

SEDAR 70: Greater Amberjack Stock Assessment Report and SEDAR 72: Gag Grouper Stock Assessment Report, and discuss SSC Recommendations and Reef Fish Advisory Panel Feedback for both. The Committee will also discuss the Council Request for State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) Integration and Update Assessment for SEDAR 72: Gag Grouper.

The Committee will review Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Programs, Focus Group Formation and next steps and Public Hearing Draft: Reef Fish Amendment 36B. The Committee will receive an update on Draft Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 and Reef Fish Amendment 55: Modifications to Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Jurisdictional Allocations, Catch Limits, and South Atlantic Sector Annual Catch Limits.

The Committee will hold a discussion on Wenchman in the Gulf of Mexico, review the Revised Great Red Snapper Count Estimates and SSC Recommendations for re-evaluating Red Snapper Catch Advise, discuss any remaining SSC and Reef Fish Advisory Panel recommendations.

Full Council will reconvene in a CLOSED SESSION for selection of IFQ Focus Group Participants.

**Wednesday, January 26, 2022; 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., CST**

The Data Collection Committee will receive an update on Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program and review Draft Framework Action: Modification to Location Reporting Requirements for For-Hire Vessels and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP) Recommendations. The Committee will receive a presentation on Update on Modifications to the Commercial Electronic Reporting Program. The Committee will receive an update on Upcoming Workshop to Evaluate State-federal Recreational Survey Differences.

The Sustainable Fisheries Committee will review and discuss Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology and SSC Recommendations.

Following lunch at approximately 1:30 p.m. CST, the Council will reconvene with a Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes; and receive a presentation on Density Estimations of age-0 and age-1 Gray Triggerfish, *Balistes capricus*, and Vermilion Snapper, *Rhomboplites aurorubens*, from 2007 to 2015, in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

The Council will hold public testimony from 2:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., CST on Final Action Item: Framework Action: Modification of Vermilion

Snapper Catch Limits; and open testimony on other fishery issues or concerns. Public comment may begin earlier than 2:15 p.m. CST, but will not conclude before that time. Persons wishing to give public testimony in-person must register at the registration kiosk in the meeting room. Persons wishing to give public testimony virtually must sign up on the Council website on the day of public testimony. Registration for virtual testimony closes one hour (1:15 p.m. CST) before public testimony begins.

**Thursday, January 27, 2022; 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., CST**

The Council will receive Committee reports from Habitat Protection and Restoration, Shrimp, Outreach and Education, Mackerel, Data Collection, Reef Fish and Sustainable Fisheries Management Committees. The Council will review Closed Session Report and receive updates from the following supporting agencies: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Louisiana Law Enforcement Efforts; NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE); Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Department of State.

Lastly, the Council will discuss any Other Business items.

#### *Meeting Adjourns*

The meeting will be virtual only. You may register for the webinar to “listen-in” only by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and click on the Council meeting tab.

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on the website as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### **Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid or

accommodations should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348–1630, at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 13, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022–00982 Filed 1–19–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Administration**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before March 21, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference NOAA OMB Control Number 0648–0240 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Douglas Potts, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978–281–9341 or [Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov](mailto:Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Abstract**

This request is for an extension of a currently approved collection associated

with the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Greater Atlantic Region manages these fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Northeastern United States through the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council prepared the FMP pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The regulations implementing the FMP are specified at 50 CFR part 648.

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at §§ 648.74, 648.75, and 648.76 form the basis for this collection of information. We request information from surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota (ITQ) permit holders to issue ITQ permits and to process and track requests from permit holders to transfer quota share or cage tags. We also request information from surfclam and ocean quahog ITQ permit holders to track and properly account for surfclam and ocean quahog harvest shucked at sea. Because there is not a standard conversion factor for estimating unshucked product from shucked product, NMFS requires vessels that shuck product at sea to carry on board the vessel a NMFS-approved observer to certify the amount of these clams harvested. This information, upon receipt, results in an efficient and accurate database for management and monitoring of fisheries of the Northeastern U.S. EEZ.

Georges Bank has been closed to the harvest of surfclams and ocean quahogs since 1990 due to red tide blooms that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). We reopened a portion of the Georges Bank Closed Area starting in 2012 under certain conditions. We request information from surfclam and ocean quahog ITQ permit holders who fish in the reopened area to ensure compliance with the Protocol for Onboard Screening and Dockside Testing in Molluscan Shellfish. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the commercial fishing industry, and NMFS developed the PSP protocol to test and verify that clams harvested from Georges Bank continue to be safe for human consumption. The National Shellfish Sanitation Program adopted the PSP protocol at the October 2011 Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

The Council has approved Amendment 20 to the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP, which would implement an excessive shares cap in this fishery. If that action is approved and implemented, some of the fields in

the ITQ ownership form and the ITQ transfer form may change as a result. Any revisions to this collection will be specified in the upcoming proposed rule for the amendment.

## II. Method of Collection

Forms are online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/greater-atlantic-region-forms-and-applications-summary> as “fillable” pdf documents, which can then be downloaded, printed, and faxed, mailed, or emailed to NMFS. ITQ transfer forms may also be submitted electronically. Information for the PSP protocol is submitted through paper forms, as well as through electronic methods, including email, telephone, and shipboard electronic equipment such as VHF radio, email, or a vessel monitoring system.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0240.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

*Affected Public:* Individuals and Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 177.

*Estimated Time per Response:* ITQ permit application form, review of a pre-filled form for renewing entities, ITQ transfer form, 5 minutes each; 1 hour to complete the ITQ ownership form for new applicants and 30 minutes for the application to shuck surfclams and ocean quahogs at sea. The requirements under the PSP protocol are based on the number of vessels that land surfclams or ocean quahogs and the number of trips taken into the area, with a total estimated annual burden of 2,400 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,473.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$111,757.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, Section 303).

## IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c)

Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2022–01007 Filed 1–19–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Matters Related to First Inventor To File

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. The USPTO invites comment on this information collection renewal, which helps the USPTO assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on October 5, 2021 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

*Title:* Matters Related to First Inventor To File.

*OMB Control Number:* 0651–0071.