

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS—Continued

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
§ 697.20(g)(1) and (3)	V-notch possession requirement for Areas 1 and 2.	To allow landing of female lobsters for research purposes.
§ 697.20(d)(1) and (3)	Berried female possession requirements	To allow landing of egg-bearing female lobsters for research purposes.
§ 697.20(h)(1)	Minimum carapace width requirements	To allow sub-legal Jonah crabs to be landed for research purposes.
§§ 697.20(h)(2)(i) and (ii)	Berried female possession requirement	To allow landing of egg-bearing female Jonah crabs for research purposes.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	2024 MA DMF Ventless Trap Survey.
Project Start ...	05/01/2024.
Project End	10/31/2024.
Project objectives.	To provide fishery-independent data on lobster and Jonah crab growth and abundance within Massachusetts State waters.
Project location.	Statistical Areas 514 and 538.
Number of vessels.	Up to 6.
Number of trips.	Approximately 70.
Trip duration (days).	1.
Total number of days.	Approximately 70.
Gear type(s) ...	Lobster traps.
Number of tows or sets.	16 per trip.
Duration of tows or sets.	3 day soak time.

Project Narrative

The purpose of this survey is to provide fishery-independent data on lobster and Jonah crab growth and abundance within Massachusetts State waters of statistical areas 514 and 538. MA DMF funds this lobster abundance survey through their commercial and recreational lobster license fees. This survey has occurred annually since 2006. At least one MA DMF scientist would be on board for the sampling trips. MA DMF personnel would not be on board when traps are baited and deployed. Exemptions would not substantively change vessel operations. All catch during sampling trips would be retained temporarily to collect biological data. MA DMF staff may collect lobster and/or Jonah crab, including undersized, oversized, v-notched, and egg-bearing lobsters. Collected samples would be used for research projects on growth and maturity. No catch from the experimental traps would be landed for sale. All gear would be Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan compliant. Survey traps will be separate from each vessel's commercial lobster traps and

would be tagged as, “MA DMF Research Traps.”

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate the completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

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

Dated: March 25, 2024.

Everett Wayne Baxter,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2024-06651 Filed 3-27-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD832]

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.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) on April 15 and 16, 2024.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet on April 16–18, 2024.

DATES: The SEP meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT on April 15; and from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. on April 16, 2024. The SSC meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT on April 16; from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on April 17; and from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. on April 18, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meetings will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418; phone: (843) 744-4422.

The meetings will also be available via webinar. Registration is required. Webinar registration, an online public comment form, and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meetings at: <https://safmc.net/scientific-and-statistical-committee-meeting/>.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Judd Curtis, Quantitative Fishery Scientist, SAFMC; phone: (843) 302-8441 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: judd.curtis@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

SSC Socio-Economic Panel

The SEP meeting agenda includes updates on Council active amendments, the Council's Citizen Science program, and the Best Fishing Practices Outreach and Evaluation Workshop. The SEP will provide feedback on upcoming stakeholder engagement meetings, social and economic metrics used in Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) reports, and social and economic information to include in the Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). They will also discuss improving incorporation of Equity and Environmental Justice concerns into Council initiatives, the National Academy of Sciences report on Assessing Equity in the Distribution of

Fisheries Management Benefits, and other business as necessary.

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC meeting agenda includes updates on the Florida State Reef Fish Survey, South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program, and Southeast Reef Fish Survey Trends Report. It will also include updates from the Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) Minimizing Red Snapper Discards Publication, Low Recruitment Workgroup, Commercial Discard Logbook Data, and Precision Threshold Workgroup. The SSC will review Terms of Reference and Scopes of Work for upcoming Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) projects, and discuss other business as necessary.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 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 25, 2024.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-06649 Filed 3-27-24; 8:45 am]

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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; NOAA Financial Assistance Performance Progress Reports

The Department of Commerce 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. We invite 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. This notice pertains to a revision and extension of the approved collection of information for NOAA Financial Assistance Performance Progress Reports. Public comments were

previously requested via the **Federal Register** on December 27, 2023 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

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

Title: NOAA Financial Assistance Performance Progress Reports.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0718.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission. Revision and extension of a currently approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 645.

Average Hours per Response: Marine Debris Program (MDP) Performance Progress Report: 8 hours; MDP Performance Progress Report Table: 0.25 hours; MDP Companion Tracker: 1 hour; MDP Additional Metrics Trackers: 3 hours; Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) Semi-Annual Reports: 10 hours; Restoration Center (RC) Progress Report: Initial—9.5 hours; Semi-Annual—5.5 hours; and Final—9.75 hours; RC Administrative Progress Reports: Initial—6 hours; Semi-Annual—2.75 hours; and Final—5.5 hours.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,800.

Needs and Uses: This is a request for revision and extension to an approved collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations at 5 CFR, Part 1320. This previously-approved information collection assists NOAA in the administration and evaluation of financial assistance awards made by the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP), NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), and the NOAA Restoration Center (RC).

This revision, which is described in more detail below, is only applicable for the NOAA MDP financial assistance awards, and previous information collections for NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and NOAA Restoration Center (RC) remain unchanged. There are no changes to the NOAA CRCP or NOAA RC forms that were previously approved, including the RC Progress Reports (Initial, Semi-Annual, and Final), RC Administrative Progress Reports (Initial, Semi-Annual, and Final), and CRCP Semi-Annual Reports. However, the extension applies to the entire previously-approved information collection.

Every year, the NOAA MDP, the NOAA CRCP, and the NOAA RC each support a variety of initiatives specific to their individual authorizations and programmatic mandates. This support is made substantially through grants and cooperative agreements, the terms and

conditions of which require regular progress reporting and communication of project accomplishments to the agency. This information collection identifies what is to be provided in these reports, and aims to assist recipients in fulfilling their responsibilities in meeting interim and final progress report requirements. This information is also necessary for NOAA to effectively oversee the expenditure of public funds awarded through these programs, to ensure both cost-effectiveness and programmatic goals are met.

The NOAA RC provides technical and financial assistance to identify, develop, implement, and evaluate community-driven habitat restoration projects. Awards are made as grants or cooperative agreements under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2006, 16 U.S.C. 1891a and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661, as amended by the Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970.

The NOAA CRCP operates under authorization from the Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA) of 2000, 16 U.S.C. 6401 *et seq.* This act authorizes the NOAA CRCP to conserve, and restore the condition of United States coral reef ecosystems; to promote the science-based management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit local communities and the Nation; to develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems; to assist in the preservation of coral reefs by supporting science-based, consensus-driven, and community-based coral reef management; to provide financial resources, technical assistance, and scientific expertise to establish a formal mechanism for the collecting and allocating of monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects; to support rapid response to exigent circumstances that pose immediate and long-term threats to coral reefs; and to serve as a model for advancing international efforts to monitor, conserve, and restore coral.

The NOAA MDP supports national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The NOAA MDP is a centralized office within NOAA that coordinates and supports activities, both within the bureau and with other federal agencies that address marine debris and its impacts. In addition to inter-agency coordination, NOAA MDP uses partnerships with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental