

within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: August 12, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer,

[FR Doc. 98-22143 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

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Dated: August 12, 1998.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted 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: Application to Shuck Surf Clams/Ocean Quahogs at Sea.

Agency Form Number(s): None assigned.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0240.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 2 hours.

Number of Respondents: 2 (multiple responses).

Avg. Hours Per Response: 5 minutes.

Needs and Uses: Vessel owners who wish to shuck their surf clam/ocean quahog catch while at sea must apply for a permit to do so. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires a permit so that it can identify vessels seeking to do so and to place a NMFS-approved observer aboard those vessels. An observer is necessary because the shucking of catch at sea makes it difficult to track the catch against harvest quotas.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations, individuals.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted 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 USC Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Transfer Log.

Agency Form Number(s): None assigned.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0238.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 52 hours.

Number of Respondents: 206 (multiple responses).

Avg. Hours Per Response: 5 minutes.

Needs and Uses: Persons holding Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) in the surf clam/ocean quahog fishery are annually issued an allowed quota for harvest. Individual allocations are transferable to other fishermen, but the ITQ holder must register such a transfer in advance with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The information registered is used for enforcement purposes.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations, individuals.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan for the Proposed Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Mississippi

AGENCY: Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Public Hearing Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce, will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan (DEIS/DMP) prepared on the proposed designation of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Mississippi. The DEIS/DMP addresses research, monitoring, education and resource protection needs for the proposed reserve.

The Sanctuaries and Reserves Division will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on September 2, 1998, at the East Jackson Community Center, 9313 Old Stage Road, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39581.

The views of interested persons and organizations on the adequacy of the DEIS/DMP are solicited, and may be expressed orally and/or in written statements. Presentations will be scheduled on a first-come, first-heard basis, and may be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. The time allotment may be extended before the hearing when the number of speakers can be

determined. All comments received at the hearing will be considered in the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Final Management Plan.

The comment period for the DEIS/DMP will end on September 7, 1998. All written comments received by this deadline will be considered in the preparation of the FEIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. R. Randall Schneider (301) 713-3132, Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, NOAA, 1305 East West Highway, N/ORM2, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Management Plan are available upon request to the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.420 (Coastal Zone Management) Research Reserves

Dated: August 12, 1998.

Evelyn J. Fields,

Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 980805207-8210-02]

RIN 0648-ZA47

General Grant Administration Terms and Conditions of the Coastal Ocean Program

AGENCY: Coastal Ocean Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice for Financial Assistance for Project Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

SUMMARY: It is the intent of the National Ocean Service (NOS), NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program (COP) to provide direct financial assistance in the form of Grants and Cooperative Agreements under its own program for the management of coastal ecosystems. Prior COP financial assistance was provided to non-profit organizations and educational institutions through joint participation in a Sea Grant omnibus vehicle.

This notice does not solicit proposals; but rather introduces and describes the general grant administration terms and conditions of the COP program. It is the intent of COP to issue supplemental

Announcements of Opportunities (AOs) to request proposals on specific projects throughout the year on an as-needed basis commencing with FY1999. Any Announcements of Funding Opportunities will be issued through the **Federal Register**, the COP Home Page, mass mailings and COP's e-mail list. Those announcements will provide specific program descriptions; criteria for proposal submission; technical evaluation of proposals and other details affecting that Announcement of Opportunity.

Proposals solicited through supplemental notices will be part of a unique federal-academic partnership designed to provide predictive capability for managing coastal ecosystems. COP supports research on critical issues which exist in the Nation's estuaries, coastal waters and the Great Lakes; and translates its findings into accessible information for coastal managers, planners, lawmakers and the public. Historically, COP's projects are multi-disciplinary, large in scale and long in duration (usually three to five years). Multi-year funding will be funded incrementally on an annual basis. Therefore, each annual award shall require a Statement of Work that is clearly severable and can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work which represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available.

DATES: Supplemental notices will be issued through the **Federal Register** and will provide critical information and dates specific for that each AO.

ADDRESSES: Coastal Ocean Program Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East West Highway, Room 9700, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie McDonald, COP Grants Office, (301) 713-3338/x137.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

(a) Program Authority(s): 33 U.S.C. 1121; 33 U.S.C. 883a et seq; 33 U.S.C. 1442; 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

(b) Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): 11.478 Coastal Ocean Program.

(c) Program Description: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Ocean Program (COP) provides predictive capability for managing coastal ecosystems through sponsorship of research. COP seeks to deliver the highest quality science in a timely manner for important coastal decisions. It supports research on critical issues which exist in the Nation's estuaries, coastal waters, and Great Lakes and

translates its findings into accessible information for coastal managers, planners, lawmakers, and the public.

Coastal Ecosystem Oceanography

COP supports the conservation and management of marine ecosystems through sponsorship of improved ecological and oceanographic predictions for resource management. Studies focus on: (1) Identifying critical processes that control replenishment of fishery resources; (2) Determining critical habitat process that influence fishery ecosystems, including harmful algal blooms; and (3) Quantifying species interactions so models can be used in management decisions. Current efforts support fisheries studies dealing with Bering Sea pollack, cod and haddock on Georges Bank, and salmon in the Pacific Northwest. COP also leads an interagency research program on the ecology and oceanography of harmful algal blooms which are increasing in intensity and impact in coastal waters.

Cumulative Coastal Impacts

COP sponsors improvements to the scientific basis for managing coastal ecosystems through a series of regional watershed projects on the causes and impacts of multiple stresses on coastal land and marine ecosystems. Studies focus on: (1) Developing indicators of physical, chemical, and biological stress; (2) predicting impacts of multiple stresses on living marine resources; (3) valuing natural resources in ecological and economical terms; and (4) predicting the outcomes of management strategies. Current efforts support coastal and natural resource managers dealing with multiple stressors in the Chesapeake Bay, Florida Bay and the Florida Keys, the Great Lakes and southeast coastal ecosystems.

Coastal Forecasting/Natural Hazards

COP sponsors research to improve our ability to measure, understand and predict physical coastal ocean phenomena that impact the public, the economy and coastal resources. These forecasts are important to those living along the Nation's coasts, to the businesses and industries located there, and to myriad coastal resources at risk. In recent years, COP has sponsored and delivered new forecast capabilities to the operational parts of NOAA, including the satellite-based Coast/Watch program, a Great Lakes Forecast System, a prototype Coastal Ocean Forecast System and improved storm surge and tsunami inundation predictions.