

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 the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advise.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14, 2004, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The times and agenda topics described below may be subject to change. Refer to the web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington DC/Silver Spring Hilton Hotel (Maryland Room), 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Parsons, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: (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 public participation with a 30-minute time period set aside on Wednesday, April 14 at approximately 4 p.m., for direct verbal comments or questions from the public. Each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments (at least 40 copies) should be submitted to the Designated Federal Official by April 6, 2004. Written comments received by the HSRP Designated Federal Official after April 6, 2004, will be distributed to the HSRP, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Approximately one hundred (100) seats will be available for the public including five (5) seats reserved for the media. Seats will be available on a first-come, first served basis.

Matters To Be Considered: The meeting will include discussion on the following topics: (1) The National Survey Plan: Development, Maintenance and Revision, (2) NOAA In-house Hydrographic Surveying Capacity, (3) Hydrographic Services Contracting, (4) NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center Activities, (5) Hydrographic Data Processing Backlog (6) Roles of Regional Navigation Managers & Navigation Response Teams, (7) National Water Level and Tidal Currents Programs, (8)

Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (9) Modeling Activities in Support of Safe Navigation, (10) Shoreline Mapping and Height Modernization Program, (11) Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) Program, and, (12) Public Statements.

Dated: March 26, 2004.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-7280 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032604C]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

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

ACTION: Notification of a proposal for an EFP to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject EFP application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Atlantic Sea Scallop and Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). However, consideration of comments on the proposal is required and further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made that the activity will have no significant impacts on the human environment, and that the issuance of EFPs is warranted. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Regional Administrator has made a preliminary decision to issue the EFP that would allow three federally permitted fishing vessels to conduct fishing operations otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the Atlantic sea scallop and Northeast multispecies fisheries. The EFP would allow the federally permitted vessels to make 12 tows per vessel for a total of 36 tows to compare a standard scallop dredge using a 10-inch (25.4 cm) twine

top to a standard scallop dredge using a 10-inch (25.4 cm) twine top with the addition of a Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) equipped with a 6-inch (15.2 cm) mesh twine top panel between the 10-inch (25.4 cm) twine top and the ring apron in order to evaluate the feasibility of using a BRD in scallop dredge gear to reduce finfish bycatch. The EFP is necessary to exempt the vessel from scallop dredge twine top restrictions.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before 5 p.m. eastern standard time April 16, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Scallop Dredge EFP Proposal."

Comments submitted via e-mail should be sent to scallop.EFP1@Noaa.gov.

Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135. A copy of the proposal is available from the Northeast Regional Office at the address stated above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Frei, Fisheries Management Specialist, 978-281-9221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ronald Smolowitz, Coonamessett Farm, Inc., submitted an application to conduct an experimental fishery to test the feasibility of using an experimental southern shrimp trawl BRD and a 6-inch (15.2 cm) twine top panel (6 meshes wide by 80 meshes long) inserted into a standard 10-inch (25.4 cm) twine top on standard scallop dredge in either the Hudson Canyon Access Area or in the open areas of Georges Bank (GB). The proposed experiment would test a standard scallop dredge with a 10-inch (25.4 cm) mesh twine top panel against an experimental scallop dredge with a BRD panel inserted into the 10-inch (25.4 cm) mesh twine top panel. The BRD panel would consist of one metal framed BRD, each with a 12-inch (30.5 cm) wide opening, incorporated into a 6-inch (15.2 cm) mesh twine panel approximately 6 meshes wide by 80 meshes long.

The proposed experiment would be conducted as soon as possible following approval of the EFP, if the final decision is to grant the EFP. The participating

vessels would be authorized to make 12 tows each in either the Hudson Canyon Access Area or the open areas of GB between depths of 20 and 50 fathoms. The proposed fishing areas on GB lie west of 67°00' W. lat. and east of 70°00' W. lat.; north of 40°00' N. long. and south of 42°00' N. long. Conducting the trips in open areas would allow the gear to be tested in areas of varying scallop and finfish abundance, as well as on different substrates. Information gathered from this experiment could be used in the consideration in future management actions under the FMP. If the BRDs can be successfully deployed in scallop gear, the researcher has stated that he is likely to request a subsequent EFP to conduct a more extensive study of BRDs as a bycatch reduction tool. The participating vessels would be allowed to retain the catch of scallops and the allowed levels of incidental catch of other species (e.g., 300 lb (136 kg) of regulated multispecies and monkfish) per trip. The EFP would allow exemptions from the following regulations under Fisheries of the Northeastern United States (50 CFR part 648): scallop dredge twine top restrictions specified at § 648.51(b)(4)(iv).

The proposed gear exemption is not expected to result in catch or bycatch beyond normal scallop operations. The only exemption is for an experimental BRD and a 6-inch (15.2 cm) twine top panel (6 meshes wide by 80 meshes long) inserted into a standard 10-inch (25.4 cm) twine top on a standard scallop dredge. The environmental impacts of this activity is not expected to exceed those already considered for the existing scallop fishery.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 29, 2004.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 04-7344 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Intent To Grant an Exclusive Patent License

Pursuant to the provisions of part 404 of Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, which implements Public Law 96-517, as amended, the Department of the Air Force announces its intention to grant R/D Tech Inc., a Canadian corporation, having a place of business at Quebec, Canada, an exclusive license in any

right, title and interest the Air Force has in: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/209,298, filed 30 July 2002, entitled "Phased Array Ultrasonic NDT System for Fastener Inspections," by Michael Moles, Olivier Dupuis, Fabrice Cancre, Pamela Herzog, James T. Miller, and Jamie Hatmaker.

Canadian Patent Application Serial No. 2,396,117, filed 30 July 2002, entitled "Phased Array Ultrasonic NDT System for Fastener Inspections," by Michael Moles, Olivier Dupuis, Fabrice Cancre, Pamela Herzog, James T. Miller, and Jamie Hatmaker.

Any objection to the grant of the license must be submitted in writing and received within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice in order to be considered. Written objection should be sent to: Air Force Materiel Command Law Office, AFMCLO/JAZ, 2240 B Street, Rm. 100, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7109. Telephone: (937) 255-2838; Facsimile (937) 255-3733.

Pamela Fitzgerald,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-7364 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC03-423-001, FERC Form-423]

Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Submitted for OMB Review

March 26, 2004.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; DOE.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and reinstatement of this information collection requirement. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission received comments from two entities in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of February 13, 2003 (68 FR 7353-54) and has responded to their comments in its submission to OMB.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by April 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address comments on the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Comments to OMB should be filed electronically, c/o *Pamela L. Beverly@omb.eop.gov* and include the OMB Control No. as a point of reference. The Desk Officer may be reached by telephone at 202-395-7856. A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, Attention: Michael Miller, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those persons filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. For paper filings, such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and should refer to Docket No. IC03-423-001.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and click on "Make an E-filing," and then follow the instructions for each screen. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's E-mail address upon receipt of comments. User assistance for electronic filings is available at 202-502-8258 or by e-mail to efiling@ferc.gov. Comments should not be submitted to the e-mail address.

All comments are available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502-8415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description

The information collection submitted for OMB review contains the following: