

Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-713-2276

Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

Tens of thousands of seabirds are being killed incidental to various commercial longline fisheries in the world. Some of the seabirds are species of management concern and populations of several other seabird species may be declining because of longline bycatches. Seabird bycatch also has an adverse impact on catch rates and profitability of fishing operations. Governments, nongovernmental organizations, and commercial fishery associations are petitioning for regulatory measures to reduce the mortality of seabirds in the world's longline fisheries.

The goal for the Seabird TWG and the subsequent FAO Consultation is to produce an action plan to implement FAO guidelines on mitigating measures to reduce incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries. Japan and the U.S. will co-host the session, and the U.S. co-lead agencies are NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

NMFS Contact: Kim Rivera
National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Management Division
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802
907-586-7228
FWS Contact: Kent Wohl
Migratory Bird Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-783-3503

Shark Conservation and Management

Global landings of sharks and related species have dramatically increased in recent years. Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation due to life history characteristics, particularly relatively low rates of reproduction. In addition, fishing mortality due to bycatch exceeds that due to directed fisheries. The expanding international market for shark fins, cartilage, meat, and skins is an important factor motivating recent increased mortality.

An international consensus is emerging on the need for improved control of fishing effort on sharks and related species by both directed and bycatch fleets. The goal for the upcoming Shark TWG and subsequent FAO Consultation is to develop a global strategy (action plan) and guidelines for sustainable international and regional management of elasmobranch species by national, regional, and highly migratory management groups.

The intent of the strategy is to provide an effective web of management regimes sufficient to arrest the declines of sharks, skates, and rays where they have occurred and to put the harvest of these species on a sustainable basis.

NMFS Contact: Dean Swanson
International Fisheries Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
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301-713-2276

Dated: August 4, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072897E]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Scoping 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 an Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSPP) public scoping meeting and a public scoping meeting on dolphin fish management. **DATES:** The meetings will be held from August 18-20, 1997, in conjunction with the Council meeting. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The scoping meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC; telephone: (803) 571-1000 or (800) 334-6660.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520; E-mail address: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ACCSP public scoping meeting will be held August 18, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. until all business is complete. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to provide members of the public an opportunity to express their views on ways to improve commercial and recreational fisheries data collection.

The public scoping meeting on dolphin management will be held August 20, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. until all business is complete. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to provide members of the public an opportunity to express their views on the need for and the type of management the Council should consider for the dolphin fish resource.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by August 11, 1997.

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

Dated: August 4, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-20954 Filed 8-5-97; 11:27 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Intelligence Agency, Science and Technology Advisory Board; Closed Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of Subsection (d) of Section 10 of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Section 5 of Public Law 94-409, notice is hereby given that a closed meeting of the DIA Science and technology Advisory board has been scheduled as follows:

DATES: 21 August 1997 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

ADDRESSES: The Defense Intelligence Agency, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC 20340-5100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maj. Michael W. Lamb, USAF, Executive Secretary, DIA Science and Technology Advisory Board, Washington, DC 20340-1328 (202) 231-4930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The entire meeting is devoted to the discussion of classified information as defined in Section 552b(c)(1), Title 5 of the U.S. Code and therefore will be closed to the public. The Board will receive briefings on and discuss several current critical intelligence issues and advise the Director, DIA, on related scientific and technical matters.

Dated: August 4, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 97-20902 Filed 8-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Comment Period Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Enhanced Training in Idaho Proposal Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID

The Air Force and the Bureau of Land Management are extending the public comment period for the Enhanced Training in Idaho DEIS to September 8, 1997. The DEIS prepared by the Air Force in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and its associated regulations for public land withdrawals, was released for public comment on May 9, 1997. The Bureau of Land Management is a cooperating agency for the environmental and land renewal processes associated with the proposed action.

The DEIS analyses three range development alternatives to enhance training for the 366th Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, as well as a No-Action alternative. Development of one of the range alternatives would substantially enhance the realism, quality, and flexibility of local training. Each of the three range development alternatives includes a ground component and an airspace component. The ground component consists of development of a 12,000-acre tactical air-to-ground training range, 5 no-drop targets, 30 electronic emitter sites, and an associated road network, all of which would be located on federal and State of Idaho school endowment lands. For use of the federal lands, the Air Force proposes to initiate a Department of Defense military withdrawal under the Engle Act for the larger portions and to

obtain rights-of-way from the Bureau of Land Management for the smaller portions. For use of the state school endowment lands, the Air Force proposes to enter into lease agreements with the State of Idaho. The airspace component of the three alternatives would involve modification of special use airspace, including establishment of restricted airspace over the tactical training range and reconfiguration and expansion of existing Military Operations Areas (MOAs), under approval of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Written comments on this document should be directed to U.S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 329, Boise, ID 83702-0329; for telephone inquiries, please contact Capt. Melissa Miller, Chief 366th Wing Public Affairs, Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID, (208) 828-6800.

Barbara A. Carmichael,

*Alternate Air Force Federal Register Liaison
Officer.*

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BILLING CODE 3901-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC-525]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

August 4, 1997.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2) (2) (a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before October 7, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Information Services Division, ED-12.4, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC-525 "Financial Audits" (OMB No. 1902-0092) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Sections 4(b), 301(b), 302, 307 and 308 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 792-8280, Sections 6, 8(b), 9 and 10 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and Sections 19 and 20 of the Interstate Commerce Act, 49 U.S.C. 20. FERC-525 involves field audits of books and records of public utilities and licenses, natural gas companies and oil pipeline carriers.

The Commission periodically performs audits to ensure that companies' financial records conform with the Commission's accounting, financial reporting, and other regulations established under the mandatory provisions of the statutes listed above. Also audits are conducted to assess and evaluate the regulatory implication of certain industry accounting practices and standards. Over time, more of the audit focus will be shifted to the later type of audits. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR parts 41, 101, 104, 125, 141, 158, 201, 225, 260, 351, 352, 356, 357.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

Burden Statement: Public Reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (hours) (3)	Total annual burden hours (1) × (2) × (3)
77	1	100	7,700

Estimated cost burden to respondents: 7,700 hours divided by 2087 hours per year times \$110,000 per year equals

\$405,846. The cost per respondent is equal to \$5,271.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources

expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and