

those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency. Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (*see ADDRESSES*) by December 27, 2002.

Dated: December 10, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-31693 Filed 12-16-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120902]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on January 13-16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, 217 North St Mary's, San Antonio, TX 78205; telephone: 210-224-2500.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

January 15

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m. - 12 noon—Receive public testimony on the Cooperative Texas

Shrimp Closure and on yellowedge and red grouper total allowable catch (TAC). Final action on these TACs will be taken at a subsequent meeting.

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Receive the report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

January 16

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.—Receive the report of the Shrimp Management Committee.

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Receive the report of the Habitat Protection Committee.

11:30 a.m. - 12 noon—Receive the Mackerel Management Committee Report.

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.—Complete action on the Draft Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) profile.

3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.—Receive the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaison report.

3:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

4 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.—Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

4:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.—Other Business.

January 13

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to hear a review of the economic condition of the Texas shrimp industry by Mike Haby of Texas A&M University and biological and economic reports by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the cooperative Texas Shrimp Closure. The committee will also review the Draft Amendment 13 Options Paper addressing maximum sustainable yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), maximum stock size threshold (MSST), and maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) for shrimp stocks; vessel monitoring systems (VMS); and bycatch. The committee will make recommendations for full Council review on Thursday morning.

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—Convene the Mackerel Management Committee to review a draft regulatory amendment/ environmental assessment (EA) which addresses MSY, OY, MSST, and MFMT for the coastal migratory pelagic species.

1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to hear the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) report and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) report on red and yellowedge groupers. They will also review the Draft Reef Fish Amendment 18 Options Paper and the Draft Reef Fish Amendment 21. The Reef Fish Amendment 18 Options Paper considers additional alternatives for management

of the grouper stocks. The Reef Fish Amendment 21 considers alternatives related to the marine reserves established as gag aggregation sites off central west Florida. The Committee will also suggest to NMFS and NOAA General Counsel the types of penalties that should be used to deter violations of the provisions of an individual fishing quota (IFQ) system for red snapper. The committee will hear a presentation by NMFS enforcement on violations of the western longline prohibited area.

January 14

8:30 a.m. - 12 noon—Continue the Reef Fish Management Committee if necessary.

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the MSFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. A copy of the Committee schedule and agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 228-2815.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (*see ADDRESSES*) by January 6, 2003.

Dated: December 10, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-31694 Filed 12-16-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief

Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 18, 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) title; (3) summary of the collection; (4) description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) reporting and/or recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 11, 2002.

John D. Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Management Group,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Federal Student Aid

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Federal Perkins/NDSL Loan Assignment Form.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; businesses or other for-profit; individuals or household.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 21,262.

Burden Hours: 8,505.

Abstract: This form is used to collect pertinent data regarding student loans from institutions participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program. The Perkins Assignment Form serves as the transmittal document in the assignment of such loans to the Federal government.

Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address *vivian_reese@ed.gov*. Requests may also be faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address *Joe.Schubart@ed.gov*. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 02-31645 Filed 12-16-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.116N]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Focus Competition (Institutional Cooperation and Student Mobility in Postsecondary Education among the United States, Canada and Mexico); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities by focusing on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education or combinations of institutions and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies.

Applications Available: December 17, 2002.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 11, 2003.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 15, 2003.

Available Funds: Approximately \$300,000 for FY 2003.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$30,000 for FY 2003. \$200,000–\$215,000 for four-year duration of grant.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$30,000 for FY 2003. \$210,000 for four-year duration of grant.

Estimated Number of Awards: 10.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

Page Limit: The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit your narrative to the equivalent of no more than twenty (20) double-spaced pages using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" × 11" on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The page limit does not apply to the title page, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification, the assurances and certifications, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support.

Our reviewers will not read any pages of your application narrative that—

- Exceed the page limit if you apply these standards; or

- Exceed the equivalent of the page limit if you apply other standards.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program is a Special Focus Competition to support projects addressing a particular problem area or improvement approach in postsecondary education. The competition also includes an invitational priority to encourage proposals designed to support the formation of educational consortia of American, Canadian and Mexican institutions to encourage cooperation in the coordination of curricula, the exchange of students and the opening of educational opportunities throughout North America. The invitational priority is issued in cooperation with Canada and Mexico. Canadian and Mexican institutions participating in any consortium proposal responding to the invitational priority may apply, respectively, to Human Resources Development Canada and the Mexican Department of Public Education for