

cognizant Federal agency (the Federal agency providing the greatest dollars), the recipient must submit a copy of the negotiated agreement to the DoC/OIG for verification. Acceptance of indirect cost rates in excess of 100 percent of direct costs is subject to approval by NIST and the DoC/OIG. If an indirect cost rate(s) has not been negotiated prior to receiving the award, then an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted to the recipient's cognizant Federal agency within 90 days from the date of the award. Provisional rates provided by the joint venture participant in the indirect cost proposal may be used until approval is obtained or indirect cost rates are negotiated.

(v) All ATP recipients must agree to adhere to the U.S. Export Administration laws and regulations and shall not export or re-export, directly or indirectly, any technical data created with Government funding under an award to any country for which the United States Government or any agency thereof, at the time of such export or re-export requires an export license or other Governmental approval without first obtaining such licenses or approval and the written clearance of the NIST Grants Officer. The Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) shall conduct an annual review for any relevant information about a proposer and/or Recipient. NIST reserves the right to not issue any award or suspend or terminate an existing award in the event that significant adverse information about a proposer or Recipient is disclosed by BXA to the NIST Grants Officer.

Dated: November 16, 1998.

**Robert E. Hebner,**

*Acting Deputy Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.110298A]

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Essential Fish Habitat Amendment to the Fishery Management Plans of the U.S. Caribbean

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of an amendment to the fishery management

plans of the U.S. Caribbean; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted its Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment to the Fishery Management Plans of the U.S. Caribbean (FMPs) for its review, approval, and implementation. Written comments are requested from the public.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before January 19, 1999. **ADDRESSES:** Comments must be mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

Requests for copies of the amendment, which includes an environmental assessment, should be sent to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 11108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577, Phone: 787-766-5926; Fax: 787-766-6239.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Georgia Cranmore, 813-570-5305.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires each regional fishery management council to submit any fishery management plan or amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, after receiving an amendment, immediately publish a notice in the **Federal Register** that the amendment is available for public review and comment. This document constitutes such notice for the EFH amendment.

NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve, disapprove, or partially approve this amendment.

NMFS published guidelines to assist regional fishery management councils in the description and identification of EFH in FMPs, including identification of adverse impacts from both fishing and non-fishing activities on EFH and identification of actions required to conserve and enhance EFH (62 FR 66531, December 19, 1997). These guidelines encourage ecosystem approaches to protecting and conserving EFH. Identification of ecological roles (i.e., prey, competitors, trophic links within foodwebs, and nutrient transfer between ecosystems) should be incorporated into EFH recommendations. The guidelines also specify that sufficient EFH be protected and conserved to support sustainable

fisheries and managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem.

The Council's EFH generic amendment includes information on important factors in the relationships between species in the fishery management units and their habitats during each of the species' life stages, including eggs, larvae, juveniles, adults, and spawning adults. Available information is not sufficient to provide for the identification of EFH for each species in all FMPs. There are more than 1,149 species of finfish and over 1,170 mollusks reported in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Council has identified, to the extent possible, the environmental, trophic, and biological characteristics of species managed by each FMP prepared by the Council. The Council has emphasized selected species, and in the absence of habitat information, has used them as "indicators" of such habitats. Following is a summary of the EFH generic amendment:

1. EFH is identified and described based on areas where various life stages of the 17 selected, managed species and the coral complex commonly occur. The selected species are: Nassau grouper, *Epinephelus striatus*; red hind, *Epinephelus guttatus*; coney, *Epinephelus fulvus*; yellowtail snapper, *Ocyurus chrysurus*; mutton snapper, *Lutjanus analis*; schoolmaster, *Lutjanus apodus*; grey snapper, *Lutjanus griseus*; silk snapper, *Lutjanus vivanus*; butterfly fish, *Chaetodon striatus*; squirrel fish, *Holocentrus ascensionis*; white grunt, *Haemulon plumieri*; queen triggerfish, *Balistes vetula*; sandtilefish, *Malacanthus plumieri*; redtail parrotfish, *Sparisoma chrysopterus*; trunkfish, *Lactophrys quadricornis*; spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus*; and queen conch, *Strombus gigas*.

2. The selected species represent some of the key species under management by the Council. Collectively, these species commonly occur throughout all the marine and estuarine waters of the U.S. Caribbean. EFH for the remaining managed species will be addressed in future FMP amendments, as information becomes available.

3. EFH is defined as everywhere that the selected species commonly occur. Because these species collectively occur in all habitats of the U.S. Caribbean, the EFH of all species combined includes all waters and substrates (mud, sand, shell, rock, and associated biological communities), including coral habitats (coral reefs, coral hard bottoms, and octocoral reefs), sub-tidal vegetation (seagrasses and algae) and adjacent

intertidal vegetation (wetlands and mangroves). Therefore, collectively EFH includes virtually all marine waters and substrates from the shoreline to the seaward limit of the exclusive economic zone.

4. Threats to EFH from fishing and non-fishing activities are identified.

5. Whenever possible, options to conserve and enhance EFH are provided and research needs are identified.

6. No management measures and, therefore, no regulations are proposed at this time. Measures to minimize any identified impacts are deferred to future amendments when the Council has the information necessary to decide if the measures are practicable.

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

Dated: November 16, 1998.

**Dean Swanson,**

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

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## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Corporation is soliciting comments concerning its proposed Learn and Serve America Project Description Form. This form will be used to collect information on program descriptions and participation levels in service-learning programs supported by funds from the Corporation. The information provided will be used by the Corporation to: (1) measure performance of service-learning

programs as required by the Corporation's annual performance plans prepared in response to the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; (2) improve management and administration of the Learn and Serve America program; (3) inform grantees through the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse about the plans and activities of programs funded by the Corporation.

Copies of the proposed information collection form can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

The Corporation is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section January 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Learn and Serve America, Attn. Brad Lewis, 8th Floor, 1201 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20525.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brad Lewis (202) 606-5000, ext. 113.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Background

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 requires all federal departments and agencies to prepare annual performance plans for all budget activities. These plans are to contain performance goals and indicators measuring the outcomes and impacts of federal programs. The Corporation's initial performance plan, covering fiscal 1999, contains performance goals for Learn and Serve America relating to the number of student participants and descriptions of service-learning programs. This new data collection

effort will provide that information which will be reported to Congress and the public in an annual performance report beginning in March 2000.

In addition, the Corporation has a commitment to support the quality improvement efforts of its grantees through monitoring, training, and technical assistance. A major part of this effort is carried out through the Learn and Serve America National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is charged with compiling and sharing information with the Corporation's grantees and the public concerning how to plan, implement, and manage service-learning programs and activities.

Furthermore, until this new information collection effort is in place, the national program office for Learn and Serve America will have no systematic means by which to compile quantitative information on grantee and sub-grantee performance for all recipients of its funding. Presently, grantees' progress reports are narrative texts with no means for storing, organizing, and aggregating the data across programs.

### II. Current Action

The Corporation seeks approval of the Learn and Serve America Project Description Form. The form will ask Learn and Serve America grantees and their sub-grantees to: (1) Identify the frequency and types of student participants in service-learning programs; (2) identify the frequency and types of institutions and organizations sponsoring and collaborating with service-learning programs; (3) specify the types of services being provided to communities by students in service-learning; and (4) describe the local program operations and achievements. The information will be used to: (1) measure performance in terms set forth in the annual performance plan; (2) prepare descriptions of program activities and achievements with support from Learn and Serve America; (3) inform the Corporation, grantees, educational institutions, and the public concerning the nature, extent, and best practices in service-learning programs across the nation.

*Type of Review:* New approval.

*Agency:* Corporation for National and Community Service.

*Title:* Learn and Serve America Project Description Form.

*OMB Number:* None.

*Agency Number:* None.

*Affected Public:* Educators and other institutional personnel whose organizations receive grant funds from Learn and Serve America.