

alternatives. The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for publication in March 1998 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is scheduled for publication in August 1998.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to alert reviewers about several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft Environmental Impact Statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the Draft Environmental Impact Statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Dated: September 11, 1997.

Patricia A. Grantham,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Stikine Area.

Dated: September 12, 1997.

Gary A. Morrison,

Forest Supervisor, Chatham Area.

[FR Doc. 97-25176 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Olympic Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Olympic PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on October 17, 1997 at the Olympic Forest Headquarters Building located at 1835 Black Lake Blvd., SW., Olympia, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review and discussion of revised Olympic Adaptive Management Area

Guide; (2) Province Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Update from Committee; (3) Potential timber harvest from non-regulated areas; (4) Review and Validation of Implementation Monitoring Report; (5) Open Forum and (6) future agenda topics. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kathy Snow, Province Liaison, USDA, Quilcene Ranger District, P.O. Box 280, Quilcene, WA 98376, (360) 765-2211, or Ronald R. Humphrey, Forest Supervisor, at (360) 956-2300.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

Ronald R. Humphrey,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-25172 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on October 7 at the Oregon State Extension Office, on Hanley Road, Central Point Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Marbled Murrelet habitat; (2) Monitoring (3) Regional Ecosystem Office presentation; (4) Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management local issues; and (5) Mining/riparian issues. All Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chuck Anderson, Province Advisory Committee staff, USDA, Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 333 W. 8th Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, phone 541-858-2322.

Dated: September 16, 1997.

James T. Gladen,

Forest Supervisor, Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 97-25205 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

National Employers Survey—4 (NES-4)

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Michael Hartz, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Room 2538-3—EPCD, Washington, DC 20233-6100; (301-457-2633).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau conducted three earlier National Employers Surveys (1994, 1995 and 1997) for the National Center on the Educational Quality of the Workforce (EQW), a nonprofit research group. This group's focus is discovering relationships among employment, hiring, training, education, and business success. This information collection seeks to build upon the results of the previous surveys.

This information collection seeks to gather information on employees' histories and to identify employees' perceptions regarding employer-provided training and job-related educational requirements. The collection will relate these employees' responses to similar information collected previously from employers in the 1997 National Employers Survey (NES-3). The purpose is to identify those areas where employee and employer views are similar and where they are different. This information then would be used to suggest areas where additional emphasis regarding employer job requirements are needed to enable potential employees to qualify for employment.

This new survey will be a mail questionnaire, to be sent to approximately 6,000 employees of a sample of companies that responded to the NES-3. The questionnaire will include about 40 questions that solicit employees' views regarding employment qualifications and training opportunities available to them that relate to their employment. These survey questions are constructed to eliminate the need for respondents to review any records relating to the subject of this collection. We expect that each respondent completing the questionnaire will spend about 20 minutes.

II. Method of Collection

The Bureau of the Census will conduct the NES-4 survey using a mail questionnaire. This questionnaire will be sent to approximately 6,000 employees (at random) of companies that provided information for the NES-3 survey. The questionnaire will consist of approximately 40 questions. Most questions will be constructed using a "check-box" format. The check boxes primarily will be questions requiring a "yes/no" or "on a range of 1 to 5" response.

The surveys will be mailed to approximately 500 companies, chosen through a stratified, random-sampling method. The companies will be asked to distribute the questionnaires to a randomly selected set of employees, using an appropriate criteria for randomization—which we will provide. Employees completing the questionnaires will send them directly to the Bureau of the Census, using pre-addressed, postage-paid return envelopes. We will provide the employer with a second complete set of questionnaires to be forwarded to all of the selected employees approximately three weeks after the initial mailing. Employees will be instructed to ignore this request if they have already responded. By using a complete follow up, the employer will have no indication of the employees' response status. Employers will not be allowed access to the questionnaires completed by the employees or the information reported on the questionnaires. Confidentiality is guaranteed by Title 13, United States Code. After the Census Bureau performs data keying and consistency editing, the data set will be provided to sworn Census agents representing the survey sponsor.

As a high participation rate for employers is crucial for statistically reliable data in the NES-4, Census has discussed this issue with selected respondents from the NES-3. Nearly all

of the business establishments we contacted stated that they would strongly consider participating in the survey. The businesses indicated that their decision to participate in a survey was primarily based on their perception of the usefulness of the requested information. The businesses are very interested in the issues of the survey. One business respondent said, "After all, these are our concerns, too." Also, more respondents (employers) than in the previous two surveys told the interviewers that they wanted the results of the survey. Based on these factors (and especially the employers concerns about these workplace issues), we expect a high rate of the employers from the NES-3 to participate in the NES-4.

Some businesses expressed concern about the expenses (postage, programming, labeling, etc.) of performing the operations for the survey. They said it would be most important for us to provide the postage and stationery. Labeling and programming were much less of a concern to them as the businesses already have programs and procedures in place that could accommodate this type of operation without much cost or inconvenience to them. Based on these initial discussions (and using information from future discussions) with potential employers, we will include these features in the final design. We will provide the participants with postage-paid envelopes and all necessary stationery for the survey as these were the primary concerns. This is more direct than reimbursing the employers and eliminates extra bookkeeping for the employers to account for such payments. We plan to rely on the employers to supply the labeling and employee selection services. We will be talking to a few more respondents to help design an effective and comfortable operational design for selecting employees and distributing the materials.

A major concern Census had was the ability of the businesses to draw a reliable, random sample. This did not present much of a problem to the potential participants because the payroll was computerized and the payroll record contained the Social Security number (which we proposed to use as the selection criteria).

The EQW had two designs they wanted to evaluate. One was to measure only newly hired employees and address a set of issues that relate to that segment of the work force. Another is to survey across the board. When we asked about limiting the selection to "new hires," several of the businesses thought

that would pose a problem and recommended that we survey all their employees. Based on our initial conversations, the employers do understand our needs. At this point we believe that the employers can effect a proper sample, however, some uncertainties remain, and we will do further consultation with potential respondents. We will be working with a few of the potential respondents to determine how to impart our statistical requirements in written instructions. We also will work with the employers to determine methods of validating the sampling processes.

Another concern we discussed was anonymity. Those businesses we consulted feel that employees are more likely to return the questionnaires with accurate responses if we can assure them that the employer would not see any of the responses and would not know if the employee had responded or not. Employees are very sensitive to access of their personal information, and we feel that good response will require that we provide assurance of confidentiality.

We will do further investigation concerning anonymity, sampling of employees, and operational considerations during the 60-day comment period and we would particularly welcome any ideas or concerns on these issues.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0787.

Form Number: NES-4.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Employees of business establishments with 20 or more employees.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: No cost to the respondent other than the time required to complete the questionnaire. There would be a small cost to the employer in distributing the questionnaires, and, if required, to select the sample of employees.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: United States Code, Title 13, sections 8 and 9.

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 16, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-25192 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091697B]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel.

DATES: This meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 6 and conclude by 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 9, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel members will meet to review new stock assessments prepared by NMFS for red snapper and gag in the Gulf of Mexico, and to review available biological information and landings data for gray triggerfish. In addition, the Panel is tentatively scheduled to review an independent red snapper stock

assessment prepared by Dr. Brian Rothschild of the University of Massachusetts. All scheduled presentations will be given during the first two days of the meeting.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by September 29, 1997.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-25245 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091697A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Socioeconomic Assessment Panel (SEP).

DATES: A joint meeting of the SEP Reef Fish Subgroup and the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel will be held beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8 and will conclude by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 9, 1997. On Friday, October 10, the entire SEP will hold their meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Antonio B. Lamberte, Economist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SEP members will meet to review available social and economic data on red snapper and gag and to determine the social and economic implications of the levels of acceptable biological catches (ABC) recommended by the Council's Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP). The SEP may recommend to the Council total allowable catches (TAC) for the 1998 fishing year. Specific TAC recommendations for gag will depend on whether an ABC range is recommended by the RFSAP.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 1, 1997.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-25246 Filed 9-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Cancellation of an Import Limit, Guaranteed Access Level and Visa Requirements for Certain Wool Produced or Manufactured in Honduras

September 17, 1997.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs cancelling a limit, guaranteed access level and visa requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.