

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Marine Mammals: General Incidental Take Permits, Small Take Exemptions, and Certificates of Inclusion**

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Wanda L. Cain, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-2055).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

This information is used to issue Certificates of Inclusion under the General Permit issued to the American Tunaboat Association (ATA) and to process requests for dolphin mortality limits from those vessels intending to fish for tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) with purse seine nets. This is the only General Permit authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and it governs the taking of marine mammals in the course of commercial purse seine fishing for yellowfin tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Individual vessels must obtain certificates of inclusion under this permit.

II. Method of Collection

Currently, no take of marine mammals is authorized under the General Permit issued to the ATA under the Marine Mammal Protection Act since the established quota is zero. However, NMFS requires vessels fishing for tuna

in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean to maintain valid Vessel and Operator Certificates of Inclusion to maintain adequate observer coverage.

Each year, NMFS notifies current certificated vessels and operators of their obligation to renew their certificates if they intend to fish in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Vessel Certificates of Inclusion are valid for one year, non-transferable, and cost \$200. Operator Certificates of Inclusion are valid for one year, non-transferable, and no fee is required. However, to qualify for an Operator Certificate of Inclusion, the operator must have a current or previous calendar year Certificate of Inclusion or attend a new operator's workshop session.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0083.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Individuals & Businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 27.

Estimated Time Per Response: 0.25 hr.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6.75 hrs.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.00 (no capital expenditures are required of respondents).

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: October 1, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-26562 Filed 10-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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

[I.D. 093097G]

Draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of and seeks public comment on the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research.

Section 404 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Secretary of Commerce to develop, triannually, a strategic plan for fisheries research for the subsequent years. Any written comments on the draft plan will be considered by NMFS in the development of the final Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research.

DATES: Comments on the plan will be accepted on or before November 6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the draft plan and comments on the draft plan should be directed to John T. Everett, Chief, Research, Analysis, and Coordination Division, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. PHONE: (301) 713-2363. FAX: (301) 713-1875.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Everett or Carolyn Brown at 301-713-2363.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 404 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to publish in the **Federal Register** a strategic plan for fisheries research for the five years immediately following the plan's publication. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that the plan address four major areas of research: (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management; (2) conservation engineering research; (3) research on the fisheries; and (4) information management research. The Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies that the plan shall contain a limited number of priority objectives for each of these research areas; indicate goals and timetables; provide a role for commercial fishermen in such research; provide for collection and dissemination of complete and accurate information concerning fishing

activities; and be developed in cooperation with the Councils and affected states.

In 1997, NMFS published a Strategic Plan for NOAA Fisheries. The NMFS Strategic Plan was developed in a comprehensive manner, with extraordinary public involvement, including 16 public meetings. The present Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research is based upon and entirely consistent with the NMFS Strategic Plan. It is a subset of the all-encompassing NMFS Strategic Plan, focusing on science research activities. The objectives found under the *Major Fishery Research Objectives and Goals* section of the subject document can be matched with those in the NMFS Strategic Plan. In addition, the strategies, goals and objectives of the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research are wholly consistent with the 1993 NOAA Strategic Plan: A Vision for 2005.

The scope of the present document is solely fisheries research to support the Act. It does not include the regulatory and enforcement components of the NMFS mission. NMFS currently conducts a comprehensive program of fisheries research and involves industry and others interested in fisheries in planning and implementing its objectives.

NMFS intends that the final version of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions on this draft NMFS Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research are hereby solicited from the public, other concerned government agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person.

Dated: October 1, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-26554 Filed 10-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 093097D]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee Salmon Subcommittee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on October 22 and recess in the evening. On October 23 and 24, the meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. and recess upon completion of each day's agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Room 370-West, Seattle, WA 98112-2097; telephone (206) 860-3200.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Seger, Economic Analysis Coordinator, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this meeting is to review methodologies used by the Council to manage salmon.

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric W. Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 1, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-26551 Filed 10-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters; Notice of Open Meeting

DATE: October 7, 1997.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, created pursuant to Executive Order 13038.

SUMMARY: The President established the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters (PIAC) to advise the Vice President on the public interest obligations of digital broadcasters. The Committee will study and recommend which public interest obligations should

accompany broadcasters' receipt of digital television licenses. The President designated the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide secretariat services for the Committee.

AUTHORITY: Executive Order 13038, signed by President Clinton on March 11, 1997.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 1997 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and on Thursday, October 23, 1997 from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting is scheduled to take place in the Auditorium at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230. This location is subject to change. If the location changes, another **Federal Register** notice will be issued. Updates about the location of the meeting will also be available on the Advisory Committee's homepage at www.ntia.doc.gov/pubintadvcom/pubint.htm or you may call Karen Edwards at 202-482-8056.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Edwards, Designated Federal Officer and Telecommunications Policy Specialist, at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4716; 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.; Washington, DC 20230. Telephone: 202-482-8056; Fax: 202-482-8058; E-mail: piac@ntia.doc.gov.

Media Inquiries: Please contact Paige Darden at the Office of Public Affairs, at 202-482-7002.

Agenda

Wednesday, October 22

Opening remarks
Announcement and introduction of members
Committee discussion of organization and structure
Briefings
Public comment period

Thursday, October 23

Remarks
Briefings

This agenda is subject to change. For an updated, more detailed agenda, please check the Advisory Committee homepage at www.ntia.doc.gov/pubintadvcom/pubint.htm.

Public Participation: The meeting will be open to the public, with limited seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Any member of the public requiring special services, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids,