

proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before November 17, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [Jjessup@doc.gov](mailto:Jjessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Carl Gouldman, (301) 427-2435 or [carl.gouldman@noaa.gov](mailto:carl.gouldman@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for a new information collection supported by Section 12302 (3) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act (ICOOS Act) part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11). The survey is voluntary.

NOAA's National Ocean Service is requesting approval of a Web-based survey of employers who provide either services or infrastructure to the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) or organizations that add value to the IOOS data and other outputs by tailoring them for specific end uses. The purpose of the survey and overall project is to gather data to articulate the collective and derived value of the IOOS enterprise, and to create a profile of businesses and organizations who are involved with providing services or utilizing the data for other specific end uses. This is the first survey of its kind on a national scale. The project is funded by NOAA and is being conducted on its behalf by the contractor, ERISS Corporation. The project contract spans three years with the first portion of the contract mainly involved with researching and selecting appropriate businesses to include in the study database. The web survey will be the final data collection piece of the project and is necessary in order to collect demographic, financial, and functional information for each organization with regards to their involvement with IOOS. The final deliverable of this project is an analytic report detailing the findings of the web survey and the analysis of the employer database.

The marine technology industry is an important partner and stakeholder within IOOS; however, without the baseline that this study will provide,

IOOS is unable to articulate its collective and derived value. The results will demonstrate the size and economic impact of IOOS data to the United States marine ocean sector. That information can be used to understand the value of export sales and the identification of potential growth and/or new international markets which would further the Department of Commerce (DOC) strategic goal for better *environment intelligence* and translate into better programs by the DOC International Trade Administration in ocean observing industries in international trade.

**II. Method of Collection**

The method of data collection is through a Web (Internet) delivered survey.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-XXXX.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (request for a new information collection).

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 300.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 25 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 125.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 10, 2014.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XD492**

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Scoping Process**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS); notice of initiation of scoping process; notice of public scoping meetings; requests for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In cooperation with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council announces its intent to prepare an amendment to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan and to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the impacts of any proposed management measures. This notice also announces a public process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to summer flounder fisheries in the Greater Atlantic region. This notice is to alert the interested public of the scoping process, the development of the amendment and Environmental Impact Statement, and to provide for public participation in that process.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 11:59 p.m., EST, on October 31, 2014. Fourteen public scoping meetings will be held during this comment period. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates, times, and locations.

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

- *Email to the following address:* [nmfs.gar.FlukeAmendment@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.FlukeAmendment@noaa.gov); Include "Summer Flounder Amendment Scoping Comments" in the subject line;
- Mail or hand deliver 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 “Summer Flounder Amendment Scoping Comments”; or

- Fax to (302) 674-5399.

• A web form for submitting comments is available on the Council’s Web site: <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/summer-flounder-amendment>.

The scoping document may be obtained from the Council office at the previously provided address, or by request to the Council by telephone (302) 674-2331, or via the Internet at <http://www.mafmc.org>.

Comments may also be provided verbally at any of the 14 public scoping meetings. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates, times, and locations.

**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, in cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, has initiated this action in order to: (1) Perform a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) related to summer flounder; (2) update the FMP goals and objectives for summer flounder management; and (3) modify management strategies and measures as necessary to achieve those goals and objectives. A number of issues and concerns relative to summer flounder management have been raised by managers, advisors, and other interested stakeholders, and there is significant stakeholder interest in examining and updating many of the management strategies and measures currently in place. In addition, the Council has proposed this action to evaluate the need for management response to changing conditions in the summer flounder fishery. This includes addressing apparent shifts in the distribution and center of biomass for the summer flounder stock (possibly

related to the effects of rebuilding and/or climate change), as well as changing social and economic drivers for these fisheries. This action was initiated so that the FMP goals, objectives, and management strategies can be assessed in light of these changing fishery conditions and align better with the current priorities of stakeholders.

At this time, the Council is expected to consider revising or implementing several types of management measures, including, but not limited to:

- No action (i.e., no additional measures would be adopted or revised);
- Revised FMP goals and objectives for summer flounder;
- Revised quota allocation strategies between the commercial and recreational fisheries;
- Commercial summer flounder management measures and strategies, including, but not limited to:

Commercial fishing gear requirements and restrictions, such as mesh requirements, net dimensions, bycatch reduction devices, head and footrope lengths;

- Minimum fish size requirements;
- Possession limit and trigger requirements;
- Time/area closures and exemption programs;
- Licensing;
- Fleet capacity/number of permits relative to stock size;
- Catch monitoring and validation;
- Commercial quota allocation strategies; and
- Landings flexibility (regional, coastwide, other).

• Recreational summer flounder management measures and strategies, including, but not limited to:

- Recreational bag limits, size limits, and seasonal limits;
- Recreational fishing gear requirements and restrictions;
- Inter-jurisdictional management processes and strategies (including use of state-by-state or regional conservation equivalency vs. coastwide measures);
- Management strategies specific to the party/charter (for-hire) recreational fleet;
- Management strategies specific to private recreational anglers; and
- Recreational quota allocation strategies (by state, fishing sector, other).

• Measures to address summer flounder discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries;

• Measures to address ecosystem, habitat, bycatch, and protected species issues; and

• Data collection requirements and protocols.

More details on the topics addressed in this notice can be found in the Summer Flounder Amendment Scoping Document (see **ADDRESSES**) and on the summer flounder amendment page of the Council’s Web site at <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment>.

The Council will first gather information during the scoping period. This is the first and best opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns related to the scope of issues that will be considered in the amendment. The Council needs your input both to identify management issues and develop effective alternatives. Public comments early in the amendment development process will help the Council address issues of public concern in a thorough and appropriate manner. Comments can be made in writing or during the scoping hearings as described above.

Following the scoping process, the Council will develop a range of management alternatives to be considered and prepare an EIS to analyze the impacts of the management alternatives being considered as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. A draft EIS will be distributed for public review. During the public comment period, which will include public hearings, the public may comment on any aspect of the draft EIS. Following a review of the comments and further development of alternatives, the Council will choose preferred management measures with the Final EIS and submit the Amendment to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and publication of proposed and final rules, both of which have additional comment periods.

**Scoping Hearings**

Fourteen scoping meetings to facilitate public comment will be held on the following dates and locations:

Date and time	Location
Monday, September 29, 2014, 6:30 p.m. ....	Kingsborough Community College, Building T3, Room 303, Brooklyn, NY 11235.
Monday, September 29, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	Somers Point City Hall, 1 West New Jersey Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244.
Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 5:30 p.m. ....	Montauk Library, 871 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954.
Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	Belmar Municipal Court, 601 Municipal Court, Belmar, NJ 07719.
Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 7 p.m. ....	CT DEEP Marine Headquarters, Boating Education Center (Bldg 3), 333 Ferry Rd, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

Date and time	Location
Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 6:30 p.m. ....	NYDEC Bureau of Marine Resources, 205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1, East Setauket, NY 11733.
Thursday, October 2, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Rd, Berlin, MD 21811.
Thursday, October 2, 2014, 5 p.m. ....	Bourne Fire Station #3 Meeting Room, 53 Meetinghouse Lane, Sagamore, MA 02561.
Monday, October 6, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	DNREC Auditorium, 89 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE 19901.
Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882.
Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 4th Floor Meeting Room, 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607.
Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	NCDMF Pamlico District Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Highway 17, Washington, NC 27889.
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th St NW., Washington, DC 20005.
Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 6 p.m. ....	Internet webinar, Connection information to be available at <a href="http://www.mafmc.org">http://www.mafmc.org</a> or by contacting the Council (see <b>ADDRESSES</b> above).

### Special Accommodations

The scoping hearings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders (302-674-2331, ext 251) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: September 11, 2014.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XD500**

### New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 3-day meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 30–October 2, 2014, and will start at 8:30 a.m., each day.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Cape Codder Resort, 1225 Iyannough Road, Hyannis, MA 02601; telephone: (855) 861-4370; fax: (508) 771-6564. For online information about the venue check <http://www.capecodderresort.com/>.

**Council address:** New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Tuesday, September 30, 2014

The Council meeting will begin with introductions, the formal swearing-in of new and reappointed members, and the election of the 2014 Council officers. Immediately after these issues have been addressed, the members will hear a report by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) staff who will summarize the 59th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee findings. The focus will be on Gulf of Maine haddock and Atlantic sea scallops. NEFSC staff will also present a summary of the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) Report on the 2014 stock assessments for Eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will provide its overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for stocks of Gulf of Maine haddock and Gulf of Maine cod, Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, four small-mesh multispecies stocks (northern and southern whiting and northern and southern red hake), and Atlantic sea scallops. Discussions also will include committee comments on the draft ABC risk policy statement provided by the Risk Policy Working Group. After a lunch break, the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) will ask the Council to review and possibly approve its recommendations for fishing year 2015 quotas for Eastern Georges Bank cod and Eastern Georges Bank haddock and the Georges Bank stock of yellowtail flounder. Other TMGC-related issues also may be addressed. Prior to meeting adjournment for the day, the Council

intends to discuss and possibly modify the management measures under consideration for inclusion in Framework Adjustment 26 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP), including a review of 2014 survey results, potential fishery specifications, and other measures.

#### Wednesday, October 1, 2014

In general, the Council will spend this day on Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) FMP-related issues. There will be a report on the recent Gulf of Maine cod 2014 assessment update to be followed by a discussion of topics that will likely evolve from the assessment and peer review results. These could include but are not limited to a request for emergency action or other approaches that are brought forward during the discussion. The NEFMC will then address Framework Adjustment 53 to the FMP. The current timeline provides for approval of the range of alternatives for inclusion in this action. Measures under consideration may address Gulf of Maine cod, fishing year 2015–17 specifications for several groundfish stocks, windowpane flounder sub-annual catch limits and accountability measures, expansion of the Gulf of Maine cod spawning closure, a rollover provision that would apply to groundfish fishery specifications, and several other measures. Next, Amendment 18 to the FMP will be discussed. The Council could approve additional alternatives for inclusion in this action—accumulation limits and an inshore/offshore line to address the concentration of fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine. Before the Council adjourns for the day, they will receive a summary report on the development of an Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment. Based on the information provided, the Council may consider and approve committee recommendations on