

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council initiated development of Amendment 22 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, which considered limited access alternatives for the small-mesh multispecies fishery, in 2015. At its December 2018 meeting, the Council voted to take no action on any of the limited access alternatives analyzed in the draft amendment and draft environmental impact statement. With this decision the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service have completed all the necessary work on this action and hereby withdraw the draft environmental impact statement from further consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Peter Burns, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9144, [peter.burns@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.burns@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The small-mesh multispecies complex consists of five stocks: Northern silver hake, southern silver hake, and offshore hake, all collectively referred to as whiting; along with northern and southern red hake. The New England Fishery Management Council manages these stocks as part of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Fishermen targeting whiting and red hake use small-mesh trawl gear, authorized by multiple exemptions to the Northeast multispecies (also called groundfish) regulations. The small-mesh multispecies fishery is open access, meaning any vessel may obtain a permit to fish with small-mesh gear to target whiting and red hake.

Based on specifications recommended by the Council, NMFS sets annual catch levels for each of the small-mesh multispecies stocks. The fishery routinely harvests only a small fraction of the allowable silver hake landings each year, due to high bycatch levels of red hake that reduce the possession limits to incidental levels when harvest levels reach a certain percentage of the red hake annual catch limits. All whiting and northern red hake stocks are healthy; southern red hake is overfished and experiencing overfishing.

The Council expressed concerns that the fishery could become overcapitalized if it remains open access. In response, the Council developed Amendment 22 to the FMP. The amendment considered multiple alternatives for a limited access program, including various options for possession limits and permit conditions, contingent upon the selection of one of the limited access alternatives. The

Council's preferred alternative prior to public hearings was to maintain open access, which it ultimately selected when it took final action on the draft Amendment on December 4, 2018.

Amendment 22 included a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which analyzed the impacts of the various management alternatives. At the recommendation of the Council, NMFS published a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on November 23, 2015 (80 FR 72951). In July 2018, the Council hosted a series of public hearings and solicited comments on the DEIS and amendment. Along with the DEIS, the Council prepared a separate public hearing document to summarize the impacts of alternatives, which included the estimated number of vessels that would qualify under each limited access alternative. After the public hearings, but prior to final action, the Council discovered a discrepancy between the numbers in the public hearing document and the DEIS, prompting the Council to announce a second comment period during October and November 2018, which included an informational webinar.

The majority of the comments received on the issue favored the no action/preferred alternative. The commenters argued that keeping the fishery open access would allow more flexibility for fishermen who may have few other options given the limited access approach to many fisheries in the Northeast. After careful consideration of the public comments received and extensive examination of the alternatives analyzed in the DEIS and draft amendment, the Council voted to maintain status quo and take no action to limit access to the small-mesh multispecies fishery. Consequently, we are informing the public that the work on this action is complete and the DEIS is withdrawn from further consideration.

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

Dated: February 20, 2019.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[Docket No.: ED-2018-ICCD-0101]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; State Survey on Activities Supported on Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV, Part A)**

**AGENCY:** Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a new information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 27, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2018-ICCD-0101. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 550 12th Street SW, PCP, Room 9089, Washington, DC 20202-0023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Leticia Braga, 202-401-7767.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also

helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* State Survey on Activities Supported on Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV, Part A).

*OMB Control Number:* 1875–NEW.

*Type of Review:* A new information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 17.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 17.

*Abstract:* The study will examine the early implementation of Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grants, a new state-administered grant program created through the 2016 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This program has the goal of improving student academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, school districts, schools, and local communities to: (1) Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education (Section 4109); (2) improve school conditions for student learning (Section 4108); and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all student (Section 4109).

Within these three broad areas, the statute outlines a large number of potential activities that states and school districts can support, and the Department of Education has little information about the extent to which state and school districts are using SSAE funds for the wide range of permissible activities. To provide an early look at how SSAE funds are being used, this study will conduct a survey of all states in Spring 2019 to obtain information about the types of activities states and school districts are

supporting with SSAE Fiscal Year (FY) 18 funds during the 2018–19 school year.

Dated: February 20, 2019.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

*PRA Clearance Coordinator, Information Collection Clearance Program, Information Management Branch, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2018–ICCD–0132]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grants

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension of an existing information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 27, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED–2018–ICCD–0132. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 550 12th Street SW, PCP, Room 9089, Washington, DC 20202–0023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Alfreida Pettiford, 202–245–6110.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grants.

*OMB Control Number:* 1894–0001.

*Type of Review:* An extension of an existing information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 1.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 3.

*Abstract:* Section 3505(a)(2) of the PRA of 1995 provides the OMB Director authority to approve the streamlined clearance process proposed in this information collection request. This information collection request was originally approved by OMB in January of 1997. This information collection streamlines the clearance process for all discretionary grant information collections which do not fit the generic application process. The streamlined clearance process continues to reduce the clearance time for the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) discretionary grant information collections by two months or 60 days. This is desirable for two major reasons: It would allow ED to provide better customer service to grant applicants and help meet ED's goal for timely awards