

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 hours per response.

Respondents: Farms, Not-for-profit Institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 7.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 8,610 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Michele Brooks, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, at (202) 692-0036.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 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. Comments may be sent to Michele Brooks, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

Jan E. Shadburn,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 98-14008 Filed 5-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economics and Statistics Administration

Secretary's 2000 Census Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Economics and Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463, as amended by P.L. 94-409, P.L. 96-523, and P.L. 97-375), we are giving notice of a meeting of the Commerce Secretary's 2000 Census Advisory Committee. The meeting will convene on June 11-12, 1998, in the Francis Amasa Walker Conference Center, Bureau of the Census, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746. The Committee will continue to review and discuss Dress Rehearsal operations and procedures as well as Census 2000, including plans for data products. The Committee also will discuss the results of the June 3 Joint Advisory Committee Meeting on the tabulation of racial data from Census 2000.

DATES: On Thursday, June 11, 1998, the meeting will begin at 8:45 a.m. and adjourn for the day at 4:30 p.m. On Friday, June 12, 1998, the meeting will begin at 8:45 a.m. and adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place in the Francis Amasa Walker Conference Center, Bureau of the Census, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anyone wishing additional information about this meeting, or who wishes to submit written statements or questions, may contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Committee Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Room 3039, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20233, telephone 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee is composed of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and up to thirty-five member organizations, all appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Committee will consider the goals of Census 2000 and user needs for information provided by that census. The Committee will provide an outside user community perspective about how operational planning and implementation methods proposed for Census 2000 will realize those goals and satisfy those needs. The Committee shall consider all aspects of the conduct of the Census 2000 of Population and Housing and shall make recommendations for improving that census.

A brief period will be set aside on Friday afternoon for public comment and questions. However, individuals with extensive questions or statements for the record must submit them in writing to the Commerce Department official named above at least three working days prior to the meeting.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for

sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Maney at 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

Robert J. Shapiro,

Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Economics and Statistics Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-14004 Filed 5-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-07-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award's Board of Overseers

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Monday, June 8, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Board of Overseers consists of ten members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, assembled to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the conduct of the Baldrige Award. The purpose of the meeting on June 8, 1998, will be for the Board of Overseers to discuss and review information received from the National Institute of Standards and Technology with the members of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Agenda will include reviewing the roles and responsibilities of Judges and Overseers; Award marketing efforts; discussion of proposed program changes to include two award/category cap; health care and education awards including fund raising and 1999 criteria; and 1998 Award criteria changes and future criteria evolution.

DATE: The meeting will convene June 8, 1998 at 8:30 a.m., and adjourn at 4 p.m. on June 8, 1998.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Conference Room (seating capacity 36, includes 24 participants), Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

Robert E. Hebner,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 98-13942 Filed 5-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a closed meeting of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Tuesday, June 9, 1998. The Judges Panel is composed of nine members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of this meeting is to review final judging interaction, survey of applicants and judging process improvement discussions, and to begin the review process of the 1998 Award applicants to be recommended as Award winners. The applications under review contain trade secrets and proprietary commercial information submitted to the Government in confidence.

DATES: The meeting will convene June 9, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. on June 9, 1998. The entire meeting will be closed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on May 19, 1998, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of records and discussion of Award applicant data, may be closed to the public in accordance with Section

552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, since the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

Robert E. Hebner,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 98-13946 Filed 5-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 980324076-8076-01; I.D. 031798B]

RIN 0648-ZA38

Halibut and Sablefish Fisheries Quota-Share Loan Program; Final Program Notice and Announcement of Availability of Federal Assistance

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

ACTION: Announcement of availability of Federal assistance.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of long-term loans for financing or refinancing the purchase cost of quota share (QS) in the halibut and sablefish fisheries off Alaska. Only entry-level fishermen or fishermen who fish from small vessels are eligible for these loans.

DATES: NMFS will accept applications only during an application open season. The application open season will begin on June 10, 1998 and will end on June 24, 1998. All loan funds available for FY 1998 must be committed before September 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Applicants should send loan applications to the Northwest Financial Services Branch, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE (BIN C15700), Building No. 1, Seattle, WA 98115.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly Berryhill at (206) 526-6122 (voice) or (206) 526-6306 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

A. Background

The Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) (P.L. 104-297) amended section 1104A(a)(7) of Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act (46 U.S.C. App. 1274) and

section 303(d)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) to authorize financing and refinancing the cost of entry-level fishermen and fishermen who fish from small boats purchasing individual fishing quota (IFQ).

Although the SFA indicates that loans are available for purchasing IFQ, the basic fishing permit for the halibut and sablefish fisheries is termed "QS" rather than "IFQ." In these fisheries, IFQ is an annual allocation of the pounds of fish that each QS holder may harvest. Consequently, NMFS interprets the SFA to allow loans for the cost of purchasing basic fishing permits rather than annual harvest allocations under those permits. These loans will finance the purchase of halibut and sablefish QS rather than IFQ.

Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, is the credit authority under which NMFS will make these loans. This authority is subject to the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA) (2 U.S.C. 661). This Act requires estimated net loan losses (FCRA cost) to be appropriated in cash at the time Congress authorizes annual loan ceilings.

FY 1998 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Commerce included a \$100,000 advance to fund the FCRA cost of this loan program during its first year (from October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998).

The amount of annual FCRA credit authority available is a ratio of the FCRA cost rate and the FCRA cost appropriated. NMFS preliminarily estimates the FCRA cost rate of these loans to be 2 percent. Consequently, the \$100,000 appropriated for this loan program's FY 1998 FCRA cost will preliminarily support a \$5,000,000 credit authority (\$5,000,000 times 0.2 equals \$100,000).

The FY 1998 credit authority may not support more than 20 to 35 loans. FY 1998 loan demand will most likely exceed supply. NMFS will, to the maximum extent possible, process loan applications (up to the maximum FY 1998 credit authority available) in the order in which applicants submit them during an application open season. For the specific dates upon which the application open season begins and ends, see the DATES heading at the beginning of this document. All applications must be submitted by first-class U.S. mail. No other form of application submission is acceptable. To reduce the open-season paperwork burden, applicants need complete only a small portion (Section A) of the