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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Hawaii Bottomfish Overfishing Options (ACTION ITEM)

On the basis of fishery information analyzed by NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), NMFS's Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) has determined that overfishing of the bottomfish species complex is occurring within the Hawaii Archipelago. The Regional Administrator for PIRO notified the Council of this overfishing determination on May 27, 2005. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that the Council take action to amend the Bottomfish FMP to end bottomfish overfishing within 1 year following NMFS' notification of the bottomfish overfishing.

The Council has been preparing an amendment to the Bottomfish FMP, as well as a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) to address the "overfishing" of Hawaii's bottomfish stocks. Contained in the FMP amendment and DSEIS are management measures to end bottomfish overfishing in the Hawaii Archipelago.

Hawaii's bottomfish are managed as a single archipelagic-wide multi-species stock complex, however, bottomfish fisheries in the Hawaii Archipelago occur in two broad management areas, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI). NMFS has determined that the bottomfish overfishing problem is primarily occurring in the MHI and, therefore, reducing fishing mortality (effort) there would be the most effective means to end the overfishing in the Hawaii Archipelago. The management measures considered in the amendment and DSEIS (except for the no action alternative) target a 15 percent or greater reduction in bottomfish fishing mortality in the MHI which has been determined by PIFSC to be the appropriate level of reduction to end overfishing.

The Alternatives considered include: (1) No Action; (2a) Closure of Federal waters around Penguin and Middle Banks; (2b) Closure of 15 large area across the main Hawaiian Islands; (3) Annual seasonal closure from May to August; (4a) Total annual quota; (4b) Individual fishing quotas; (5a) Annual

seasonal closure from May to September except for a limited number of fishermen who fish under individual fishing quotas; and (5b) Annual seasonal closure from June to August and a partial closure of the southwestern portion of Penguin Bank.

The Council will consider these alternatives and will take final action on measures to end overfishing in the Hawaii bottomfish stock.

2. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Fishing Regulations (ACTION ITEM)

On January 18, 2006, the Council was informed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, that NOAA is developing alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary that would enable the Council to continue to recommend management measures to limit bottomfish and pelagic fisheries through regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, consistent with the goals and objectives of the proposed sanctuary.

The Council was also informed that if, by May 1, 2006, it transmits for Secretarial review, an amendment to the Bottomfish and Pelagics FMPs and corresponding proposed regulations implementing limits to bottomfish and pelagic fishing, NOAA may review those Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act regulations as potential mechanisms to implement NOAA's preferred alternative for the proposed sanctuary, rather than implementing the alternative via the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

The Council will conduct public hearings on options to limit bottomfish and pelagic fishing in the NWHI.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided 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 aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or (808)522-8226

(fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 17, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-2720 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021606C]

Endangered Species; File No. 1556

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, USA (CNMI), Division of Fish and Wildlife [Paul Hamilton, responsible official], P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, has applied in due form for a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before March 27, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521; and Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 973-2935; fax (808) 973-2941.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1556.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Swails or Patrick Opay, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife proposes to perform sea turtle surveys in the waters of the Mariana Islands, USA. The project would consist of shoreline/cliff line assessments, in-water tow dive assessments, and the hand capture of sea turtles. Turtles would be handled, measured, tissue-sampled, flipper tagged, passive integrated transponder tagged, and released. The applicant would capture 100 green and 40 hawksbill sea turtles annually. A subset of the turtles would be outfitted with a satellite tag. The permit would be issued for five years.

Dated: February 17, 2006.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-2675 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), has submitted a public information collection request (ICR) entitled AmeriCorps Application Instructions: State Competitive, State Education Award Program, National Direct, National Direct Education Award Program, National Professional Corps, Indian Tribes, States and Territories without Commissions, and National Planning, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of this ICR, with applicable

supporting documentation, may be obtained by contacting the Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps, Amy Borgstrom, Associate Director of Policy, (202) 606-6930, or by e-mail at *ABorgstrom@cns.gov*.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY-TDD) may call (202) 606-3472 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted, identified by the title of the information collection activity, to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Ms. Rachel Potter, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service, by any of the following two methods within 30 days from the date of publication in this

Federal Register:

(a) By fax to: (202) 395-6974, Attention: Ms. Rachel Potter, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service; and

(b) Electronically by e-mail to: *Rachel.F.Potter@omb.eop.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OMB is particularly interested in comments that:

- 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.

Current Action

Description: The Corporation for National and Community Service (the "Corporation") has amended the regulations that apply to the AmeriCorps national service program to clarify the Corporation's requirements for program sustainability, performance measures and evaluation, capacity-building activities by AmeriCorps members, qualifications for tutors, and other requirements. The implementation of these changes through the rulemaking process includes ensuring the

Corporation's information collection instruments accurately reflect these issues. In an effort to be compliant while maintaining functions essential to the operations of each State Commission and AmeriCorps program, we are submitting the enclosed request to OMB for approval of information collection activities. This submission includes application instructions for AmeriCorps State Competitive, State Education Award, National Direct, National Direct Education Award Program, National Professional Corps, Indian Tribes, States and Territories without Commissions, and National Planning programs.

Type of Review: Renewal; previously granted emergency approval by OMB.

Agency: Corporation for National and Community Service.

Title: AmeriCorps Application Instructions: State Competitive, State Education Award Program, National Direct, National Direct Education Award Program, National Professional Corps, Indian Tribes, States and Territories without Commissions, and National Planning.

OMB Number: 3045-0047.

Agency Number: None.

Affected Public: Nonprofit organizations, State, Local and Tribal.

Total Respondents: 2,000.

Frequency: Annually.

Average Time Per Response: 16 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 32,000 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): None.

Dated: February 16, 2006.

Elizabeth D. Seale,

Interim Director, AmeriCorps State and National COO, Corporation for National and Community Service.

[FR Doc. E6-2593 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050--\$S-P

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 pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or