

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,700.

Estimated Time Per Response: 8 seconds for added data element.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 33.

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: August 17, 2000.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-21682 Filed 8-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081700A]

Development of a Code of Conduct for Responsible Aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone; Public Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes information regarding stakeholder input to the development of a Code of Conduct for Responsible Aquaculture in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (Code of Conduct). It is the purpose of such a Code of Conduct to provide general

guidance for siting and operating aquaculture facilities in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) seaward of coastal state boundaries and authorities. NMFS is holding three workshops to gather information that will be used to develop a draft Code of Conduct. The workshops are open to the public.

DATES: The meeting dates are:

1. Seattle, WA, September 7, 2000, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

2. Danvers, MA, September 14, 2000, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

3. Galveston, TX; September 20, 2000, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The workshop locations are:

1. Seattle: National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard E., Seattle, WA. 98112.

2. Danvers: King's Grant Inn, Route 128 at Trask Lane, Danvers, MA 01923

3. Galveston: National Marine Fisheries Service, Galveston Laboratory, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77551.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edwin Rhodes at (301) 713-2334 or Colin Nash at (360) 871-8309. For specific workshop information contact: Seattle, WA, Colin Nash, (360) 871-8309; Danvers, MA, Harry Mears, (978) 281-9243; Galveston, TX, Roger Zimmerman, (409) 766-3500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS has Federal responsibility for the living marine resources of the United States. Under authorities of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, NMFS has responsibility for Federally managed species and for the conservation and enhancement of essential fish habitat in the zone seaward of coastal state boundaries to the 200 nautical mile limit of the EEZ. NMFS has additional responsibilities for threatened and endangered species and for marine mammals under authorities of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. NMFS anticipates increasing aquaculture activity in the EEZ. In order to provide guidance to potential users of the U.S. EEZ for aquaculture, NMFS, with broad stakeholder input, will produce a Code of Conduct for Responsible Aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone. It is the purpose of such a Code of Conduct to provide general guidance to the aquaculture industry for siting and operating aquaculture facilities in this zone, and to provide NMFS with a framework that can be used to ensure a more consistent review of aquaculture projects that require agency actions. NMFS may also use the Code of

Conduct as a starting point for the development of regulatory standards in the future.

The United States was an active participant in the 1993-1995 consultations that led to the adoption by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO Code). While the FAO Code is a voluntary and non-binding instrument, the United States has consistently supported its usefulness as an internationally agreed upon statement of principles that should govern the policies of FAO members in all sectors of the fishing industry, including aquaculture, which is addressed in Article 9 of the FAO Code. Although the Code of Conduct being developed for the U.S. EEZ does not have to follow the FAO model, the FAO Code is an important reference instrument. A copy of the aquaculture section (Article 9) of the FAO Code can be obtained from the contact persons listed here, and can be found on the internet at <http://www.fao.org/fi/agreem/codecond/ficonde.asp>

NMFS will develop the Code of Conduct in steps. The first step is to get stakeholder input in September, 2000, to assist in Code of Conduct development. NMFS, in consultation with other Federal agencies with authorities in Federal waters, will consider this stakeholder input in producing a draft Code of Conduct, which will be made available for public comment through a **Federal Register** notice early in 2001. Public comments will be addressed in formulating a final Code of Conduct, which will be published in the **Federal Register** before January, 2002.

Regional Workshops

NMFS will hold three regional workshops to receive stakeholder input for development of the Code of Conduct. NMFS seeks input on the scope, content, specificity and use of a Code of Conduct that can be used to help guide aquaculture development in the EEZ. Areas for discussion include, but are not limited to, species choices, siting, transboundary considerations, design and construction of facilities, disease prevention and control, feeds and feeding protocols, effluents and pollution, interactions with wild species and protected resources, general operations, stock enhancement, use conflict resolution, and on-shore impacts. The workshops are open to all interested persons.

Special Accommodations

The workshops will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Edwin Rhodes at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 21, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 00-21678 Filed 8-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081700D]

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Advisory Panel (AP) Selection Committee (closed), Shrimp Committee, Controlled Access Committee, Snapper Grouper Committee, Habitat Committee, Marine Reserves Committee, Dolphin Wahoo Committee and a joint meeting of the Executive and Finance Committees. Public comment periods will be held on the proposed Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) Testing Protocol Manual. There will also be a Council Session.

DATES: The meetings will be held from September 18-22, 2000. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Town & Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571-1000 or 1-800-334-6660.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

September 18, 2000, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.—Joint Executive/Finance Committee Meeting;

The Executive and Finance Committees will meet jointly to review an update on the CY (Calendar Year) 2000 budget, review and approve the proposed CY 2001 activities schedule, budget and Operations Plan. The committees will also discuss Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistic Program (ACCSP) funding.

September 18, 2000, 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—Advisory Panel Selection Committee (closed);

The Advisory Panel Selection Committee will meet to review membership applications and develop recommendations.

September 19, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.—Shrimp Committee Meeting;

The Shrimp Committee will meet to develop recommendations on the revised NMFS BRD Protocol, review input from the Rock Shrimp AP and discuss controlled access for the rock shrimp fishery, develop recommendations for the Controlled Access Committee, review the proposal to use traps to fish for royal red shrimp in the Exclusive Economic Zone and develop a committee recommendation.

September 19, 2000, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon—Controlled Access Committee Meeting;

The Controlled Access Committee will meet to hear a presentation on vessel capacity issues and develop committee recommendations regarding vessel capacity issues. The Committee will also develop options for rock shrimp controlled access and provide direction to Council staff.

September 19, 2000, 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting;

The Snapper Grouper Committee will meet and hear an update on Maximum Sustainable Yield and overfishing definitions, discuss the status of the red porgy assessment and projections peer review, and review the status of data available on the harvest of snapper grouper species with powerheads.

September 20, 2000, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.—Habitat Committee Meeting;

The Habitat Committee will meet to review and comment on permits as required, hear a report on the Habitat Advisory Panel meeting, discuss development of an ecosystem plan and discuss development of a beach renourishment policy.

September 20, 2000, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.—Marine Reserves Committee Meeting;

The Marine Reserves Committee will meet to review informal meeting, public scoping meeting and Marine Reserves AP input and comments and develop recommendations to Council and staff, develop Committee recommendations on the Gray's Reef Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), develop Committee comments/recommendations on NMFS White Paper and discuss the closed area law suit in the Gulf of Mexico.

September 20, 2000, 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.—Dolphin Wahoo Committee Meeting;

The Dolphin Wahoo Committee will meet to review comments on the Dolphin Wahoo FMP from the public hearings, written material received, advisory panel members and NMFS. The Committee will also review Gulf and Caribbean Council actions.

September 21, 2000, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon—Dolphin Wahoo Committee Meeting (continued);

The Dolphin Wahoo Committee will continue its meeting and develop final Committee recommendations on the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan.

September 21, 2000, 1:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.—Council Session;

From 1:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., the Council will call the meeting to order, adopt the agenda and approve minutes from the June 2000 meeting.

From 1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m., the Council will hold elections to decide on a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman and make presentations.

From 2:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m., the Council will hear a Coast Guard presentation from Admiral Allen.

From 2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m., the Council will consider a request from the South Carolina Aquarium for an extension of their Exempted Fisheries Permit (EFP).

From 3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m., the Council will hold a public comment period regarding the Dolphin Wahoo FMP (beginning at 3:15 p.m.), hear a report from the Dolphin Wahoo Committee, finalize the FMP and approve it for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

From 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m., the Council will hold a public comment period on the BRD Testing Protocol Manual (beginning at 5:15 p.m.), hear a report from the Shrimp Committee, finalize and approve the revised BRD Testing Protocol Manual and make a decision on the proposal to use traps to fish for royal red shrimp.

From 5:45 p.m.-6:15 p.m., the Council will hear a report from the Executive/Finance Committee, approve CY 2001 Activities Schedule, approve the CY