with paying passengers? (*charter questionnaire only*)

Q5. Do you ever sell any of the tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish you catch?

Q6. How many of those trips consisted of more than one day of fishing?

Q7. What type of access site did you **primarily** use for the vessel name?

___ Marina

Go to Q7a

___ Public boat ramp/launch

Record MRFSS 4-digit site code or new site name/location. Go to Q.8

___ Personal residence or dock

Go to Q.7b

___ Other

Specify other and record. Go to Q.8

Q7a. What type of marina did you **primarily** use?

___ public

Record MRFSS 4-digit site code or new site name/location. Go to

Q.8

___ private property unlocked marina

Record MRFSS 4-digit site code or new site name/location. Go to

Q.8

___ private locked-gate marina

Record MRFSS 4-digit site code or new site name/location. Go to

Q.7b

Q7b. Does the vessel name stop at a marina or fuel dock when **returning** from fishing trips for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish?

Always - Go to Q7c

Often - Go to Q7c

Sometimes - Go to Q7c

Never - Go to Q8

Q7c. What is/are the name(s) of the marinas/fuel docks that the vessel name stops at when returning from fishing?

Record MRFSS 4-digit site code or new site name/location for all sites used.

Q8. Was the response to Q7 (or Q7a if Q7=marina) the only access site used for the vessel name when fishing for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish?

Yes – Go to Q9

No – Go to Q8a

Q8a. What other access sites were used? (record all MRFSS 4-digit site codes and/or names of new sites)

Q8b. Of the response to Q3 HMS trips taken on the vessel name in the past 12 months can you tell me the number or proportion taken to each of the access sites you named?

Access site #1 Record number of total trips or proportion (need number category and percent category for cati input)

Access site #2 Record number of total trips or proportion

Access site #3 Record number of trips or proportion

Etc.....

Next, we'd like some information regarding the time of day the vessel name leaves and returns to the dock when fishing for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish.

Q9a. Thinking about the response to Q3, HMS trips taken in the past 12 months, can you tell me about how many or what proportion left the dock between:

3:00 AM and 9:00 AM	record number or percent
9:00 AM and 3:00 PM	record number or percent
3:00 PM and 9:00 PM	record number or percent
9:00 PM and 3:00 AM	record number or percent

Q9b. Thinking about the response to Q3, HMS trips taken in the past 12 months, can you tell me about how many or what proportion returned to the dock between:

3:00 AM and 9:00 AM	record number or percent
9:00 AM and 3:00 PM	record number or percent
3:00 PM and 9:00 PM	record number or percent
9:00 PM and 3:00 AM	record number or percent

Q9c. To the nearest hour can you tell me the **most common time** the vessel vessel name returns to the dock from a fishing trip for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish.

Q10. Thinking about the response to Q3, trips taken in the past 12 months for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish, can you tell me about how many or what proportion were taken during:

(assuming survey is conducted in early September 2008)

September and October 2007	record number or percent
November and December 2007	record number or percent
January and February 2008	record number or percent
March and April 2008	record number or percent
May and June 2008	record number or percent
July and August 2008	record number or percent

Q11. Thinking about the response to Q3, trips taken for tunas, sharks, billfish or swordfish on the vessel name, can you tell me about how many or what proportion were targeting

Q11a. Tunas	Record number or percent.
Q11b. Sharks	Record number or percent.
Q11c. Billfish (marlins, sailfish, spearfish)	Record number or percent
Q11d. Swordfish	Record number or percent

If Q11a greater than zero go to Q12a.

If Q11a zero and Q11b greater than zero go to Q12b

If Q11a zero and Q11b zero and Q11c greater than zero go to Q12c

If Q11a zero and Q11b zero and Q11c zero then go to Q13

Q12a. When targeting tuna aboard the vessel name which of the following species do you fish for:

Yellowfin tuna	<input type="checkbox"/> always	<input type="checkbox"/> often	<input type="checkbox"/> sometimes	<input type="checkbox"/> never
Bluefin tuna	<input type="checkbox"/> always	<input type="checkbox"/> often	<input type="checkbox"/> sometimes	<input type="checkbox"/> never
Bigeye tuna	<input type="checkbox"/> always	<input type="checkbox"/> often	<input type="checkbox"/> sometimes	<input type="checkbox"/> never

A.3

Albacore tuna ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Skipjack tuna ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Blackfin tuna
 Other (specify) ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Other (specify) ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never

If Q11b greater than zero go to Q12b.
 If Q11b zero and Q11c greater than zero go to Q12c
 If Q11b zero and Q11c zero then go to Q13

Q12b. When targeting sharks aboard the vessel name which of the following species do you fish for:

blacktip ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 bull ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 sandbar ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 shortfin mako ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Other (specify) ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Other (specify) ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never

If Q11c greater than zero go to Q12c.
 If Q11c zero go to Q13.

Q12c. When targeting billfish aboard the vessel name which of the following species do you fish for:

White marlin ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Blue marlin ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Sailfish ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never
 Other (specify) ___always ___often ___sometimes ___ never

Q13. Of the ?? trips for HMS in past 12 months how many or what proportion were associated with tournaments ?
 zero – Go to Q14

Q.13a What tournament(s) did you fish in? Ask for each tournament: how many trips did you fish with the vessel name?

Q14. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about the fish you caught aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months. (Note: adjust species for particular states; include other options)

Q14a. Did you catch any tunas? Yes – Go to Q 14b. No – Go to Q14c

Q14b. About how many bluefin tuna did you harvest and release alive aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months?

Record ____ harvest ____ released

About how many bigeye tuna ____ harvest ____ released?
 About how many yellowfin tuna ____ harvest ____ released?
 About how many albacore tuna ____ harvest ____ released?
 About how many skipjack tuna ____ harvest ____ released?
 About how many blackfin tuna ____ harvest ____ released?

- Q14c. Did you catch any sharks aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months? Yes – Go to Q 14d.
No – Go to Q14e
- Q14d. About how many blacktip sharks did you harvest and release alive aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months?
Record ____ harvest ____ released
- About how many sandbar sharks ____ harvest ____ released?
About how many mako sharks ____ harvest ____ released?
About how many bull sharks ____ harvest ____ released?
Any other sharks (record species) ____ harvest ____ released?
Any other sharks (record species) ____ harvest ____ released?
Any other sharks (record species) ____ harvest ____ released?
- Q14e. Did you catch any billfish aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months? Yes – Go to Q 14f.
No – Go to Q14g
- Q14f. About how many blue marlin did you harvest and release alive aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months?
Record ____ harvest ____ released
- About how many sailfish ____ harvest ____ released?
About how many white marlin ____ harvest ____ released?
- Q14g. Did you catch any swordfish aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months? Yes – Go to Q 14h.
No – Go to Q15
- Q14h. About how many swordfish did you harvest and release alive aboard the vessel name in the past 12 months?
Record ____ harvest ____ released
- Q15. Would you be interested in providing information about your fishing activity through online internet surveys in the future?
- Q16. Do you have an email address through which we can notify you about future fishing surveys?

END: Those are all of the questions that I have for you, thank you for your time and cooperation. Have a good day/evening. Goodbye.

NOTE: The OMB control number and expiration date of approval will be printed on all training materials, and written communications with potential respondents. This statement is provided to those persons conducting telephone and dockside interviews which will be read or disseminated to respondents upon request.

PRA Burden Statement for Survey Instruments

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Collection of information through the Large Pelagics Fishing Survey provides essential information for the conservation and management of Atlantic tunas, billfish and sharks. Information on fishing effort and catch will be used for stock assessment and in developing international catch sharing agreements. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated as follows: a) 8 minutes per telephone survey response, b) 5 minutes per dockside interview response and 1.5 minutes per interview telephone validation response, c) 1 minute per biological sampling response, d) 4 minutes per headboat captain telephone interview response, and 8 minutes per headboat at-sea survey response, e) 6 minutes per North Carolina winter bluefin tuna dockside survey response and f) 15 minutes per HMS characterization survey. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching 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 aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NMFS, Fisheries Statistics Division (F/ST1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Reporting of fishing effort for, and catch of, Atlantic highly migratory fish species is required under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act and/or the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. It is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NAO 216-100). 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.

OMB Control No.: 0648-0380

Expires 06/30/2009

- CITE-

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEAD-
CHAPTER 16A - ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- MISCl-Sec.

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- End-

- EXPCITE-
TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 16A - ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEAD-
Sec. 971. Definitions

- STATUTE-

For the purpose of this chapter -

(1) The term "Convention" means the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, signed at Rio de Janeiro May 14, 1966, including any amendments or protocols which are or become effective for the United States.

(2) The term "Commission" means the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas provided for in article III of the Convention.

(3) The term "conservation recommendation" means any recommendation of the Commission made pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention and acted upon favorably by the Secretary of State under section 971c(a) of this title.

(4) The term "Council" means the Council established within the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas pursuant to article V of the Convention.

(5) The term "exclusive economic zone" means an exclusive economic zone as defined in section 1802 of this title.

(6) The term "fishing" means the catching, taking, or fishing for or the attempted catching, taking, or fishing for any species of fish covered by the Convention, or any activities in support thereof.

(7) The term "fishing vessel" means any vessel engaged in catching fish or processing or transporting fish loaded on the high seas, or any vessel outfitted for such activities.

(8) The term "Panel" means any panel established by the Commission pursuant to article VI of the Convention.

(9) The term "person" means every individual, partnership, corporation, and association subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(10) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(11) The term "State" includes each of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

-SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 2, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 385; Pub. L. 94-265, title IV, Sec. 405(a), Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 361; Pub. L. 95-33, Sec. 2, May 26, 1977, 91 Stat. 173; Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Sec. 303(1), (2), Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 384; Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(1)(A), (F), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3452, 3453.)

-MISC1-

AMENDMENTS

1998 - Pars. (4), (5). Pub. L. 105-384 renumbered par. (4) defining "exclusive economic zone" as par. (5) and made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1802 of this title.

1995 - Par. (3). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 303(1), added par. (3). Former par. (3) redesignated (4).

Par. (4). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 303(2), added par. (4) defining "exclusive economic zone". Former par. (4) redesignated (5).

Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 303(1), redesignated par. (3) defining "Council" as (4). Par.

(5). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 303(2), struck out par. (5) which read as follows:

"The term 'fisheries zone' means the waters included within a zone contiguous to the territorial sea of the United States, of which the inner boundary is a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each coastal State, and the outer boundary is a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is two hundred nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured; or similar zones established by other parties to the Convention to the extent that such zones are recognized by the United States."

Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 303(1), redesignated par. (4) as (5). Former par. (5) redesignated (6).

Pars. (6) to (11). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 303(1), redesignated pars. (5) to (10) as (6) to (11), respectively.

1977 - Par. (4). Pub. L. 95-33 struck out the comma between "zone" and "contiguous", substituted "two hundred" for "200", and substituted a semicolon for a comma after "is measured".

1976 - Par. (4). Pub. L. 94-265, which directed the substitution of "the waters included within a zone, contiguous to the territorial sea of the United States, of which the inner boundary is a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each coastal state, and the outer boundary is a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured," for "the fisheries zone established pursuant to the Act of October 14, 1966 (80 Stat. 908; 16 U.S.C. 1091-1094)", was executed by making the substitution for "the entire zone established by the United States under the Act of October 14, 1966 (80 Stat. 908; 16 U.S.C. 1091-1094)", to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Section 405(b) of Pub. L. 94-265 provided that the amendment made by section 405(a) of Pub. L. 94-265 to this section was to take effect Mar. 1, 1977, prior to the general amendment of title IV of Pub. L. 94-265 by Pub. L. 104-297.

SHORT TITLE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Section 301 of title III of Pub. L. 104-43 provided that: "This title [enacting sections 971j and 971k of this title, amending this section and sections 971b, 971c to 971e, 971h, and 971i of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 971c of this title] may be cited as the 'Atlantic Tunas Convention Authorization Act of 1995'."

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 94-70 provided: "That this Act [enacting this chapter and provisions set out below] may be cited as the 'Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975'."

SEPARABILITY

Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 13, formerly Sec. 11, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat.

394; renumbered Sec. 13, Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec.

202(b)(1)(D), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3452, provided that: "If any provision of this Act [this chapter] or the application of such provision to any circumstance or persons shall be held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and the applicability of such provision to other circumstances or persons shall not be affected thereby."

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 971a

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 16A - ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEAD-

Sec. 971a. Commissioners

- STATUTE-

(a) Appointment and number; selection of Chairman; rules of procedure; term

(1) The United States shall be represented by not more than three Commissioners who shall serve as delegates of the United States on the Commission, and who may serve on the Council and Panels of the Commission as provided for in the Convention. Such Commissioners shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the President. Not more than one such Commissioner shall be a salaried employee of any State or political subdivision thereof, or the Federal Government. Individuals serving as such Commissioners shall not be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, except for purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28. The Commissioners shall be entitled to select a Chairman and to adopt such rules of procedure as they find necessary.

(2) Of the Commissioners appointed under paragraph (1) who are not governmental employees -

(A) one shall be appointed from among individuals with knowledge and experience regarding commercial fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean Sea; and

(B) one shall be appointed from among individuals with knowledge and experience regarding recreational fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean Sea.

(3)(A) The term of a Commissioner shall be three years.

(B) An individual appointed in accordance with paragraph (2) shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms as a Commissioner.

(b) Alternate Commissioners The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time deemed appropriate Alternate United States Commissioners to the Commission. Any Alternate United States Commissioner may exercise at any meeting of the Commission, Council, any Panel, or the advisory committee established pursuant to section 971b of this title, all powers and duties of a United States Commissioner in the absence of any Commissioner appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for whatever reason. The number of such Alternate United States Commissioners that may be designated for any such meeting shall be limited to the number of United States Commissioners appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section who will not be present at such meeting.

(c) Compensation

The United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners, although officers of the United States while so serving, shall receive no compensation for their services as such Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners.

(d) Travel expenses

(1) The Secretary of State shall pay the necessary travel expenses of United States Commissioners, Alternate United States Commissioners, and authorized advisors in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5.

(2) The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this subsection.

-SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 3, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 385; Pub. L. 101- 627, title II, Secs. 201(a), 203, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4459, 4460; Pub. L. 106-562, title III, Sec. 303, Dec. 23, 2000, 114 Stat. 2806.)

- MISCL-

AMENDMENTS

2000 - Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 106-562 inserted before last sentence "Individuals serving as such Commissioners shall not be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, except for purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of

title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28." 1990 - Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-627, Sec. 201(a), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added pars. (2) and (3). Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-627, Sec. 203, added subsec. (d).

LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS; APPLICATION TO CURRENT COMMISSIONERS Section 201(b) of title II of Pub. L. 101-627 provided that:

"(1) Paragraph (2) of section 3(a) of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971a(a)), as added by this section, shall not apply to reappointment of an individual as a United States Commissioner of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter in this title [enacting section 971b-1 of this title, amending this section and sections 971b, 971d, and 971h of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note below] referred to as a 'Commissioner') if that individual is serving in that position on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 28, 1990] .

"(2) An individual serving a term as a Commissioner on the date of enactment of this Act shall not, by reason of that term of service, be ineligible under paragraph (3)(B) of section 3(a) of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971a(a)), as added by this section, for reappointment as a Commissioner."

TERMINATION OF CURRENT TERMS AND COMPLETION OF PENDING APPOINTMENTS

Section 202 of Pub. L. 101-627 provided that: "The term as Commissioner of each individual serving in that position on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 28, 1990] shall terminate March 1, 1991. Not later than that date, the President shall complete appointment (or reappointment) of individuals to serve as Commissioners on and after that date."

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 971b

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 16A - ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEAD-

Sec. 971b. Advisory committee

- STATUTE-

(a) There is established an advisory committee which shall be composed of -

(1) not less than five nor more than twenty individuals appointed by the United States Commissioners who shall select such individuals from the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the Convention; and

(2) the chairmen (or their designees) of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf Fishery Management Councils established under section 302(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852 (a)) .

Each member of the advisory committee appointed under paragraph (1) shall serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible for reappointment. Members of the advisory committee may attend all public meetings of the Commission, Council, or any Panel and any other meetings to which they are invited by the Commission, Council, or any Panel. The advisory committee shall be invited to attend all nonexecutive meetings of the United States Commissioners and at such meetings shall be given opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission. Members of the advisory committee shall receive no compensation for their services as such members. The Secretary and the Secretary of State may pay the necessary travel expenses of members of the advisory committee in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5.

(b)(1) A majority of the members of the advisory committee shall constitute a quorum, but one or more such members designated by the advisory committee may hold meetings to provide for public participation and to discuss measures relating to the United States implementation of Commission recommendations.

(2) The advisory committee shall elect a Chairman for a 2-year term from among its members.

(3) The advisory committee shall meet at appropriate times and places at least twice a year, at the call of the Chairman or upon the request of the majority of its voting members, the United States Commissioners, the Secretary, or the Secretary of State. Meetings of the advisory committee, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public, and prior notice of meetings shall be made public in a timely fashion.

(4)(A) The Secretary shall provide to the advisory committee in a timely manner such administrative and technical support services as are necessary for the effective functioning of the committee.

(B) The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish the advisory committee with relevant information concerning fisheries and international fishery agreements.

(5) The advisory committee shall determine its organization, and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this chapter, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and the Convention. The advisory committee shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices, and procedures.

(6) The advisory committee shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consist of an equitable balance among the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the Convention and

shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 4, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 386; Pub. L. 96-339, Sec. 1(1), Sept. 4, 1980, 94 Stat. 1069; Pub. L. 96-561, title II, Sec. 238(b), Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3300; Pub. L. 101-627, title Sec. 204, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4460; Pub. L. 104-43, title Sec. 304, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 384; Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(1)(F), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3453.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(5), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 38 (Sec. 1801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(6), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

- MISC1-AMENDMENTS

1998 - Subsecs. (a)(2), (b)(5). Pub. L. 105-384 substituted "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery" for "Magnuson Fishery".

1995 - Pub. L. 104-43 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b) .

1990 - Pub. L. 101-627 amended last sentence generally. Prior to amendment, last sentence read as follows: "On approval by the United States Commissioners -

"(A) if not more than three members of the advisory committee are designated by the committee to attend any meeting of the Commission, Council, or advisory committee, or of any Panel, each of such members shall be paid for his actual transportation expenses and per diem incident to his attendance; and

"(B) in any case in which more than three members are designated by the advisory committee to attend any such meeting, each such member to whom subparagraph (A) does not apply may be paid for his actual transportation expenses and per diem incident to his attendance."

1980 - Pub. L. 96-339 incorporated existing provision in par. designated (1), added par. (2), redesignated as subpars. (A) and (B) former pars. (1) and (2), substituted in subpar. (B) reference to "subparagraph (A)" for "paragraph (1)", and made specific reference to appointment of committee member under paragraph (1). Par. (2). Pub. L. 96-561 substituted "Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act" for "Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 238(b) of Pub. L. 96-561 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective 15 days after Dec. 22, 1980.

- End-

- CITE-16 USC Sec. 971b-1 01/02/2006

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971b-1. Species working groups

- STATUTE-

The United States Commissioners may establish species working groups for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations to the Commissioners and the advisory committee on matters relating to the conservation and management of any highly migratory species covered by the Convention. Any species working group shall consist of no more than seven members of the advisory committee and no more than four scientific or technical personnel, as considered necessary by the Commissioner.

- SOURCE-(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 4A, as added Pub. L. 101-627, title II, Sec. 205, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4460.)

- End-

- CITE-16 USC Sec. 971c 01/02/2006

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971c. Authority of Secretary of State; cooperative enforcement agreements

- STATUTE-

(a) Recommendations from Commission

The Secretary of State is authorized to receive on behalf of the United States, reports, requests, and other communications of the Commission, and to act thereon directly or by reference to the appropriate authorities. The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary and, for matters relating to enforcement, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, is authorized to take appropriate action on behalf of the United States with regard to recommendations received from the Commission pursuant to article VIII of the Convention.

The Secretary and, when appropriate, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall inform the Secretary of State as to what action he considers appropriate within five months of the date of the notification of the recommendation from the Commission, and again within forty-five days of the additional sixty-day period provided by the Convention if any objection is presented by another contracting party to the Convention, or within thirty days of the date of the notification of an objection made within the additional sixty-day period, whichever date shall be the later. After any notification from the Commission that an objection of the United States is to be considered as having no effect, the Secretary shall inform the Secretary of State as to what action he considers appropriate within forty-five days of the sixty-day period provided by the Convention for reaffirming objections. The Secretary of State shall take steps under the Convention to insure that a recommendation pursuant to article VIII of the Convention does not become effective for the United States prior to its becoming effective for all contracting parties conducting fisheries affected by such recommendation on a meaningful scale in terms of their effect upon the success of the conservation program, unless he determines, with the concurrence of the Secretary, and, for matters relating to enforcement, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, that the purposes of the Convention would be served by allowing a recommendation to take effect for the United States at some earlier time.

(b) Enforcement agreements

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, is authorized to enter into agreements with any contracting party, pursuant to paragraph 3 of article IX of the Convention, relating to cooperative enforcement of the provisions of the Convention, recommendations in force for the United States and such party or parties under the Convention, and regulations adopted by the United States and such contracting party or parties pursuant to recommendations of the Commission. Such agreements may authorize personnel of the United States to enforce measures under the Convention and under regulations of another party with respect to persons under that party's jurisdiction, and may authorize personnel of another party to enforce measures under the Convention and under United States regulations with respect to persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Enforcement under such an agreement may not take place within the territorial seas or exclusive economic zone of the United States. Such agreements shall not subject persons or vessels under the jurisdiction of the United States to prosecution or assessment of penalties by any court or tribunal of a foreign country.

-SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 5, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 386; Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Sec. 303(3), Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 384; Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(1)(B), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3452.)

-MISC1-

AMENDMENTS

1998 - Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-384 directed amendment identical to amendment by Pub. L. 104-43. See 1995 Amendment note below.

1995 - Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-43 substituted "exclusive economic zone" for "fisheries zone" after "territorial seas or" in third sentence.

- TRANS-

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

- MISC2-

MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC YELLOWFIN TUNA

Section 309(b) of Pub. L. 104-43, as amended by Pub. L. 104-297, title IV, Sec. 406, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3621, provided that: "Not later than July 1, 1997, the Secretary of Commerce shall implement the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas regarding yellowfin tuna made pursuant to Article VIII of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and acted upon favorably by the Secretary of State under section 5(a) of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971c(a))."

- End-

- CITE-16 USC Sec. 971d

01/02/2006

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971d. Administration

- STATUTE-

(a) Regulations; cooperation with other parties to Convention; utilization of personnel, services, and facilities for enforcement
The Secretary is authorized and directed to administer and enforce all of the provisions of the Convention, this chapter, and regulations issued pursuant thereto, except to the extent otherwise provided for in this chapter. In carrying out such functions the Secretary is authorized and directed to adopt such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives

of the Convention and this chapter, and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, he may cooperate with the duly authorized officials of the government of any party to the Convention. In addition, the Secretary may utilize, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating insofar as such utilization involves enforcement at sea, with or without reimbursement and by agreement with any other Federal department or agency, or with any agency of any State, the personnel, services, and facilities of that agency for enforcement purposes with respect to any vessel in the exclusive economic zone, or wherever found, with respect to any vessel documented under the laws of the United States, and any vessel numbered or otherwise licensed under the laws of any State. When so utilized, such personnel of the States of the United States are authorized to function as Federal law enforcement agents for these purposes, but they shall not be held and considered as employees of the United States for the purposes of any laws administered by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) Primary enforcement responsibility

Enforcement activities at sea under the provisions of this chapter for fishing vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States shall be primarily the responsibility of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in cooperation with the Secretary and the United States Customs Service. The Secretary after consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall adopt such regulations as may be necessary to provide for procedures and methods of enforcement pursuant to article IX of the Convention.

(c) Regulations and other measures to carry out Commission recommendations (1)(A) Upon favorable action by the Secretary of State under section 971c(a) of this title on any recommendation of the Commission made pursuant to article VIII of the Convention, the Secretary shall promulgate, pursuant to this subsection, such regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out such recommendation.

(B) Not later than June 30, 1991, the Secretary shall promulgate any additional regulations necessary to ensure that the United States is in full compliance with all recommendations made by the Commission that have been accepted by the United States and with other agreements under the Convention between the United States and any nation which is a party to the Convention.

(C) Regulations promulgated under this paragraph shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with fishery management plans prepared and implemented under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(2) To promulgate regulations referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a general notice of proposed rulemaking and shall afford interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking through (A) submission of written data, views, or arguments, and (B) oral presentation at a public hearing. Such regulations shall be published in the Federal Register and shall be accompanied by a statement of the considerations involved in the issuance of the regulations, and by a statement, based on inquiries and investigations, assessing the nature and effectiveness of the measures for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations which are being or will be carried out by countries whose vessels engage in fishing the species subject to such recommendations within the waters to which the Convention applies. After publication in the Federal Register, such regulations shall be applicable to all vessels and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States on such date as the Secretary shall prescribe. The Secretary shall suspend at any time the application of any such regulation when, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the United States Commissioners, he determines that fishing operations in the Convention area of a contracting party for whom the regulations are effective are such as to constitute a serious threat to the achievement of the Commission's recommendations.

(3) The regulations required to be promulgated under paragraph (1) of this subsection may -

- (A) select for regulation one or more of the species covered by the Convention;
- (B) divide the Convention waters into areas;
- (C) establish one or more open or closed seasons as to each such area;
- (D) limit the size of the fish and quantity of the catch which may be taken from each area within any season during which fishing is allowed;
- (E) limit or prohibit the incidental catch of a regulated species which may be retained, taken, possessed, or landed by vessels or persons fishing for other species of fish;
- (F) require records of operations to be kept by any master or other person in charge of any fishing vessel;
- (G) require such clearance certificates for vessels as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Convention and this chapter;
- (H) require proof satisfactory to the Secretary that any fish subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of the Commission offered for entry into the United States has not been taken or retained contrary to the recommendations of the Commission made pursuant to article VIII of the Convention which have been adopted as regulations pursuant to this section;
- (I) require any commercial or recreational fisherman to obtain a permit from the Secretary and report the quantity of the catch of a regulated species;
- (J) require that observers be carried aboard fishing vessels for the purpose of providing statistically reliable scientific data; and
- (K) impose such other requirements and provide for such other measures as the Secretary may determine necessary to implement any recommendation of the Convention or to obtain scientific data necessary to accomplish the purpose of the Convention; except that no regulation promulgated under this section may have the effect of increasing or decreasing any allocation or quota of fish or fishing mortality level to the United States agreed to pursuant to a recommendation of the Commission.

(4) Upon the promulgation of regulations provided for in paragraph (3) of this subsection, the Secretary shall promulgate, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and pursuant to the procedures prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subsection, additional regulations which shall become effective simultaneously with the application of the regulations provided for in paragraph (3) of this subsection, which prohibit -

(A) the entry into the United States of fish in any form of those species which are subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of the Commission and which were taken from the Convention area in such manner or in such circumstances as would tend to diminish the effectiveness of the conservation recommendations of the Commission; and

(B) the entry into the United States, from any country when the vessels of such country are being used in the conduct of fishing operations in the Convention area in such manner or in such circumstances as would tend to diminish the effectiveness of the conservation recommendations of the Commission, of fish in any form of those species which are subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of the Commission and which were taken from the Convention area.

(5) In the case of repeated and flagrant fishing operations in the Convention area by the vessels of any country which seriously threaten the achievement of the objectives of the Commission's recommendations, the Secretary with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may by regulations promulgated pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection prohibit the entry in any form from such country of other species covered by the Convention as may be under investigation by the Commission and which were taken in the Convention area. Any such prohibition shall continue until the Secretary is satisfied that the condition warranting the prohibition no longer exists, except that all fish in any form of the species under regulation which were previously prohibited from entry shall continue to be prohibited from entry.

(6) Identification and notification. -

(A) Not later than July 1, 1996, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Commissioners, and the advisory committee, shall -

(i) identify those nations whose fishing vessels are fishing, or have fished during the preceding calendar year, within the convention area in a manner or under circumstances that diminish the effectiveness of a conservation recommendation;

(ii) notify the President and the nation so identified, including an explanation of the reasons therefor; and

(iii) publish a list of those Nations identified under clause

(B) In identifying those Nations, the Secretary shall consider, based on the best available information, whether those Nations have measures in place for reporting, monitoring, and enforcement, and whether those measures diminish the effectiveness of any conservation recommendation.

(7) Consultation. - Not later than 30 days after a Nation is notified under paragraph (6), the President may enter into consultations with the Government of that Nation for the purpose of obtaining an agreement that will -

(A) effect the immediate termination and prevent the resumption of any fishing operation by vessels of that Nation within the Convention area which is conducted in a manner or under circumstances that diminish the effectiveness of the conservation recommendation;

(B) when practicable, require actions by that Nation, or vessels of that Nation, to mitigate the negative impacts of fishing operations on the effectiveness of the conservation recommendation involved, including but not limited to, the imposition of subsequent-year deductions for quota overages; and

(C) result in the establishment, if necessary, by such Nation of reporting, monitoring, and enforcement measures that are adequate to ensure the effectiveness of conservation recommendations.

(d) Recommended Commission actions regarding large-scale driftnet fishing and conservation of Atlantic swordfish

(1) It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, should seek support for a recommendation by the Commission to ban large-scale driftnet fishing (as that term is defined in section 3(16) (1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act [16 U.S.C. 1802 (16)]) in the Convention area.

(2) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall request the Commission to adopt recommendations necessary for the conservation and management of Atlantic swordfish. In making the request, the Secretary shall seek the establishment of an international minimum harvest size and a reduction in harvest levels to the extent necessary to conserve the stock. Until the Commission adopts all the conservation and management measures requested by the Secretary, the Secretary, within 3 months after each annual meeting of the Commission, shall notify Congress as to the nature and results of his request. These notifications shall identify those nations not acting to conserve and manage Atlantic swordfish, and recommend measures which could be taken to achieve effective international conservation and management of the stock.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 6, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 387; 1978 Reorg. Plan No. 2, Sec. 102, eff. Jan. 1, 1979, 43 F.R. 36037, 92 Stat. 3784; Pub. L. 101-627, title II, Secs. 206, 207, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4461; Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Secs. 303(3), 305, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 384, 385; Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(1)(C), (F), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3452, 3453.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(1)(C), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 38 (Sec. 1801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.

Section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1), was subsequently amended, and section 3(16) no longer defines the term "large-scale driftnet fishing". However, such term is defined elsewhere in that section.

- MISCL-

AMENDMENTS

1998 - Subsec. (c) (1) (C) . Pub. L. 105-384, Sec. 202 (b) (1) (F) , substituted "Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery" for "Magnuson Fishery".

Subsecs. (c) (6) (A) (iii) , (B) . Pub. L. 105-384, Sec. 202 (b) (1) (C) , substituted "clause (i) " for "subparagraph (A)" in cl. (iii), and redesignated last sentence of subpar. (A) as subpar. (B) and realigned margin.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 105-384, Sec. 202(b)(1)(F), substituted "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery" for "Magnuson Fishery".

1995 - Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 303(3), substituted "exclusive economic zone" for "fisheries zone" after "any vessel in the" in third sentence.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 305(1), inserted "and other measures" after "Regulations" in heading.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 305(2), inserted "or fishing mortality level" after "quota of fish" in concluding provisions.

Subsec. (c)(6), (7). Pub. L. 104-43, Sec. 305(3), added pars. (6) and (7) .

1990 - Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 101-627, Sec. 206(a), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A) and added subpars. (B) and (C).

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 101-627, Sec. 206(b), added subpars. (I) to (K) and concluding provisions and struck out former subpar. (I) which read as follows: "impose such other requirements and provide for such other measures as the Secretary may deem necessary to implement any recommendation of the Commission."

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-627, Sec. 207, amended subsec. (d) generally, substituting provisions relating to recommended Commission actions regarding large-scale driftnet fishing and conservation of Atlantic swordfish for provisions relating to Commission recommendations concerning bluefin tuna and issuance of regulations.

- TRANS-

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. "Director of the Office of Personnel Management" substituted for "Civil Service Commission" in subsec. (a) pursuant to Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1978, Sec. 102, 43 F.R. 36037, 92 Stat. 3783, set out under section 1101 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, which transferred functions vested by statute in the Civil Service Commission to Director of Office of Personnel Management (except as otherwise specified), effective Jan. 1, 1979, as provided by section 1-102 of Ex. Ord. No. 12107, Dec. 28, 1978, 44 F.R. 1055, set out under section 1101 of Title 5.

- MISC2-

USE OF AIRCRAFT IN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING

Pub. L. 106-553, Sec. 1(a) (2) [title VI, Sec. 634] , Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2762, 2762A-114, provided that none of the funds of the Department of Commerce would be available to issue or renew, for any fishing vessel, any general or harpoon category fishing permit for Atlantic bluefin tuna that would allow the vessel to use an aircraft to locate, or otherwise assist in fishing for, catching, or possessing Atlantic bluefin tuna, or to fish for, catch, or possess Atlantic bluefin tuna located by the use of an aircraft.

- FOOTNOTE-

(!1) See References in Text note below.

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 971e

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 16A - ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971e. Violations

- STATUTE-

(a) In general

It shall be unlawful -

(1) for any person in charge of a fishing vessel or any fishing vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to engage in fishing in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to section 971d of this title; or

(2) for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to ship, transport, purchase, sell, offer for sale, import, export, or have in custody, possession, or control any fish which he knows, or should have known, were taken or retained contrary to the recommendations of the Commission made pursuant to article VIII of the Convention and adopted as regulations pursuant to section 971d of this title, without regard to the citizenship of the person or

vessel which took the fish.

(b) Failure to furnish returns, records, or reports

It shall be unlawful for the master or any person in charge of any fishing vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to fail to make, keep, or furnish any catch returns, statistical records, or other reports as are required by regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter to be made, kept, or furnished by such master or person.

(c) Refusal of request to board and inspect vessel

It shall be unlawful for the master or any person in charge of any fishing vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to refuse to permit any person authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, to board such vessel and inspect its catch, equipment, books, documents, records, or other articles or question the persons onboard in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, or the Convention, as the case may be, or to obstruct such officials in the execution of such duties.

(d) Importation of ineligible species or species under investigation

It shall be unlawful for any person to import, in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to section 971d(c) or (d) (!1) of this title, from any country, any fish in any form of those species subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of the Commission, or any fish in any form not under regulation but under investigation by the Commission, during the period such fish have been denied entry in accordance with the provisions of section 971d(c) or (d) (!1) of this title. In the case of any fish as described in this subsection offered for entry in the United States, the Secretary shall require proof satisfactory to him that such fish is not ineligible for such entry under the terms of section 971d(c) or (d) (!1) of this title.

(e) Sanctions

The civil penalty and permit sanctions of section 1858 of this title are hereby made applicable to violations of this section as if they were violations of section 1857 of this title.

(f) Forfeiture

All fish taken or retained in violation of subsection (a) of this section, or the monetary value thereof, may be forfeited.

(g) Applicability of other laws

All provisions of law relating to the seizure, judicial forfeiture, and condemnation of a cargo for violation of the customs laws, the disposition of such cargo or the proceeds from the sale thereof, and the remission or mitigation of such forfeitures shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions of this chapter, insofar as such provisions of law are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 7, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 390; Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Sec. 306, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 385; Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(1)(F), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3453.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 971d(d) of this title, referred to in subsec. (d), was amended generally by Pub. L. 101-627, title II, Sec. 207, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4461. Prior to amendment, subsec. (d) related to Commission recommendations concerning bluefin tuna and issuance of regulations in that regard.

- MISC1-AMENDMENTS

1998 - Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105-384 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1858 of this title.

1995 - Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-43 amended subsec. (e) generally, substituting present provisions for provisions establishing civil penalties for violations of this section, providing for authority of Secretary to assess, remit, or mitigate any civil penalty, providing for notice and hearing prior to assessment, and providing for civil action upon failure to pay penalty.

- FOOTNOTE-

(!1) See References in Text note below.

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 971f

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 16A - ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971f. Enforcement

- STATUTE-

(a) Particular powers

Any person authorized in accordance with the provisions of this chapter to enforce the provisions of this chapter and the regulations issued thereunder may -

(1) with or without a warrant, board any vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and inspect such vessel and its catch and, if as a result of such inspection, he has reasonable cause to believe that such vessel or any person on board is engaging in operations in violation of this chapter or any regulations issued thereunder, he may, with or without a

warrant or other process, arrest such person;

(2) arrest, with or without a warrant, any person who violates the provisions of this chapter or any regulation issued thereunder in his presence or view;

(3) execute any warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction; and

(4) seize, whenever and wherever lawfully found, all fish taken or retained by a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States in violation of the provisions of this chapter or any regulations issued pursuant thereto. Any fish so seized may be disposed of pursuant to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or, if perishable, in a manner prescribed by regulation of the Secretary.

(b) International enforcement

To the extent authorized under the convention or by agreements between the United States and any contracting party concluded pursuant to section 971c(b) of this title for international enforcement, the duly authorized officials of such party shall have the authority to carry out the enforcement activities specified in subsection (a) of this section with respect to persons or vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the officials of the United States authorized pursuant to this section shall have the authority to carry out the enforcement activities specified in subsection (a) of this section with respect to persons or vessels subject to the jurisdiction of such party, except that where any agreement provides for arrest or seizure of persons or vessels under United States jurisdiction it shall also provide that the person or vessel arrested or seized shall be promptly handed over to a United States enforcement officer or another authorized United States official.

(c) Bonds or stipulations

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2464 of title 28, when a warrant of arrest or other process in rem is issued in any cause under this section, the marshal or other officer shall stay the execution of such process, or discharge any fish seized if the process has been levied, on receiving from the claimant of the fish a bond or stipulation for the value of the property with sufficient surety to be approved by a judge of the district court having jurisdiction of the offense, conditioned to deliver the fish seized, if condemned, without impairment in value or, in the discretion of the court, to pay its equivalent value in money or otherwise to answer the decree of the court in such cause. Such bond or stipulation shall be returned to the court and judgment thereon against both the principal and sureties may be recovered in event of any breach of the conditions thereof as determined by the court. In the discretion of the accused, and subject to the direction of the court, the fish may be sold for not less than its reasonable market value at the time of seizure and the proceeds of such sale placed in the registry of the court pending judgment in the case.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 8, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 391.)

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 971g

01/02/2006

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971g. Cooperation in carrying out Convention

- STATUTE-

(a) Federal and State agencies; private institutions and organizations
The United States Commissioners, through the Secretary of State and with the concurrence of the agency, institution, or organization concerned, may arrange for the cooperation of agencies of the United States Government, and of State and private institutions and organizations in carrying out the provisions of article IV of the Convention.

(b) Scientific and other programs; facilities and personnel
All agencies of the Federal Government are authorized, upon the request of the Commission, to cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs, and to furnish facilities and personnel for the purpose of assisting the Commission in carrying out its duties under the Convention.

(c) Fishing operations and biological experiments
None of the prohibitions deriving from this chapter, or contained in the laws or regulations of any State, shall prevent the Commission from conducting or authorizing the conduct of fishing operations and biological experiments at any time for purposes of scientific investigation, or shall prevent the Commission from discharging any other duties prescribed by the Convention.

(d) State jurisdiction; preemption by Federal regulations

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as to diminish or to increase the jurisdiction of any State in the territorial sea of the United States.

(2) In the event a State does not request a formal hearing and after notice by the Secretary, the regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter to implement recommendations of the Commission shall apply within the boundaries of any State bordering on any Convention area if the Secretary determines that any such State -

(A) has not, within a reasonable period of time after the promulgation of regulations pursuant to this chapter, enacted laws or promulgated regulations which implement any such recommendation of the Commission within the boundaries of such State; or

(B) has enacted laws or promulgated regulations which (i) are less restrictive than the

regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter, or (ii) are not effectively enforced.

If a State requests the opportunity for an agency hearing on the record, the Secretary shall not apply regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter within that State's boundaries unless the hearing record supports a determination under paragraph (A) or (B). Such regulations shall apply until the Secretary determines that the State is effectively enforcing within its boundaries measures which are not less restrictive than such regulations.

(e) Continuing review of State laws and regulations

To insure that the purposes of subsection (d) of this section are carried out, the Secretary shall undertake a continuing review of the laws and regulations of all States to which subsection (d) of this section applies or may apply and the extent to which such laws and regulations are enforced.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 9, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 392.)

- EXEC-

TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea of United States, see Proc. No. 5928, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

- End-

- CITE-16 USC Sec. 971h 01/02/2006

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971h. Authorization of appropriations

- STATUTE-

(a) In general

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter, including use for payment of the United States share of the joint expenses of the Commission as provided in Article X of the Convention, the following sums:

(1) For each of fiscal years 2003 and 2004, \$5,480,000.

(2) For each of fiscal years 2005 and 2006, \$5,495,000. (b) Allocation

Of amounts available under this section for each fiscal year -

(1) \$150,000 are authorized for the advisory committee established under section 971b of this title and the species working groups established under section 971b-1 of this title; and

(2) \$4,240,000 are authorized for research activities under this chapter and the Act of September 4, 1980 (16 U.S.C. 971i).

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 10, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 393; Pub. L. 95-33, Sec. 1, May 26, 1977, 91 Stat. 173; Pub. L. 96-339, Sec. 1(2), Sept. 4, 1980, 94 Stat. 1069; Pub. L. 98-44, title I, Sec. 101, July 12, 1983, 97 Stat. 216; Pub. L. 99-659, title IV, Sec. 404, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3737; Pub. L. 101-627, title II, Sec. 208, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4462; Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Sec. 307, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 386; Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3452; Pub. L. 107-372, title III, Sec. 304, Dec. 19, 2002, 116 Stat. 3095.)

- REFTEXTREFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of September 4, 1980, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is Pub. L. 96-339, Sept. 4, 1980, 94 Stat. 1069, which enacted sections 971i and 1827 of this title and amended this section and section 971b of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

- MISC1-

AMENDMENTS

2002 - Pub. L. 107-372 amended section generally, substituting provisions authorizing appropriations for fiscal years 2003 to 2006 for provisions authorizing appropriations for fiscal years 1995 to 2001.

1998 - Par. (4). Pub. L. 105-384 substituted "For each of fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001," for "For fiscal year 1998,".

1995 - Pub. L. 104-43 amended section generally, substituting provisions authorizing appropriations for fiscal years 1995 to 1998 for provisions authorizing appropriations for fiscal years 1989 to 1993.

1990 - Pub. L. 101-627 amended section generally, substituting provisions authorizing appropriations for fiscal years 1989 to 1993 for provisions authorizing appropriations for fiscal years 1986 to 1989 and striking out provisions relating to use of sums for travel expenses.

1986 - Pub. L. 99-659 substituted authorization of appropriations for fiscal years 1986 through 1989 for former authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 1976, the period beginning July 1, 1976, and ending Sept. 30, 1976, and fiscal years 1977 through 1986.

1983 - Pub. L. 98-44 authorized appropriations for fiscal years 1984 through 1986.

1980 - Pub. L. 96-339 authorized appropriations for fiscal years 1981 through 1983.

1977 - Pub. L. 95-33 authorized appropriations for fiscal years 1978 through 1980.

- End-

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971i. Research on Atlantic highly migratory species

- STATUTE-

- (a) Omitted
- (b) Highly migratory species research and monitoring
- (1) Within 6 months after November 3, 1995, the Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the advisory committee established under section 4 of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971b) and in consultation with the United States Commissioners on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (referred to elsewhere in this section as the "Commission") and the Secretary of State, shall develop and implement a comprehensive research and monitoring program to support the conservation and management of Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species that shall -
 - (A) identify and define the range of stocks of highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean, including Atlantic bluefin tuna; and
 - (B) provide for appropriate participation by nations which are members of the Commission.

- (2) The program shall provide for, but not be limited to -
 - (A) statistically designed cooperative tagging studies;
 - (B) genetic and biochemical stock analyses;
 - (C) population censuses carried out through aerial surveys of fishing grounds and known migration areas;
 - (D) adequate observer coverage and port sampling of commercial and recreational fishing activity;
 - (E) collection of comparable real-time data on commercial and recreational catches and landings through the use of permits, logbooks, landing reports for charter operations and fishing tournaments, and programs to provide reliable reporting of the catch by private anglers;
 - (F) studies of the life history parameters of Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species;
 - (G) integration of data from all sources and the preparation of data bases to support management decisions; and
 - (H) other research as necessary.

- (3) In developing a program under this section, the Secretary shall -
 - (A) ensure that personnel and resources of each regional research center shall have substantial participation in the stock assessments and monitoring of highly migratory species that occur in the region;
 - (B) provide for comparable monitoring of all United States fishermen to which the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 applies with respect to effort and species composition of catch and discards;
 - (C) consult with relevant Federal and State agencies, scientific and technical experts, commercial and recreational fishermen, and other interested persons, public and private, and shall publish a proposed plan in the Federal Register for the purpose of receiving public comment on the plan; and
 - (D) through the Secretary of State, encourage other member nations to adopt a similar program.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 96-339, Sec. 3, Sept. 4, 1980, 94 Stat. 1070; Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Sec. 302(b), Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 382; Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(2), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3453.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975, referred to in subsec. (b)(3)(B), is Pub. L. 94-70, Aug. 5, 1975, 89 Stat. 385, as amended, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 971 of this title and Tables.

- COD-

CODIFICATION

Subsection (a), which required the Secretary of Commerce to prepare and submit to Congress a biennial report on the level of taking of bluefin tuna by United States fishermen in the Convention area as defined in Article I of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the status of bluefin tuna stocks within the Convention area and the trends in their population level, and related information resulting from implementation of the observer program under section 1827 of this title, terminated, effective May 15, 2000, pursuant to section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance. See, also, page 50 of House Document No. 103-7.

Section was not enacted as part of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 which comprises this chapter.

- MISC1-AMENDMENTS 1998 - Subsec. (b)(3)(B). Pub. L. 105-384 inserted "of 1975"

after "Act".

1995 - Pub. L. 104-43 amended section catchline generally, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, struck out last sentence which read as follows: "There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.", and added subsec. (b).

- End-

- CITE-16 USC Sec. 971j 01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 16A - ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971j. Annual report

- STATUTE-

Not later than April 1, 1996, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report, that -

(1) details for the previous 10-year period the catches and exports to the United States of highly migratory species (including tunas, swordfish, marlin and sharks) from Nations fishing on Atlantic stocks of such species that are subject to management by the Commission;

(2) identifies those fishing Nations whose harvests are inconsistent with conservation and management recommendations of the Commission;

(3) describes reporting requirements established by the Secretary to ensure that imported fish products are in compliance with all international management measures, including minimum size requirements, established by the Commission and other international fishery organizations to which the United States is a party; and

(4) describes actions taken by the Secretary under section 971d of this title.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 11, as added Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Sec. 308, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 386; amended Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(1)(E), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3453.)

- MISC1-

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 11 of Pub. L. 94-70 was renumbered section 13 and is set out as a Separability note under section 971 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1998 - Pub. L. 105-384 made technical amendment to style of heading and section designation in original act.

- End-

- CITE-16 USC Sec. 971k 01/02/2006

- EXPCITETITLE 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 16A -
ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION

- HEADSec. 971k. Savings clause

- STATUTE-

Nothing in this chapter shall have the effect of diminishing the rights and obligations of any Nation under Article VIII(3) of the Convention.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 94-70, Sec. 12, as added Pub. L. 104-43, title III, Sec. 308, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 387; amended Pub. L. 105-384, title II, Sec. 202(b)(1)(E), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3453.)

- MISC1-

AMENDMENTS

1998 - Pub. L. 105-384 made technical amendment to style of heading and section designation in original act.

- End-

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The fish off the coasts of the United States, the highly migratory species of the high seas, the species which dwell on or in the Continental Shelf appertaining to the United States, and the anadromous species which spawn in United States rivers or estuaries, constitute valuable and renewable natural resources. These fishery resources contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of the Nation and provide recreational opportunities.

104-297

(2) Certain stocks of fish have declined to the point where their survival is threatened, and other stocks of fish have been so substantially reduced in number that they could become similarly threatened as a consequence of (A) increased fishing pressure, (B) the inadequacy of fishery resource conservation and management practices and controls, or (C) direct and indirect habitat losses which have resulted in a diminished capacity to support existing fishing levels.

(3) Commercial and recreational fishing constitutes a major source of employment and contributes significantly to the economy of the Nation. Many coastal areas are dependent upon fishing and related activities, and their economies have been badly damaged by the overfishing of fishery resources at an ever-increasing rate over the past decade. The activities of massive foreign fishing fleets in waters adjacent to such coastal areas have contributed to such damage, interfered with domestic fishing efforts, and caused destruction of the fishing gear of United States fishermen.

(4) International fishery agreements have not been effective in preventing or terminating the overfishing of these valuable fishery resources. There is danger that irreversible effects from overfishing will take place before an effective international agreement on fishery management jurisdiction can be negotiated, signed, ratified, and implemented.

(5) Fishery resources are finite but renewable. If placed under sound management before overfishing has caused irreversible effects, the fisheries can be conserved and maintained so as to provide optimum yields on a continuing basis.

104-297

(6) A national program for the conservation and management of the fishery resources of the United States is necessary to prevent overfishing, to rebuild overfished stocks, to insure conservation, to facilitate long-term protection of essential fish habitats, and to realize the full potential of the Nation's fishery resources.

95-354

(7) A national program for the development of fisheries which are underutilized or not utilized by the United States fishing industry, including bottom fish off Alaska, is necessary to assure that our citizens benefit from the employment, food supply, and revenue which could be generated thereby.

101-627

(8) The collection of reliable data is essential to the effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the fishery resources of the United States.

104-297

(9) One of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States.

104-297

(10) Pacific Insular Areas contain unique historical, cultural, legal, political, and geographical circumstances which make fisheries resources important in sustaining their economic growth.

109-479

(11) A number of the Fishery Management Councils have demonstrated significant progress in integrating ecosystem considerations in fisheries management using the existing authorities provided under this Act.

109-479

(12) International cooperation is necessary to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and other fishing practices which may harm the sustainability of living marine resources and disadvantage the United States fishing industry.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is therefore declared to be the purposes of the Congress in this Act—

99-659, 101-627, 102-251

(1) to take immediate action to conserve and manage the fishery resources found off the coasts of the United States, and the anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources of the United States, by exercising (A) sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing all fish within the exclusive economic zone established by Presidential Proclamation 5030, dated March 10, 1983, and (B) exclusive fishery management authority beyond the exclusive economic zone over such anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources[, and fishery resources in the special areas]*;

(2) to support and encourage the implementation and enforcement of international fishery agreements for the conservation and management of highly migratory species, and to encourage the negotiation and implementation of additional such agreements as necessary;

104-297

(3) to promote domestic commercial and recreational fishing under sound conservation and management principles, including the promotion of catch and release programs in recreational fishing;

(4) to provide for the preparation and implementation, in accordance with national standards, of fishery management plans which will achieve and maintain, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery;

101-627

(5) to establish Regional Fishery Management Councils to exercise sound judgment in the stewardship of fishery resources through

the preparation, monitoring, and revision of such plans under circumstances (A) which will enable the States, the fishing industry, consumer and environmental organizations, and other interested persons to participate in, and advise on, the establishment and administration of such plans, and (B) which take into account the social and economic needs of the States;

95-354, 96-561, 104-297

(6) to encourage the development by the United States fishing industry of fisheries which are currently underutilized or not utilized by United States fishermen, including bottom fish off Alaska, and to that end, to ensure that optimum yield determinations promote such development in a non-wasteful manner; and

104-297

(7) to promote the protection of essential fish habitat in the review of projects conducted under Federal permits, licenses, or other authorities that affect or have the potential to affect such habitat.

(c) POLICY.—It is further declared to be the policy of the Congress in this Act—

(1) to maintain without change the existing territorial or other ocean jurisdiction of the United States for all purposes other than the conservation and management of fishery resources, as provided for in this Act;

(2) to authorize no impediment to, or interference with, recognized legitimate uses of the high seas, except as necessary for the conservation and management of fishery resources, as provided for in this Act;

101-627, 104-297

(3) to assure that the national fishery conservation and management program utilizes, and is based upon, the best scientific information available; involves, and is responsive to the needs of, interested and affected States and citizens; considers efficiency; draws upon Federal, State, and academic capabilities in carrying out research, administration, management, and enforcement; considers the effects of fishing on immature fish and encourages development of practical measures that minimize bycatch and avoid unnecessary waste of fish; and is workable and effective;

(4) to permit foreign fishing consistent with the provisions of this Act;

99-659, 101-627

(5) to support and encourage active United States efforts to obtain internationally acceptable agreements which provide for effective conservation and management of fishery resources, and to secure agreements to regulate fishing by vessels or persons beyond the exclusive economic zones of any nation;

101-627

(6) to foster and maintain the diversity of fisheries in the United States; and

104-297

(7) to ensure that the fishery resources adjacent to a Pacific Insular Area, including resident or migratory stocks within the exclusive economic zone adjacent to such areas, be explored, developed, conserved, and managed for the benefit of the people of such area and of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS

16 U.S.C. 1802

As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(1) The term "anadromous species" means species of fish which spawn in fresh or estuarine waters of the United States and which migrate to ocean waters.

104-297

(2) The term "bycatch" means fish which are harvested in a fishery, but which are not sold or kept for personal use, and includes economic discards and regulatory discards. Such term does not include fish released alive under a recreational catch and release fishery management program.

104-297

(3) The term "charter fishing" means fishing from a vessel carrying a passenger for hire (as defined in section 2101(21a) of title 46, United States Code) who is engaged in recreational fishing.

104-297

(4) The term "commercial fishing" means fishing in which the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are intended to enter commerce or enter commerce through sale, barter or trade.

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;

109-479

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, charter fishing, and fish processing 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, economic information necessary to meet the requirements of this Act, 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;

109-479

(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 analyze the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, economic, and social impacts, of the conservation and management measures on, and possible mitigation measures for—

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

(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; and

(C) the safety of human life at sea, including whether and to what extent such measures may affect the safety of participants in the fishery;

(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;

16 U.S.C. 1853
MSA § 303

(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;

109-479

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

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(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate, taking into consideration the economic impact of the harvest restrictions or recovery benefits on the fishery participants in each sector, any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery and;

109-479

(15) establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.

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;

109-479

(2)(A) 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;

(B) designate such zones in areas where deep sea corals are identified under section 408, to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas; and

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SEC. 402. INFORMATION COLLECTION

16 U.S.C. 1881a

109-479

(a) COLLECTION PROGRAMS.—

(1) COUNCIL REQUESTS.—If a Council determines that additional information would be beneficial for developing, implementing, or revising a fishery management plan or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Council may request that the Secretary implement an information collection program for the fishery which would provide the types of information specified by the Council. The Secretary shall undertake such an information collection program if he determines that the need is justified, and shall promulgate regulations to implement the program within 60 days after such determination is made. If the Secretary determines that the need for an information collection program is not justified, the Secretary shall inform the Council of the reasons for such determination in writing. The determinations of the Secretary under this paragraph regarding a Council request shall be made within a reasonable period of time after receipt of that request.

(2) SECRETARIAL INITIATION.—If the Secretary determines that additional information is necessary for developing, implementing, revising, or monitoring a fishery management plan, or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Secretary may, by regulation, implement an information collection or observer program requiring submission of such additional information for the fishery.

109-479

(b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—

(1) Any information submitted to the Secretary, a State fishery management agency, or a marine fisheries commission by any person in compliance with the requirements of this Act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except—

(A) to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for fishery management plan development, monitoring, or enforcement;

(B) to State or Marine Fisheries Commission employees as necessary to further the Department's mission, subject to a confidentiality agreement that prohibits public disclosure of the identity of business of any person;

(C) to State employees who are responsible for fishery management plan enforcement, if the States employing those employees have entered into a fishery enforcement agreement with the Secretary and the agreement is in effect;

(D) when required by court order;

(E) when such information is used by State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission employees to verify catch under a limited access program, but only to the extent that such use is consistent with subparagraph (B);

(F) when the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person submitting such information to release such information to persons for reasons not otherwise provided for in this subsection, and such release does not violate other requirements of this Act;

(G) when such information is required to be submitted to the Secretary for any determination under a limited access program; or

(H) in support of homeland and national security activities, including the Coast Guard's homeland security missions as defined in section 888(a)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(a)(2)).

(2) Any observer information shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except in accordance with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1), or—

(A) as authorized by a fishery management plan or regulations under the authority of the North Pacific Council to allow disclosure to the public of weekly summary bycatch information identified by vessel or for haul-specific bycatch information without vessel identification;

(B) when such information is necessary in proceedings to adjudicate observer certifications; or

(C) as authorized by any regulations issued under paragraph (3) allowing the collection of observer information, pursuant to a confidentiality agreement between the observers, observer employers, and the Secretary prohibiting disclosure of the information by the observers or observer employers, in order—

(i) to allow the sharing of observer information among observers and between observers and observer employers as necessary to train and prepare observers for deployments on specific vessels; or

(ii) to validate the accuracy of the observer information collected.

(3) The Secretary shall, by regulation, prescribe such procedures as may be necessary to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act, except that the Secretary may release or make public any such information in any aggregate or summary form which does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity or business of any person who submits such information. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted or construed to prevent the use for conservation and management purposes by the Secretary, or with the approval of the Secretary, the Council, of any information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act or the use, release, or publication of bycatch information pursuant to paragraph (2)(A).

(c) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(1) The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to restrict the use, in civil enforcement or criminal proceedings under this Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), of information collected by voluntary fishery data collectors, including sea samplers, while aboard any vessel for conservation and management purposes if the presence of such a fishery data collector aboard is not required by any of such Acts or regulations thereunder.

(2) The Secretary may not require the submission of a Federal or State income tax return or statement as a prerequisite for issuance of a permit until such time as the Secretary has promulgated regulations to ensure the confidentiality of information contained in such return or statement, to limit the information submitted to that necessary to achieve a demonstrated conservation and management purpose, and to provide appropriate penalties for violation of such regulations.

Executive Order

**Friday
June 9, 1995**

Part IX

The President

Executive Order 12962—Recreational Fisheries

Memorandum of June 6, 1995—Delegation of Certain Presidential Authorities Under the African Conflict Resolution Act of 1994

Presidential Documents

Title 3—**Executive Order 12962 of June 7, 1995****The President****Recreational Fisheries**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in furtherance of the purposes of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-d, and e-j), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661–666c), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801–1882), and other pertinent statutes, and in order to conserve, restore, and enhance aquatic systems to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities nationwide, it is ordered as follows:

Section 1. Federal Agency Duties. Federal agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law and where practicable, and in cooperation with States and Tribes, improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities by: (a) developing and encouraging partnerships between governments and the private sector to advance aquatic resource conservation and enhance recreational fishing opportunities;

(b) identifying recreational fishing opportunities that are limited by water quality and habitat degradation and promoting restoration to support viable, healthy, and, where feasible, self-sustaining recreational fisheries;

(c) fostering sound aquatic conservation and restoration endeavors to benefit recreational fisheries;

(d) providing access to and promoting awareness of opportunities for public participation and enjoyment of U.S. recreational fishery resources;

(e) supporting outreach programs designed to stimulate angler participation in the conservation and restoration of aquatic systems;

(f) implementing laws under their purview in a manner that will conserve, restore, and enhance aquatic systems that support recreational fisheries;

(g) establishing cost-share programs, under existing authorities, that match or exceed Federal funds with nonfederal contributions;

(h) evaluating the effects of Federally funded, permitted, or authorized actions on aquatic systems and recreational fisheries and document those effects relative to the purpose of this order; and

(i) assisting private landowners to conserve and enhance aquatic resources on their lands.

Sec. 2. National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council. A National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council (“Coordination Council”) is hereby established. The Coordination Council shall consist of seven members, one member designated by each of the following Secretaries—Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, and Defense—and one by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Coordination Council shall: (a) ensure that the social and economic values of healthy aquatic systems that support recreational fisheries are considered by Federal agencies in the course of their actions;

(b) reduce duplicative and cost-inefficient programs among Federal agencies involved in conserving or managing recreational fisheries;

(c) share the latest resource information and management technologies to assist in the conservation and management of recreational fisheries;

(d) assess the implementation of the Conservation Plan required under section 3 of this order; and

(e) develop a biennial report of accomplishments of the Conservation Plan.

The representatives designated by the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior shall cochair the Coordination Council.

Sec. 3. Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan. (a) Within 12 months of the date of this order, the Coordination Council, in cooperation with Federal agencies, States, and Tribes, and after consulting with the Federally chartered Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, shall develop a comprehensive Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan ("Conservation Plan").

(b) The Conservation Plan will set forth a 5-year agenda for Federal agencies identified by the Coordination Council. In so doing, the Conservation Plan will establish, to the extent permitted by law and where practicable; (1) measurable objectives to conserve and restore aquatic systems that support viable and healthy recreational fishery resources, (2) actions to be taken by the identified Federal agencies, (3) a method of ensuring the accountability of such Federal agencies, and (4) a comprehensive mechanism to evaluate achievements. The Conservation Plan will, to the extent practicable, be integrated with existing plans and programs, reduce duplication, and will include recommended actions for cooperation with States, Tribes, conservation groups, and the recreational fisheries community.

Sec. 4. Joint Policy for Administering the Endangered Species Act of 1973. All Federal agencies will aggressively work to identify and minimize conflicts between recreational fisheries and their respective responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 ("ESA") (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Within 6 months of the date of this order, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service will promote compatibility and reduce conflicts between the administration of the ESA and recreational fisheries by developing a joint agency policy that will; (1) ensure consistency in the administration of the ESA between and within the two agencies, (2) promote collaboration with other Federal, State, and Tribal fisheries managers, and (3) improve and increase efforts to inform nonfederal entities of the requirements of the ESA.

Sec. 5. Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. To assist in the implementation of this order, the Secretary of the Interior shall expand the role of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council to: (a) monitor specific Federal activities affecting aquatic systems and the recreational fisheries they support;

(b) review and evaluate the relation of Federal policies and activities to the status and conditions of recreational fishery resources; and

(c) prepare an annual report of its activities, findings, and recommendations for submission to the Coordination Council.

Sec. 6. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to create any right, benefit or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any other person.



THE WHITE HOUSE,
June 7, 1995.

Administrative Management and Executive Secretariat

NAO 216-100

PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL FISHERIES STATISTICS Eff: 7/18/94; Iss: 7/26/94

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

. 01 This Order:

- a. prescribes policies and procedures for protecting the confidentiality of data submitted to and collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as authorized or required by law;
- b. informs authorized users of their obligations for maintaining the confidentiality of data received by NMFS;
- c. provides for operational safeguards to maintain the security of data; and
- d. states the penalties provided by law for disclosure of confidential data.

SECTION 2. SCOPE.

This Order covers all confidential data received, collected, maintained, or used by NMFS.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

. 01 **Access to data** means the freedom or ability to use data, conditioned by a statement of nondisclosure and penalties for unauthorized use.

. 02 **Aggregate or summary form** means data structured so that the identity of the submitter cannot be determined either from the present release of the data or in combination with other releases.

. 03 **Agreement** refers to all binding forms of mutual commitment under a stated set of conditions to achieve a specific objective.

. 04 **Assistant Administrator** means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, or a designee authorized to have access to confidential data.

. 05 **Authorized Use/User.**

a. **Authorized use** is that specific use authorized under the governing statute, regulation, order, contract or agreement.

b. An **authorized user** is any person who, having the need to collect or use confidential data in the performance of an official activity, has read this Order and has signed a statement of nondisclosure affirming the user's understanding of NMFS obligations with respect to confidential data and the penalties for unauthorized use and disclosure.

. 06 **Confidential data** means data that are identifiable with any person, accepted by the Secretary, and prohibited by law from being disclosed to the public. The term "as used" does not convey data sensitivity for national security purposes [See Executive Order (E.O.) 12356 dated April 2, 1982].

. 07 **Data** refers to information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation that a person may submit, either voluntarily or as required by statute or regulation.

. 08 **GC** means the Office of General Counsel, NOAA.

. 09 **Person** means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State), and any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of such governments, including Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils).

. 10 **Public** means any person who is not an authorized user.

. 11 **Region** means NMFS Regional field offices, Fisheries Science Centers, and associated laboratories.

. 12 **Source document** means the document, paper, or electronic format on which data are originally recorded.

. 13 **State employee** means any member of a State agency responsible for developing and monitoring the State's program for fisheries or Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) program.

. 14 **Submitter** means any person or the agent of any person who provides data to NMFS either

voluntarily or as required by statute or regulation.

SECTION 4. POLICY.

For data subject to this Order, it is NMFS policy that:

- a. confidential data shall only be disclosed to the public if required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, or by court order. Disclosure of data pursuant to a subpoena issued by an agency of competent jurisdiction is a lawful disclosure. Disclosure pursuant to a subpoena must be approved by GC;
- b. individual identifiers shall be retained with data, unless the permanent deletion is consistent with the needs of NMFS and good scientific practice [See Section 6.02c]; and
- c. a notice is required on all report forms requesting data and must comply with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3) and Paperwork Reduction Act requirements in NAO 216-8, Information Collections and Requirements Needing Office of Management and Budget Clearance. [See E.O. 12600 of June 23, 1987, for additional information regarding the rights of submitters to designate commercial confidential data at the time of submission.]

SECTION 5. OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

. 01 The Regional Director of each region (or, in the case of headquarters, each Office Director) has the responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of all data collected, maintained, and disclosed by the respective region.

. 02 Each region shall submit to the Assistant Administrator specific procedures governing the collection, maintenance, and disclosure of confidential data. These documents shall be compiled as regional handbooks following the guidelines and standards:

- a. handbooks are to be developed in detail to ensure the maintenance of confidential data on a functional basis in each region; and
- b. handbooks shall be coordinated through the National Data Management Committee (a NMFS group established by the Assistant Administrator to develop data management policies and procedures) and reviewed annually. The regional handbooks will address, at minimum, the contents of Sections 6-7.

SECTION 6. PROCEDURES.

. 01 **Data Collection.** To collect data, the Secretary may use Federal employees, contractor employees, or, pursuant to an agreement, State employees.

a. General Requirements.

1. Personnel authorized to collect Federal data must maintain all documents containing confidential data in secure facilities; and
2. may not disclose confidential data, whether recorded or not, to anyone not authorized to receive and handle such data.

b. Specific Requirements.

1. Each Federal or contractor employee collecting or processing confidential data will be required to read, date, and sign a statement of nondisclosure, that affirms the employee's understanding of NMFS obligations with respect to confidential data and the penalties for unauthorized use and disclosure of the data. Upon signature, the employee's name will be placed on record as an "authorized user," and the employee will be issued certification.
2. Data collected by a contractor must be transferred timely to authorized Federal employees; no copies of these data may be retained by the contractor. NMFS may permit contractors to retain aggregated data. A data return clause shall be included in the agreement. All procedures applicable to Federal employees must be followed by contractor employees collecting data with Federal authority.
3. Under agreements with the State, each State data collector collecting confidential data will sign a statement at least as protective as the one signed by Federal employees, which affirms that the signer understands the applicable procedures and regulations and the penalties for unauthorized disclosure.

.02 Maintenance.

- a. Maintenance is defined as the procedures required to keep confidential data secure from the time the source documents are received by NMFS to their ultimate disposition, regardless of format. [See National Institute of Standards and Technology "Computer Security Publications, List 91" for guidance.]
- b. Specific procedures in regional handbooks must deal with the following minimum security requirements, as well as any others that may be necessary because of the specific data, equipment, or physical facilities:
 1. the establishment of an office or person responsible for evaluating requests for access to data;

2. the identifications of all persons certified as authorized users. These lists shall be kept current and reviewed on an annual basis;
 3. the issuance of employee security rules that emphasize the confidential status of certain data and the consequences of unauthorized removal or disclosure;
 4. the description of the security procedures used to prevent unauthorized access to and/or removal of confidential data;
 5. the development of a catalog/inventory system of all confidential data received including: the type of source document; the authority under which each item of data was collected; any statutory or regulatory restriction(s) which may apply; and routing from the time of receipt until final disposition; and
 6. The development of an appropriate coding system for each set of confidential data so that access to data that identifies, or could be used to identify, the person or business of the submitter is controlled by the use of one or more coding system(s). Lists that contain the codes shall be kept secure.
- c. The permanent deletion of individual identifiers from a database shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Identifiers may only be deleted after:
1. future uses of data have thoroughly been evaluated, e.g., the need for individual landings records for allocating shares under an individual transferable quota program;
 2. consultation with the agency(s) collecting data (if other than NMFS), the relevant Council(s), and NMFS Senior Scientist; and
 3. concurrence by the Assistant Administrator has been received prior to deletion.

.03 Access to Data Subject to This Order.

- a. **General Requirements.** In determining whether to grant a request for access to confidential data, the following information shall be taken into consideration:

1. the specific types of data required;
2. the relevance of the data to the intended uses;
3. whether access will be continuous, infrequent, or one-time;
4. an evaluation of the requester's statement of why aggregate or nonconfidential summaries of data would not satisfy the requested needs; and
5. the legal framework for the disclosure, in accordance with GC and this Order.

- b. **Within NMFS.** NMFS employees requesting confidential data must have certification as being authorized users for the particular type of data requested.

- b. **Councils.** Upon written request by the Council Executive Director:

1. "authorized user" status for confidential data collected under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) may be granted to a Council for use by the Council for conservation and management purposes consistent with the approval of the Assistant Administrator as described in 50 CFR 603.5;
2. "authorized user" status for confidential data, collected under the Magnuson Act and MMPA, will be granted to Council employees who are responsible for Fishery Management Plan development and monitoring; and
3. Councils that request access to confidential data must submit, on an annual basis, a copy of their procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of data to the region, or in the case of intercouncil fisheries, regions. The procedures will be evaluated for their effectiveness and, if necessary, changes may be recommended. As part of this procedure, an updated statement of nondisclosure will be included for each employee and member who requires access to confidential data.

d. **States.**

1. Requests from States for confidential data shall be directed in writing to the NMFS office that maintains the source data.
2. Each request will be processed in accordance with any agreement NMFS may have with the State:
 - (a) confidential data collected **solely** under Federal authority will be provided to a State by NMFS only if the Assistant Administrator finds that the State has authority to protect the confidentiality of the data comparable to, or more stringent than, NMFS' requirements; and
 - (b) the State will exercise its authority to limit subsequent access and use of the data to those uses allowed by authorities under which the data was collected.

3. If the State has no agreement with NMFS for the collection and exchange of confidential data, the request shall be treated as a public request and disclosure may be denied subject to FOIA or the Privacy Act.

4. Where a State has entered into a cooperative exchange agreement with another State(s), NMFS will facilitate transfer or exchange of State collected data in its possession if:

- (a) NMFS has written authorization for data transfer from the head of the collecting State agency; and
- (b) the collecting State has provided NMFS a list of authorized users in the recipient State(s); and
- (c) the collecting State agrees to hold the United States Government harmless for any suit that may arise from the misuse of the data.

e. Contractors.

1. Pursuant to an agreement with NMFS, a NMFS contractor (including universities, Sea Grant investigators, etc.) may be granted "authorized user" status consistent with this Order if the use furthers the mission of NMFS.

2. The region will notify the contractor of its decision on access in writing within 30 calendar days after receipt of the request.

3. Contingent upon approval, the contractor will be provided with details regarding conditions of data access, any costs involved, formats, timing, and security procedures. If the request is denied, the reason(s) for denial will be given by the NMFS office involved. The denial will not preclude NMFS consideration of future requests from the contractor.

4. If access is granted, language in the agreement specifically dealing with confidentiality of data will be required. The language shall include all of the relevant portions of this Order and shall prohibit the further disclosure of the data. No data may be retained beyond the termination date of the agreement; and any disclosure of data derived from the accessed confidential data must be approved by NMFS.

5. Each agreement shall be reviewed by GC prior to its execution, and shall, to the extent possible, be consistent with the model agreement contained in Appendix D (Not included --WebEd).

f. Submitters. The Privacy Act allows for data to be released back to the submitter upon receipt and verification of a written request stating the data required.

04. Requests for Confidential Data. NMFS is authorized to collect data under various statutes [See Appendix A (Not include --WebEd)]. Two types of statutes govern the disclosure of confidential data collected by the Federal Government, those that contain specific and non-discretionary language within the Act, and those that provide overall guidance to the Federal Government. Sections of these Acts that deal with exceptions to disclosure may be found in Appendix B (Not included -- WebEd).

a. Magnuson Act and MMPA.

1. Data collected under 16 U.S.C. 1853 (a) or (b), and 16 U.S.C. 1383a (c),(d),(e),(f),or (h) will be handled in the following manner:

(a) data will only be disclosed to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for management plan development and monitoring; State employees pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person; a Council for conservation and management purposes [not applicable for MMPA data] or when required by court order. [See 50 CFR 229.10 and part 603];

(b) Council advisory groups are not permitted access to such confidential data [See 50 CFR 601.27(b)];

(c) requests from States that do not have an agreement with the Secretary will be processed in accordance with the Privacy Act or FOIA; and

(d) data collected by an observer under 16 U.S.C. 1853 (a) or (b) are not considered to have been "submitted to the Secretary by any person," and therefore are not confidential under Section 6.04.a of this Order. Data collected by an observer may be withheld from disclosure under the Privacy Act, or subsections (b)(3),(4),(5),(6), or (7) of FOIA.

2. Confidential data submitted to the Secretary under other Sections of the Magnuson Act or MMPA may only be disclosed in accordance with the Privacy Act or FOIA. Types of data and the collection authority may include among others:

(a) Processed Product Data -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e);

(b) Fish Meal and Oil, Monthly -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e);

(c) Data Collected Under State Authority and Provided to NMFS -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e); and

(d) Tuna-Dolphin Observer Program -- 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.

b. **South Pacific Tuna Act.** Data collected under South Pacific Tuna Act 16 U.S.C. 973j is protected from disclosure to the public in accordance with section 973j(b).

c. **Other Statutes.** Confidential data collected under other NMFS programs as authorized by statutes other than South Pacific Tuna Act (16 U.S.C 973j), MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), may only be disclosed to the public in accordance with the Privacy Act and FOIA. Types of data and the collection authority may include among others:

- (1) Monthly Cold Storage Fish Report -- 16 U.S.C. 742(a);
- (2) Market News Data -- 16 U.S.C. 742(a); and
- (3) Seafood Inspection Data -- 7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.

d. Special Procedures.

1. **Cold Storage Summary Reports.** NMFS publishes monthly cold storage holdings of fishery products. Advance knowledge of the content of these reports could give those who trade in the products an opportunity to gain competitive advantage. Therefore, in addition to the confidential protection provided to individual reports, the monthly summary report will not be disclosed to the public until 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time of the official release date. Release dates for these data are published 1 year in advance in November, and can be obtained from the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division.

2. **Surplus commodity purchases by USDA.** NMFS and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) have an interagency agreement relating to the purchase of surplus fishery products. NMFS is responsible for providing confidential data and recommendations to the USDA regarding these purchases. Advance knowledge of these data could cause a competitive advantage or disadvantage to the general public, fishing industry, and the program. Therefore, all NMFS personnel engaged in the surplus commodity purchase program will be required to sign a specific "USDA Responsibility Statement." A copy will be maintained in the Office of Trade Services.

3. **Agreements for Disclosure of Confidential Data.** A letter of agreement may authorize the disclosure of confidential data when both the Government and the submitter agree to disclosure of the data. The need to provide security for the data will vary depending on the type of data collected and the form of the disclosure. Disclosure can be undertaken if all the following conditions are met:

- (a) the person has agreed in writing to the disclosure and is aware that disclosure is irrevocable;
- (b) the recipient has been informed in writing of the sensitivity of the data; and
- (c) the wording of the agreement has been approved by GC.

.05 Disposal. NAO 205-1, NOAA Records Management Program, shall govern the disposition of records covered under this Order.

SECTION 7. PENALTIES.

.01 **Civil and Criminal.** Persons who make unauthorized disclosure of confidential data may be subject to civil penalties or criminal prosecution under:

- a. Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905);
- b. Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1));
- c. Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1858); and
- d. MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1375).

.02 **Conflict of Interest.** Employees are prohibited by Department of Commerce employee conduct regulations [15 CFR part 0] and by ethics regulations applicable to the Executive Branch [5 CFR 2635.703] from using nonpublic information subject to this Order for personal gain, whether or not there is a disclosure to a third party.

.03 **Disciplinary Action.** Persons may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal, for failure to comply with this Order. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, unlawful disclosure or use of the data, and failure to comply with implementing regulations or statutory prohibitions relating to the collection, maintenance, use and disclosure of data covered by this Order.

SECTION 8. EFFECT ON OTHER ISSUANCES. None.

SECTION 515 PRE-DISSEMINATION REVIEW & DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

Background

Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554, aka the Data Quality Act or Information Quality Act) directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue government-wide guidelines that “provide policy and procedural guidance to federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by federal agencies.” OMB complied by issuing guidelines which direct each federal agency to 1) issue its own guidelines; 2) establish administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information that does not comply with the OMB 515 Guidelines or the agency guidelines; and 3) report periodically to OMB on the number and nature of complaints received by the agency and how the complaints were handled. The OMB Guidelines can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/reproducible2.pdf>

The Department of Commerce Guidelines can be found at: <http://www.osec.doc.gov/cio/oipr/iqg.htm>

The NOAA Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines, created with input and reviews from each of the components of NOAA Fisheries, went into effect on October 1, 2002. **The NOAA Information Quality Guidelines are posted on the NOAA home page under “Information Quality.”** <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/iq.htm>

The guidelines apply to a wide variety of government information products and all types of media, including printed, electronic, broadcast or other. The guidelines define “Information” as, “any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts or data, in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual forms.” For example, this definition includes information that an agency disseminates from a web page. The guidelines define “Dissemination” as, “agency initiated or sponsored distribution of information to the public.” Explicitly **not** included within this term is distribution limited to “government employees or agency contractors or grantees; intra- or inter-agency use or sharing of government information; and responses to requests for agency records under the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act or other similar law.” It also does not include distribution limited to correspondence with individuals or persons, press releases, archival records, public filings, subpoenas or adjudicative processes. (See the NOAA IQ Guidelines, pgs 5-6).

To assist in Data Quality Act compliance, NOAA Fisheries has established a series of actions that should be completed for each new information product subject to the Data Quality Act. (See “Information Generation and Compliance Documentation” and “Pre-Dissemination Review” below.) **In addition to the information contained in this document, familiarity with the NOAA Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines (<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/iq.htm>) is crucial for NOAA Fisheries employees who engage in the generation and dissemination of information.**

Information Generation and Compliance Documentation

- The fundamental step in the process is to create a Sec. 515 Information Quality file for each new information product. To aid in this process, a Section 515 Pre-Dissemination Review and Documentation form has been created. These guidelines are intended to serve as a supplement to the Pre-Dissemination Review and Documentation Form. The basic steps to the documentation process are outlined below.
- Complete general information (e.g., author/responsible office, title/description) section of the form.
- Determine the information category (i.e., original data; synthesized products; interpreted products; hydrometeorological, hazardous chemical spill, and space weather warnings, forecasts, and advisories; experimental products; natural resource plans; corporate and general information). **For most information products, you will only need to check one box.** More complex documents may be an “aggregate” of different categories of information products.
- Generate the information in a way that meets each of the applicable standards for the appropriate information category. See the NOAA Information Quality Guidelines.
- Document how the standards for **utility, integrity and objectivity** are met for each information product, describing what measures were taken to meet each of the applicable standards. Use the 2 page Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form to document compliance with the Utility and Integrity standards contained in NOAA’s Information Quality Guidelines. The Utility and Integrity standards pertain to all categories of information disseminated by NOAA. Use these guidelines (pgs 4-11) to document compliance with the applicable objectivity standards for your information product and attach that documentation to the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form.
- Maintain the Sec. 515 Information Quality file in a readily accessible place. [Pre-Dissemination Review](#)
- Before information is disseminated, it must be reviewed for compliance with the NOAA Sec. 515 Information Quality Guidelines. This is accomplished by reviewing the information and the Sec. 515 Information Quality file.
- The Pre-Dissemination Review should be conducted during the normal course of clearing the information product for release. The person conducting the Pre-Dissemination Review will sign and date the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form. The reviewing official must be at least one level above the person generating the information product.
- The Pre-Dissemination Review form and the supporting information quality documentation must accompany the information product through the clearance process and be maintained on file.

Completing the Section 515 Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form

Using the Section 515 Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form and these guidelines, document how the information product meets the

following standards for **Utility, Integrity and Objectivity**. **Please note:** Use the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form to document how the information product complies with the Utility and Integrity standards that pertain to all categories of information products. The Utility and Integrity standards are presented here for your convenience. Use these guidelines to explain how the information product meets the applicable Objectivity standards for the information product and attach that documentation to the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form.

I. Utility of Information Product

Utility means that disseminated information is useful to its intended users. "Useful" means that the content of the information is helpful, beneficial, or serviceable to its intended users, or that the information supports the usefulness of other disseminated information by making it more accessible or easier to read, see, understand, obtain or use.

- A. Is the information helpful, beneficial or serviceable to the intended user? Explain.
- B. Who are the intended users of the data or information product? (e.g., the American public; other federal agencies; state and local governments; recreational concerns; national and international organizations). Is this data or information product an improvement over previously available information? Is it more detailed or current? Is it more useful or accessible to the public? Has it been improved based on comments or interactions with users?
- C. What media are used in the dissemination of the information? Printed publications? CD-ROM? Internet?
Is the product made available in a standard data format?
Does it use consistent attribute naming and unit conventions to ensure that the information is accessible to a broad range of users with a variety of operating systems and data needs?

II. Integrity of Information Product

Integrity refers to security - the protection of information from unauthorized access or revision, to ensure that the information is not compromised through corruption or falsification. Prior to dissemination, NOAA information, independent of the specific intended distribution mechanism, is safeguarded from improper access, modification, or destruction, to a degree commensurate with the risk and magnitude of harm that could result from the loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to or modification of such information. **Please note: all electronic information disseminated by NOAA adheres to the standards set forth in paragraph A below. If the information product is disseminated electronically, simply circle paragraph II(A) on the form.** You may also contact your IT Manager for further information.

Explain (circle) how the information product meets the following standards for integrity:

- A. All electronic information disseminated by NOAA adheres to the standards set out in Appendix III, "Security of Automated Information Resources," OMB Circular A-130; the Computer Security Act; and the Government Information Security Reform Act.
- B. If information is confidential, it is safeguarded pursuant to the Privacy Act and Titles 13, 15, and 22 of the U. S. Code (confidentiality of census, business and financial information).
- C. Other/Discussion
(e.g., 50 CFR 600, Subpart E, Confidentiality of Statistics of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fisheries Statistics; 50 CFR 229.11, Confidentiality of information collected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.)

III. Objectivity of Information Product

(1) Indicate which one of the following categories of information products apply for this product (check one):

- Original Data - go to Section A
- Synthesized Products - go to Section B
- Interpreted Products - go to Section C
- Hydrometeorological, Hazardous Chemical Spill, and Space Weather Warnings, Forecasts, and Advisories - go to Section D
- Experimental Products - go to Section E
- Natural Resource Plans - go to Section F
- Corporate and General Information - go to Section G

(2) Describe how this information product meets the applicable objectivity standards.

General Standard: Information is presented in an accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased manner, and in proper context. The substance of the information is accurate, reliable, and unbiased; in the scientific, financial or statistical context, original and supporting data are generated and the analytical results are developed using sound, commonly accepted scientific and research methods. "Accurate" means that information is within an acceptable degree of imprecision or error appropriate to the particular kind of information at issue and otherwise meets commonly accepted scientific, financial and statistical standards.

If the information is "influential," that is, it is expected to have a genuinely clear and substantial impact on major public policy and private sector decisions, it is noted as such and it is presented with the highest degree of transparency. If influential information constitutes an assessment of risks to human health, safety or the environment, indicate whether the risk assessment was qualitative or quantitative, and describe which SDWA-adapted quality standards at page 9 of NOAA's Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines were applied to the information product.

Use of third party information in the product (information not collected or generated by NOAA) is only done when the information is of known quality and consistent with NOAA's Section 515 Guidelines; any limitations, assumptions, collection methods, or uncertainties concerning the information are taken into account and disclosed.

Specific Standards: Specific objectivity standards for categories of information products disseminated by NOAA are listed below. Document how the general and specific objectivity standards for the particular information product were met.

A. Original Data

Original Data are data in their most basic useful form. These are data from individual times and locations that have not been summarized or processed to higher levels of analysis. While these data are often derived from other direct measurements (e.g., spectral signatures from a chemical analyzer, electronic signals from current meters), they represent properties of the environment. These data can be disseminated in both real time and retrospectively. Examples of original data include buoy data, survey data (e.g., living marine resource and hydrographic surveys), biological and chemical properties, weather observations, and satellite data.

Objectivity of original data is achieved using sound quality control techniques.

Detail how the data collection methods, systems, instruments, training, and/or tools are appropriate to meet the requirements of the intended users.

Were the methods, systems, instruments, etc., validated before use?

Were standard operating procedures (SOPs) followed for time series data collections? If not, document the valid scientific reasons for the deviation.

Document the quality control techniques used, for example:

- Gross error checks for data that fall outside of physically realistic ranges (e.g., a minimum, maximum or maximum change)
- Comparisons made with other independent sources of the same measurement
- Examination of individual time series and statistical summaries
- Application of sensor drift coefficients determined by a comparison of pre- and post-deployment calibrations
- Visual inspection of data

Describe any evolution and/or improvements in survey techniques, instrument performance and/or data processing.

Have metadata record descriptions and explanations of the methods and quality controls to which original data are subjected been included in the disseminated product? If not, they must be made available upon request.

B. Synthesized Products

Synthesized Products are those that have been developed through analysis of original data. This includes analysis through statistical methods; model interpolations, extrapolations, and simulations; and combinations of multiple sets of original data.

While some scientific evaluation and judgment is needed, the methods of analysis are well documented and relatively routine.

Examples of synthesized products include summaries of fisheries landings statistics, weather statistics, model outputs, data display through Geographical Information System techniques, and satellite-derived maps.

The objectivity of synthesized products is achieved by using data of known quality, applying sound analytical techniques, and reviewing the products or processes used to create them before dissemination. For synthesized products, please document the following:

Identify data sources (preferred option) or be prepared to make them available upon request.

Are the data used of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities?

Are the methods used to create the synthesized product published in standard methods manuals or generally accepted by the relevant scientific and technical communities? Are the methods documented in readily accessible formats by the disseminating office?

Describe the review process used to ensure the validity of the synthesized product or the procedures used to create them, e.g., statistical procedures, models, or other analysis tools.

If the synthesized product is unique or not regularly produced, was this product reviewed by internal and/or external experts?

If this is a routinely produced synthesized product, was the process for developing the product reviewed by internal and/or external experts?

Does the synthesized product include information about the methods used to create the product? If not, the methods must be made available upon request.

C. Interpreted Products

Interpreted Products are those that have been developed through interpretation of original data and synthesized products. In many cases, this information incorporates additional contextual and/or normative data, standards, or information that puts original data and synthesized products into larger spatial, temporal, or issue contexts. This information is subject to scientific interpretation, evaluation, and judgment. Examples of interpreted products include journal articles, scientific papers, technical reports, and production of and contributions to integrated assessments.

Objectivity of interpreted products is achieved by using data of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities and reliable supporting products, applying sound analytical techniques, presenting the information in the proper context, and reviewing the products before dissemination.

Are all data and information sources identified or properly referenced?

Are the methods used to create the interpreted product generally accepted by the relevant scientific and technical communities?

Is information concerning the quality and limitations of the interpreted product provided to help the user assess the suitability of the product for the user's application?

Describe the review process used to ensure that the product is valid, complete, unbiased, objective and relevant. For example, peer reviews, ranging from internal peer review by staff who were not involved in the development of the product to formal, independent, external peer review. The review should be conducted at a level commensurate with the importance of the interpreted product.

Does the interpreted product include a description of the methods used to create the product? If not, they must be made available upon

request.

D. Hydrometeorological, Hazardous Chemical Spill, and Space Weather

Warnings, Forecasts, and Advisories

Hydrometeorological, Hazardous Chemical Spill, and Space Weather Warnings, Forecasts, and Advisories are time-critical interpretations of original data and synthesized products, prepared under tight time constraints and covering relatively short, discrete time periods. As such, these warnings, forecasts, and advisories represent the best possible information in given circumstances. They are subject to scientific interpretation, evaluation, and judgment. Some products in this category, such as weather forecasts, are routinely prepared. Other products, such as tornado warnings, hazardous chemical spill trajectories, and solar flare alerts, are of an urgent nature and are prepared for unique circumstances.

Objectivity of information in this category is achieved by using reliable data collection methods and sound analytical techniques and systems to ensure the highest possible level of accuracy given the time critical nature of the products.

What is the source of the data or information used in the product? Are the data used of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities? Are the sources included in the information product? If not, they must be made available upon request. Are the methods used to create the product generally accepted by the relevant scientific and technical communities?

Please note if individual best judgment was used due to the time-critical nature of the product.

What mechanisms were used to evaluate the accuracy of the information product? Statistical analysis may be carried out for a subset of products for verification purposes.

E. Experimental Products

Experimental products are products that are experimental (in the sense that their quality has not yet been fully determined) in nature, or are products that are based in part on experimental capabilities or algorithms. Experimental products fall into two classes.

They are either (1) disseminated for experimental use, evaluation or feedback, or (2) used in cases where, in the view of qualified scientists who are operating in an urgent situation in which the timely flow of vital information is crucial to human health, safety, or the environment, the danger to human health, safety, or the environment will be lessened if every tool available is used. Examples of experimental products include imagery or data from non-NOAA sources, algorithms currently being tested and evaluated, experimental climate forecasts, and satellite imagery processed with developmental algorithms for urgent needs (e.g., wildfire detection).

Objectivity of experimental products is achieved by using the best science and supporting studies available, in accordance with sound and objective scientific practices, evaluated in the relevant scientific and technical communities, and peer-reviewed where feasible.

Describe the science and/or supporting studies used, the evaluation techniques used, and note any peer-review of the experimental product. Were the results of initial tests or evaluations made available where possible? Describe the review, by the appropriate NOAA unit, of the experimental products and capabilities documentation, along with any tests or evaluations.

Are explicit limitations provided concerning the quality of the experimental product? Is the degree of uncertainty indicated?

Describe the testing process used, e.g., the experimental product or capabilities are used only after careful testing, evaluation, and review by NOAA experts, and then are approved for provisional use only by selected field offices or other NOAA components. This process is repeated as needed to ensure an acceptable and reliable level of quality.

F. Natural Resource Plans

Natural Resource Plans are information products that are prescribed by law and have content, structure, and public review processes (where applicable) that will be based upon published standards, e.g., statutory or regulatory guidelines. Examples of such published standards include the National Standard Guidelines (50 CFR Part 600, Subpart D), Essential Fish Habitat Guidelines, and Operational Guidelines - Fishery Management Plan Process, all under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and the National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Handbook (16 U.S.C. section 1434) under the National Marine Sanctuary Act. These Natural Resource Plans are a composite of several types of information (e.g., scientific, management, stakeholder input, and agency policy) from a variety of internal and external sources. Examples of Natural Resources Plans include fishery, protected resource, and sanctuary management plans and regulations, and natural resource restoration plans.

Objectivity of Natural Resource Plans will be achieved by adhering to published standards, using information of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities, presenting the information in the proper context, and reviewing the products before dissemination.

What published standard(s) governs the creation of the Natural Resource Plan? Does the Plan adhere to the published standards? (See the NOAA Sec. 515 Information Quality Guidelines, Section II(F) for links to the published standards for the Plans disseminated by NOAA.)

Was the Plan developed using the best information available? Please explain.

Have clear distinctions been drawn between policy choices and the supporting science upon which they are based? Have all supporting materials, information, data and analyses used within the Plan been properly referenced to ensure transparency?

Describe the review process of the Plan by technically qualified individuals to ensure that the Plan is valid, complete, unbiased, objective and relevant. For example, internal review by staff who were not involved in the development of the Plan to formal, independent, external peer review. The level of review should be commensurate with the importance of the Plan and the constraints imposed by legally enforceable deadlines.

G. Corporate and General Information

Corporate or general information includes all non-scientific, non-financial, non-statistical information. Examples include program and organizational descriptions, brochures, pamphlets, education and outreach materials, newsletters, and other general descriptions of NOAA operations and capabilities.

Corporate and general information disseminated by NOAA must be presented in a clear, complete, and unbiased manner, and in a context that enhances usability to the intended audience. To the extent possible, identify the sources of the disseminated information, consistent with confidentiality, privacy and security considerations and protections, and taking into account timely presentation, the medium of dissemination, and the importance of the information, balanced against the resources required and the time available.

Information disseminated by NOAA is reliable and accurate to an acceptable degree of error as determined by factors such as the importance of the information, the intended use, time sensitivity, expected degree of permanence, relation to the primary mission(s) of the disseminating office, and the context of the dissemination, balanced against the resources required and the time available.

For non-scientific, non-statistical information, has the information product been reasonably determined to be factually correct in the view of the disseminating office as of the time of dissemination?

Describe the review process for the information product. Review can be accomplished in a number of ways, including but not limited to combinations of the following:

- Active personal review of information by supervisory and management layers, either by reviewing each individual dissemination, or selected samples, or by any other reasonable method.
- Use of quality check lists, charts, statistics, or other means of tracking quality, completeness, and usefulness.
- Process design and monitoring to ensure that the process itself imposes checks on information quality .
- Review during information preparation.
- Use of management controls.
- Any other method, which serves to enhance the accuracy, reliability and objectivity of the information.

(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: January 29, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-1883 Filed 2-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Northwest Region Gear Identification Requirements

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 4, 2008.

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 Jamie Goen, (206) 526-4646 or jamie.goen@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on regulatory compliance. The

requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to the enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The regulations specify fishing gear must be marked with the vessel's official number, federal permit or tag number, or some other specified form of identification. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked (e.g., location and color). Law enforcement personnel rely on this information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations. Gear that is not properly identified is confiscated. The identifying number on fishing gear is used by NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other marine agencies in issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Gear marking helps ensure that a vessel harvests fish only from its own traps/pots/other gear and that traps/pots/other gear are not illegally placed. Gear violations are more readily prosecuted when the gear is marked, allowing for more cost effective enforcement. Cooperating fishermen also use the number to report placement or occurrence of gear in unauthorized areas. The regulation-compliant fishermen ultimately benefit from this requirement, because unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred and more burdensome regulations are avoided.

II. Method of Collection

The physical marking of fishing buoys is done by the affected public (fishermen in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery) according to regulation. No information is collected.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0352.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 548.

Estimated Time per Response: 3 hours (15 minutes per marking).

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,782.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,000.

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: January 29, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-1884 Filed 2-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Large Pelagic Fishing Survey

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 4, 2008.

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 Dr. Ronald J. Salz, (301) 713-2328 or ron.salz@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Large Pelagic Fishing Survey consists of dockside and telephone surveys of recreational anglers for large pelagic fish (tunas, sharks, and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean. The survey provides NMFS with information to monitor catch of bluefin tuna, marlin and other federally-managed species. Catch monitoring in these fisheries and collection of catch and effort statistics for all pelagic fish is required under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The information collected is essential for the U.S. to meet its reporting obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna.

Due to funding limitations, the Large Pelagic Fishing Survey has only been conducted from Maine through Virginia in previous years. In 2008 NMFS proposes to conduct pilot studies to characterize the recreational large pelagic fisheries in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean regions.

II. Method of Collection

Dockside and telephone interviews are used for the Large Pelagic Fishing Survey. In lieu of telephone interviews, respondents may also provide information via faxed logsheets or online via a web tool. The pilot studies in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean will use telephone interviews.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0380.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000 new requirements (18,000 total).

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes for a telephone characterization interview.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,500 new requirements (4,871 total).

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: January 29, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-1885 Filed 2-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) was established by the Secretary of Commerce to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, its amendments, and such other appropriate matters that the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held Friday, March 7, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: The Doubletree Grand Hotel Biscayne Bay, 1717 North Bayshore Drive, Miami, Florida 33132, telephone: 305-372-0313. The times and agenda topics are subject to change. Refer to the HSRP Web site listed below for the most current meeting agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Captain Steven Barnum, NOAA, Designated Federal Official (DFO), Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service (NOS), NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; Telephone: 301-713-2770, Fax: 301-713-4019; e-mail:

Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov or visit the NOAA HSRP Web site at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public and public comment periods will be scheduled at various times throughout the meeting. These comment periods will be part of the final agenda that will be published before the meeting date on the HSRP Web site listed above. Each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments (at least 30 copies) should be submitted to the DFO by February 27, 2008. Written comments received by the DFO after February 27, 2008, will be distributed to the HSRP, but may not be reviewed before the meeting date. Approximately 25 seats will be available for the public, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Matters to be Considered: (1) NOAA's planned actions to address recommendations in the HSRP Special Report, "HSRP Most Wanted Hydrographic Services Improvements;" (2) Updates on NOAA's Height Modernization, Fleet Recapitalization, Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping, and Integrated Ocean Observing System Projects; (3) briefings on the U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System's (CMTS) response and activities related to the HSRP Special Report and status of the CMTS Navigation Technology Integration Action Team; and (4) public statements.

Dated: January 28, 2008.

Captain Steven Barnum,

NOAA Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-1965 Filed 2-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[DoD-2006-OS-0030]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice to delete a System of Records.

SUMMARY: The Defense Threat Reduction Agency is deleting a system of records notice from its existing inventory of records systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended.

DATES: This proposed action will be effective without further notice on March 5, 2008 unless comments are