DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Pacific Albacore Logbook

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 30, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to John Childers, (858) 546–7192 or John.Childers@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations, Southwest Fisheries Science Center operates a Pacific Albacore Data Collection Program. Fishermen participating on the Pacific Albacore tuna fishery are required to complete and submit logbooks documenting their catch and effort on fishing trips. This is a requirement under the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan and the High-Sea Fisheries Compliance Act permit for logbook submissions. The information obtained is used by the NOAA to assess the status of Albacore stocks and to monitor the fishery. Fishermen are also provided an electronic logbook computer program that they can voluntarily use in place of the paper copy of the logbook.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents have a choice of either electronic data submission or paper forms. Methods of submittal include electronic data submission or paper forms. Methods of submittal include electronic data submission or paper forms, including mailing of paper forms. A logbook form is used that consists of a front page form that collects vessel characteristics and a log sheet form that collects daily fishing information. Use of the electronic form is voluntary.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0223.

Form Number: NOAA Form 88–197.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $2,560.

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: June 28, 2011.

Gwelin Banks,
Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–16648 Filed 7–1–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

RIN 0648–X439

Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Habitat Conservation Plan


ACTION: Notice of Availability; Final Environmental Impact Statement and Habitat Conservation Plan.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (collectively the Services) announce the availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the applications received from the City of Kent (Kent), Washington, for Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). We also announce the availability of Kent’s Clark Springs Water Supply System Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Implementing Agreement (IA). The final EIS addresses the Services’ proposed issuance of ITPs to Kent for water withdrawal and habitat restoration actions on Rock Creek, King County, Washington. The proposed ITPs would authorize incidental take of three listed and six unlisted species of fish covered by Kent’s Clark Springs Water Supply HCP. This notice provides an opportunity for the public to review the final EIS, HCP, and IA.

DATES: Comments must be received from interested parties on or before August 4, 2011. The Services’ decisions on issuance of ITPs will occur no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) notice of the final EIS in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Tim Romanski, Project Lead, FWS, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, WA 98503; by facsimile at (360) 753–9518. Alternatively, you may send comments to Matt Longenbaugh, Project Lead, NMFS, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103, Lacey, WA 98503; by facsimile at (360) 753–9517.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The final documents are posted on the
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 9 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1538) and implementing regulations prohibit the “taking” of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The term “take” is defined under the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1532(19)) as to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct. “Harm” is defined by FWS regulation to include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering (50 CFR 17.3, 50 CFR 222.102). NMFS’ definition of harm includes significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures fish or wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, spawning, migrating, rearing, and sheltering (64 FR 60727; November 8, 1999).

Section 10 of the ESA and implementing regulations specify requirements for the issuance of ITPs to non-Federal landowners for the take of endangered and threatened species. Any proposed ITP must be incidental to otherwise lawful activities, not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild, and minimize and mitigate the impact of such take to the maximum extent practicable. In addition, an applicant must prepare a conservation plan describing the impact that will likely result from such taking, the strategy for minimizing and mitigating the incidental take, the funding available to implement such steps, alternatives to such taking, and the reasons such alternatives are not being implemented. FWS regulations governing permits for Federally endangered and threatened species can be found in 50 CFR part 17. NMFS regulations governing permits for the incidental take of Federally endangered and threatened species are found in 50 CFR 222.307.

The ITP applications are for the operation and maintenance of Kent’s Clark Springs Water Supply System adjacent to Rock Creek, King County, Washington. The Clark Springs Water Supply System consists of a spring-fed infiltration gallery and three well pumps. This facility is located adjacent to Rock Creek 1.8 miles upstream of the creek’s confluence with the Cedar River. The facility is surrounded by 320 acres of Kent-owned land that is geographically separated from Kent. Covered activities can be summarized as follows:

- Water diversions of Kent’s existing groundwater and surface water rights via infiltration gallery, well pumps, and infrastructure;
- Operation and maintenance of Clark Springs Water Supply facilities;
- Maintenance of 320 acres of Kent-owned property as it relates to the protection of its water supply; and
- Operation and maintenance of a water augmentation system for the enhancement of instream flows.

The ITP applications Kent submitted to the Services address the potential take of three ESA-listed threatened fish species and six non-listed fish species that may be affected by Kent’s water withdrawal activities at the Clark Springs facility in the Rock Creek Watershed. The listed species under FWS jurisdiction is the bull trout (Salvelinus confluentus), listed as threatened. Non-listed species under FWS jurisdiction include coastal cutthroat trout (Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii), Pacific lamprey (Lampetra tridentata), and river lamprey (L. ayresi). Listed species under NMFS jurisdiction are the Puget Sound Chum salmon (O. tshawytscha) and Puget Sound steelhead trout (O. mykiss), both listed as threatened. Non-listed species under NMFS jurisdiction include coho salmon (O. kisutch), chum salmon (O. keta), and sockeye salmon (O. nerka).

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) requires Federal agencies to conduct an environmental analysis of their proposed actions to determine if the actions may significantly affect the human environment. The Services’ proposals to issue ITPs are Federal actions that trigger the need for compliance with NEPA. Accordingly, as the Federal agencies responsible for compliance under NEPA, the Services have jointly prepared an EIS that analyzes alternatives associated with issuance of the ITPs. The analysis provided in the final EIS is intended to accomplish the following: Inform the public of the agencies’ proposed action and alternatives; address public comments received on the draft EIS and draft HCP; and disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the human environment resulting from our proposed action and alternatives. The final EIS reflects changes made to the draft documents resulting from comments received during the public comment period. Responses to comments received from the public are included in the final EIS.

The final EIS analyzed two alternatives: The “No-Action” alternative, under which Kent would continue operating the Clark Springs facility without benefit of incidental take coverage from the Services; and, the “Proposed Action” alternative involving implementation of Kent’s HCP, FWS issuance of an ITP for bull trout and three unlisted species, and NMFS’ issuance of an ITP for Chumsky salmon, steelhead trout, and three unlisted species. Five other alternatives were considered, but dismissed from detailed analysis. Four of the dismissed alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need. They would not produce reliable water sources with sufficient excess capacity to augment or replace water withdrawals at the Clark Springs Facility during the low-flow periods between October 1 and December 31 to a level that would meet the City’s current and future water demands. The fifth dismissed alternative considered a shorter permit term. The Services determined that the environmental impacts between a 20-year and 50-year term would not differ, and analysis of a shorter permit term in the EIS would not garner additional information to make an informed decision regarding impacts to the listed species or the human environment.

Public Involvement

The Services formally initiated an environmental review of the project through publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft EIS in the Federal Register on June 19, 2006 (71 FR 35286). That notice also announced a public scoping period during which interested parties were invited to provide written comments expressing their issues or concerns relating to the proposal, and to attend a public scoping meeting held in Kent, Washington. Utilizing public scoping comments, the Services prepared a draft EIS to analyze the effects of alternatives on the human environment. On April 23, 2010, the Services published a notice of availability in the Federal Register (75 FR 21344) of the draft EIS, draft HCP, and draft 1A for a 60-day public comment period. On May 7, 2010, the EPA published in the Federal Register...
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XAX532
Mid-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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s (MAFMC) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Bluefish, Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees will hold public meetings.
DATES: The SSC meeting will be held Wednesday and Thursday, July 27 and 28, 2011. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on July 27 and at 8:30 a.m. on July 28. These meetings will conclude by 5 p.m. each day. The Bluefish, Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees will meet on Friday, July 29, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ADDRESSES: All meetings will be held at the Pier 5 Hotel, 711 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202; telephone: (866) 583–4162.
Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331, extension 255.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda items for the SSC meeting include: (1) Review stock assessment information and specify overfishing level and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass for 2012; (2) review and comment on proposed 2012 quota specifications and management measures for bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass for 2012; (3) Ecosystems Subcommittee Report; (4) research priorities for 2012; and (5) National SSC IV Meeting update.
The Bluefish, Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees will discuss and recommend 2012 annual catch targets (ACTs) and other associated management measures for the bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries.
Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups 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 meetings. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.
Special Accommodations
The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.
Dated: June 28, 2011.
Tracey L. Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2011–16647 Filed 7–1–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XAX533
Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting
AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.
SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting.
DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, located at 8000 Tartak St., Isla Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico 00979.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1920, telephone: (787) 766–5926.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 139th regular