

they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 18, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-4589 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals: Deterrence Regulations and Guidelines; 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 April 27, 1998.

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 Michael Payne, Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226, telephone 301-713-2332.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) provides authority for individuals under the jurisdiction of the United States to deter marine mammals from: damaging private property, including fishing gear or catch, endangering public safety, and damaging public property. The MMPA requires the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to publish a list of guidelines for use in safely deterring marine mammals and to prohibit deterrence measures that have a significant adverse effect on marine mammals. A rule will set forth these guidelines and prohibitions, including requirements for reporting unintentional

marine mammal mortality, petitioning NMFS to prohibit deterrent devices that might seriously injure or kill a marine mammal, and for the authorization to use certain measures to non-lethally deter marine mammals listed under the Endangered Species Act.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents will meet the requirements set forth in the regulation. No forms will be used.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: (1) Any member of the public having an interaction with a marine mammal that for reasons of personal safety, results in the death of the marine mammal. (2) Any member of the public wishing to petition NMFS to have certain deterrence measures either prohibited from use because they may seriously injure or kill a marine mammal or authorized for proper use on marine mammals listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3 (1 mortality report and 2 petitions per year).

Estimated Time Per Response: 30 minutes per mortality report, 40 hours per petition.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 81.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 (no capital expenditures are required).

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: February 18, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-4590 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Pacific Billfish Angler Survey; 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 April 27, 1998.

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 Dave Holts, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, California 92038-0271; (619) 546-7186.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The survey monitors volunteer angler fishing effort in the Pacific area. The data collected consists of catch and catch locations, how the fish are caught, data on vessel characteristics, and environmental conditions during catch. The data is used by fishery managers and is reported annually in the Billfish Newsletter.

II. Method of Collection

Survey cards are sent out with the Billfish Newsletter published in May of each year. Anglers are requested to fill out the NOAA 88-10 form by hand and return it to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0020.

Form Number: NOAA 88-10.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Individuals (billfish anglers).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 750.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 62.5.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: 0 (no capital expenditures are required).

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: February 18, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-4591 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020998C]

Federal Investment Task Force; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) requires the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to establish a task force to study the role of the Federal Government in subsidizing fleet capacity and influencing capital investment in fisheries. The Federal Investment Task Force will hold its second meeting on March 5-7, 1998, in Tampa, FL.

DATES: The meeting of the task force will be held March 5-7, 1998 See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 5303 W. Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33609; telephone (813) 289-1950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Beal, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, (202) 289-6400; fax:(202) 289-6051; email: rbeal@asmfc.org; or Matteo Milazzo, (301) 713-2276

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

March 5, 1998, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Task Force will hear a presentation and have a discussion on the influence of U.S. Fishery policy on capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets. The Task Force will also review the Federal programs that were discussed at the previous meeting.

March 5, 1998, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Task Force will hear public input regarding the Federal Investment Study. The public is encouraged to comment on the general scope and concept of the study, as well as the effect of Federal programs on the capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets.

March 6, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Task Force will have an open discussion on the effects of various Federal programs on capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets. The Task Force will also discuss the follow-up work that was to be completed following the first meeting.

March 7, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Task Force will hear a presentation and have a discussion on the influence of Federal tax policy on capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets. The Task Force will also discuss the influence of other Federal agencies and policies on fishing capacity and fleet capitalization.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Bob Beal at (202) 289-6400 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 18, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 98-4535 Filed 2-18-98; 4:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120996A]

Magnuson Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Alaska Region of the NMFS will hold an essential fish habitat (EFH) core team meeting to discuss the following items: strategic investment framework, FY 98 spending plan, habitat criteria paper and habitat areas of particular concern, EFH habitat assessment reports, GIS maps for survey and observer data, EFH technical team recommendations, EFH research needs, EFH proposed conservation and enhancement measures, fishing and non-fishing threats, prey species, public comments on EFH habitat assessments. There will also be an evening meeting/workshop to allow for more public involvement and public comment.

DATES: The Alaska Region core EFH team will meet Monday, March 2 through March 5 or 6, 1998, in Juneau, Alaska. The public is invited to participate from 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 through noon on Wednesday, March 4, 1998. From Wednesday afternoon through Friday the core team meeting will be limited to National Marine Fisheries Service employees only. There will be an evening public workshop on Tuesday, March 3, 1998, from 7 to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The EFH core team will meet in Juneau, Alaska, at the Federal Building, 709 West 9th, room 445. The evening workshop will be March 3, 1998, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Centennial Hall Convention Center, Egan Room, 101 Egan Drive in Juneau, Alaska.

Questions should be addressed to Protected Resources Management Division, ATTN: Cindy Hartmann, 709 W. 9th, Suite 461, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; telephone: (907) 586-7585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Hartmann, NMFS, (907) 586-7585, e-mail:

Cindy.Hartmann@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NMFS Alaska Region core EFH team was formally established in April 1997 to implement the EFH provisions