

this document invites comments on the issuance of EFPs to allow a maximum of six commercial fishing vessels in possession of Federal lobster permits to remove a maximum of six eggs each time any one of the 120 tagged berried lobsters are captured during the course of normal fishing operations in the designated study areas.

**DATES:** Comments on this lobster EFP notification for berried lobster monitoring and data collection must be received on or before November 5, 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 - Lobster EFP Proposal". Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 978-281-9117. Comments on the Lobster EFP Proposal may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is [Lob0204@noaa.gov](mailto:Lob0204@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: "Comments - Lobster EFP Proposal".

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Ross, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9234, fax (978)-281-9117.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The regulations that govern exempted fishing, at 50 CFR 600.745(b) and 697.22 allow the Regional Administrator to authorize for limited testing, public display, data collection, exploration, health and safety, environmental clean-up, and/or hazardous removal purposes, and the targeting or incidental harvest of managed species that would otherwise be prohibited. An EFP to authorize such activity may be issued, provided there is adequate opportunity for the public to comment on the EFP application, the conservation goals and objectives of Federal management of the American lobster resource are not compromised, and issuance of the EFP is beneficial to the management of the species.

The American lobster fishery is the most valuable fishery in the northeastern United States. In 2002, approximately 82 million pounds (37,324 metric tons (mt)) of American lobster were landed with an ex-vessel value of approximately 293 million dollars. Operating under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's interstate management process, American lobster are managed in state waters under Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Interstate Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 3). In Federal waters of the Exclusive

Economic Zone (EEZ), lobster is managed under Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 697. Amendment 3, and compatible Federal regulations established a framework for area management, which includes industry participation in the development of a management program which suits the needs of each lobster management area while meeting targets established in the Interstate Fisheries Management Program. The industry, through area management teams, with the support of state agencies, have played a vital role in advancing the area management program.

American lobster experience very high fishing mortality rates and are overfished throughout their range, from Canada to Cape Hatteras. Although harvest and population abundance are near record levels due to high recent recruitment and favorable environmental conditions, there is significant risk of a sharp drop in abundance, and such a decline would have serious implications. To facilitate the development of effective management tools, extensive monitoring and detailed abundance and size frequency data on the composition of lobsters throughout the range of the resource are necessary. This proposed EFP would monitor tagged berried lobsters in four study areas using traditional lobster trap gear.

**Proposed EFP**

The EFP proposes to collect statistical and scientific information as part of a project designed to monitor the movement of tagged berried lobsters to collect data that will assist in the assessment of the lobster resource and in the development of management practices appropriate to the fishery. Participants in this project are funded by, and under the direction of the Northeast Consortium, a group of four research institutions (University of New Hampshire, University of Maine, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) which are working together to foster this initiative.

Each of the six commercial fishing vessels in possession of Federal lobster permits involved in this monitoring and data collection program would collect temperature data and a maximum of six eggs from each tagged berried lobster harvested using traditional lobster trap gear. Participating vessels would collect data from each of the four general study areas in the vicinity of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Friendship, Maine, the northern edge of Georges Bank and in the vicinity of Corsair and Lydonia Canyons. This EFP would not involve

the authorization of any additional lobster trap gear in the study areas. The participating vessels may retain on deck tagged egg bearing female lobsters, in addition to legal lobsters, for the purpose of collecting temperature data from the attached Tidbit temperature-loggers, and for the purpose of collecting a maximum of six eggs from each tagged berried lobster to allow researchers to estimate the egg developmental stage and time to maturity. All sub-legal lobsters, berried females, and v-notched females would be returned to the sea as quickly as possible after data collection. Pursuant to 50 CFR 600.745(3)(v), the Regional Administrator may attach terms and conditions to the EFP consistent with the purpose of the exempted fishing.

This project would not involve the authorization of any additional lobster trap gear. All traps fished by the participating vessels would comply with all applicable lobster regulations specified at 50 CFR 697. To allow for the collection of temperature data and the removal of a maximum of six of eggs from each tagged berried lobster, the EFP would waive the American lobster prohibition on removal of eggs specified at 50 CFR 697.7(c)(iv). All sample collections would be conducted by six federally permitted commercial fishing vessels, during the course of regular commercial fishing operations. There would not be observers or researchers onboard every participating vessel.

This project, including the lobster handling protocols, was initially developed in consultation with University of New Hampshire scientists. To the greatest extent practicable, these handling protocols are designed to avoid unnecessary adverse environmental impact on lobsters involved in this project, while achieving the data collection objectives of this project.

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

**Dated:** October 18, 2004.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Technology Administration

#### Request for Comments on Electronics Recycling

**AGENCY:** Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice, request for comments.

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**SUMMARY:** The Technology Administration (TA) publishes this notice to solicit comments on the following specific issues regarding electronics recycling: (1) Definition of covered products; (2) collection and the role of government in collection; (3) financing collection, transportation and recycling, financing for orphan products, financing historical products versus future products, and the role of government, the electronics industry, and intermediaries in financing; and (4) the role of the federal government in creating a national recycling plan. This solicitation is intended to give those who were unable to comment at the September 21, 2004, roundtable on electronics recycling, entitled Technology Recycling: Achieving Consensus for Stakeholders, an opportunity to submit a statement regarding these issues.

**DATES:** Comments and statements should be received by the Technology Administration no later than October 27, 2004, in order to receive consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic statements are preferred, but written comments will be accepted. Please submit your comments electronically to [technologyrecycling@doc.gov](mailto:technologyrecycling@doc.gov) either in Microsoft Word (specify version) or WordPerfect (version 5 or 6, specify version).

Paper submissions should include an electronic copy of the comments on a diskette in one of the formats specified above. Mail to Laureen Daly, Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration HCHB 4817, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Direct questions to [technologyrecycling@doc.gov](mailto:technologyrecycling@doc.gov) or call Laureen Daly at (202) 482-0336.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Technology Administration, Office of Technology Policy held a roundtable on September 21, 2004, entitled Technology Recycling: Achieving Consensus for Stakeholders, that included representatives of electronics manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, and environmental organizations. At the roundtable, participants discussed that: (1) A list of products for recycling should be limited to a small number of items to start with, such as cathode ray tubes and flat panel

monitors over a certain size, and have a timetable for expansion of the list; (2) a collection process may include but should not mandate participation from retailers, local governments, manufacturers and third parties; (3) there exists several different financing models including extended producer responsibility and an advanced recovery fee, as well as financing the recycling of orphan products and transportation from collection to recyclers; and (4) there exists a need for a national approach as opposed to a state-by-state approach. The purpose of the roundtable was to obtain information for a report on electronics recycling that will be released in 2005.

**Request for Comments**

The Office of Technology Policy of TA is soliciting comments on the following specific issues regarding electronics recycling: (1) Definition of covered products; (2) collection and the role of government in collection; (3) financing collection, transportation and recycling, financing for orphan products, financing historical products versus future products, and the role of government, the electronics industry, and intermediaries in financing; and (4) the role of the federal government in creating a national recycling plan. This solicitation is intended to give those who were unable to comment at the roundtable an opportunity to submit a statement regarding these issues. Statements may propose a specific scenario or model for electronics recycling; give examples of existing programs in similar or unrelated areas that could serve as a model for an electronics recycling program; or comment on the pros and cons of existing or proposed models. TA is interested in specific scenarios that would enhance the competitiveness of U.S. industry and encourage conservation of resources.

We request, but do not require, that commentors provide their name, affiliation, and contact information and whether the comments represent the views of an individual or an organization. The Department reserves the right to use comments received, either partially or wholly, in subsequent reports or publications. Any comments become the property of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

For further information on the roundtable and the report, check the <http://www.technology.gov> website under Events and Activities, September

21, 2004, Technology Recycling Roundtable.

Dated: October 13, 2004.

**Phillip J. Bond,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology.*  
[FR Doc. 04-23499 Filed 10-20-04; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Office of the Secretary**

**Establishment of a New Standard Form**

**AGENCY:** Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Federal Voting Assistance Program.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Federal Voting Assistance Program is establishing a new form, Standard Form 186A, Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (Electronic). This form is an alternative to the current Standard Form 186, Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

Since this form is only electronic, users can get it from the following Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site: <http://www.fvap.gov>.

**DATES:** Effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Glynda Hughes, Department of Defense (703) 604-4578.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a list of differences between the hard copy SF 186 and the electronic SF 186A.

Paragraphs 2b. and 2c. of the Instructions are not on the hard copy SF 186. These paragraphs are added to provide the citizen instructions on how to package the ballot since no envelopes are provided with the electronic version.

Paragraph 3. of the electronic version does not include the instruction, "Remove tape from the Security Envelope and seal."

Paragraph 4. of the electronic version contains additional instructions for the citizens to prepare the voter supplied envelopes for mailing.

Dated: October 18, 2004.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**