

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Marine Recreational Fishing Expenditure Survey (MRFES).

OMB Control Number: 0648-0693.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (revision and extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 83,426.

Average Hours per Response: Durable goods survey, 15 minutes; trip expenditure surveys, 5 to 8 minutes.

Burden Hours: 3,142.

Needs and Uses: This request is for revision and extension of an existing data collection.

The objective of the survey is to collect information on both trip expenditures and annual durable good expenditures made by marine recreational anglers. The survey will be conducted in two parts. One part will ask anglers about the expenses incurred on their most recent marine recreational fishing trip. The other part of the survey will ask anglers about their purchases of durable goods such as fishing gear, boats, vehicles, and second homes. As specified in the Magnuson-Stevenson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (and reauthorized in 2007), NMFS is required to enumerate the economic impacts of the policies it implements on fishing participants and coastal communities. The expenditure data collected in this survey will be used to estimate the economic contributions and impacts of marine recreational fishing to each coastal state and nationwide. Slight revisions will be made to the existing trip expenditure questions to clarify certain types of expenditures, and two questions on the trip expenditure instrument will be dropped.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Every three years.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-05693 Filed 3-21-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XF302

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; 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 of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Snapper Grouper, Mackerel Cobia and Cobia Sub-Panel, and Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panels (AP).

SUMMARY: The Council will hold meetings of its Snapper Grouper AP, Mackerel Cobia and Cobia Subpanel AP and Dolphin Wahoo AP from April 17-21, 2017 in Charleston, SC. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

DATES: The Snapper Grouper AP meeting will be held on Monday, April 17, 2017, from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Wednesday, April 19, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

The Mackerel Cobia and Cobia Sub-Panel AP meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2017, from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Thursday, April 20, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting will be held Friday, April 21, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meetings will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866)

SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:*Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel*

The Snapper Grouper AP will receive an update on the status of amendments to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) recently approved by the Council and submitted for Secretarial review. In addition, the AP members will review and provide recommendations on actions in draft Amendment 43 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) addressing management measures for red snapper and recreational reporting, Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational measures), and Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial measures). The Vision Blueprint amendments are being developed to address management needs identified in the Council's 2016-2020 Vision Blueprint for the snapper grouper fishery.

Other discussion items include a review of the Council's Research Priorities and updates on on-going projects/programs including the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment program, socio-economic characterization of the commercial snapper grouper fishery, the Council's Citizen Science Program and the Charter Vessel Reporting Pilot Project. The AP will provide recommendations for Council consideration as appropriate.

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and Cobia Sub-Panel

The Mackerel Cobia AP and Cobia Sub-Panel will meet jointly. The AP and Cobia Sub-Panel will receive updates and discuss management issues pertaining to cobia including Atlantic cobia recreational fishing seasons, ongoing cobia research, permit requirements for commercial harvest of cobia in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic (including the east coast of Florida), cobia bag limits for the east coast of Florida, and input on fishery performance. The AP and Sub-Panel will also receive updates and discuss management measures relative to king and Spanish mackerel including limited entry for federal commercial permits for Spanish mackerel and possible gear endorsements and modifications to gill net size for the Spanish mackerel fishery. The AP and Sub-Panel will discuss latent permits in the commercial king mackerel fishery and trip limits for king mackerel on Spanish mackerel gillnet trips. The AP and Sub-Panel will provide recommendations as appropriate.

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

The Dolphin Wahoo AP will receive a presentation on recent findings from the Dolphinfish Research Program and updates on recent Council actions relative to Amendment 10 to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan. The amendment includes actions to address Optimum Yield for the dolphin fishery, revise the recreational Annual Catch Target for dolphin, establish a commercial Annual Catch Target for dolphin, allow adaptive management of sector annual catch limits for dolphin, revise accountability measures for dolphin, revise the acceptable biological catch control rule for dolphin and wahoo, allow vessels with gear onboard that are not authorized for use in the dolphin fishery to possess dolphin or wahoo, and removes the Operator Card requirement. The AP will also discuss potential items to include in future amendments to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan. The AP will provide recommendations as appropriate.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SAFMC office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: March 17, 2017.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-05678 Filed 3-21-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XF263

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Scoping Process; Notification of Scoping Meetings; Request for Comments

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

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement;

scoping process; notification of scoping meetings; requests for comments.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council announces its intent to prepare, in cooperation with NMFS, an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. An environmental impact statement may be necessary to assess potential effects on the human environment of an amendment to manage Atlantic chub mackerel (*Scomber colias*) as a stock in the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan. This notice announces a public process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying significant issues related to Council management of Atlantic chub mackerel, including setting annual catch limits, accountability measures, and other conservation and management measures required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for stocks in the fishery.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before May 31, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

- Email to the following address: nmfs.gar.chubmackerel@noaa.gov;
- Mail to Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, Delaware 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope "Chub Mackerel Amendment Scoping Comments";
- Fax to (302) 674-5399; or
- Verbally or in writing at six public scoping meetings.

More information on this amendment is available at <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/chub-mackerel-amendment>. A scoping document will be posted to this site on or around April 18, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901, (telephone 302-674-2331).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council manages Atlantic mackerel, longfin squid and *Illex* squid throughout the U.S. east coast from Maine through Florida and butterfish from Maine through Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, under the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Current measures include limited entry, permit and reporting requirements, catch limits, possession limits, and gear restrictions, among others.

A targeted commercial chub mackerel fishery developed in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England in recent years, averaging 2.86 million lb of landings over 2013–2015. In August 2016, the Council approved an annual landings limit and a possession limit for chub mackerel as part of the Unmanaged Forage Fish Omnibus Amendment. Rulemaking to implement these measures is currently being developed by NMFS. These measures would be the first regulations for chub mackerel fisheries off the U.S. Atlantic coast, if approved by the Secretary of Commerce. As proposed, these measures are temporary, and would expire three years after implementation. This is because the Council intends to develop alternatives for longer-term management of chub mackerel fisheries by integrating this species into the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP.

The Council initiated an amendment to consider managing Atlantic chub mackerel as a "stock in the fishery" under the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP in December 2016 when they approved their 2017 Implementation Plan. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) lists several required provisions of FMPs for stocks that are in the fishery, including:

- Annual catch limits (ACLs) specified in relation to acceptable biological catch limits recommended by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee;
- Accountability measures for when the ACLs are exceeded;
- Essential fish habitat designations; and
- Definition of the management unit.

The Council may also consider management measures not explicitly required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, but which may be necessary to prevent overfishing and promote long-term stability of Atlantic chub mackerel fisheries. These measures could include, but are not limited to:

- Permit requirements;
- Limited access;
- Commercial and/or recreational annual catch targets;
- Commercial quotas;
- Recreational harvest limits;
- Possession limits;
- Commercial and/or recreational minimum fish size restrictions;
- Gear restrictions;
- Reporting requirements; and
- Commercial and/or recreational fishing seasons.

This amendment will affect targeted commercial chub mackerel fisheries