

III. Data

OMB Number: 0640-0002.

Type of Review: Regular.

Burden: 5,000.

Affected Public: Individuals, State or local government, Federal agencies, and profit and non-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost Per Respondent: \$0—no capital expenditures are necessary to respond.

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.

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: June 22, 1998.

Wilson D. Haigler,

Chief, Management Control Division, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-17044 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Solicitation for Sea Grant Review Panelists**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Sea Grant Review Panel.

ACTION: Notice of Solicitation for Sea Grant Review Panelists.

SUMMARY: This notice responds to Section 209(c) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act, 33 U.S.C. 1128, which requires the Secretary of Commerce to solicit nominations for membership on the Sea Grant Review Panel at least once a year. This advisory

committee provides advice on the implementation of the National Sea Grant College Program.

DATES: Resumes should be sent to the address specified and must be received on or before July 27, 1998.

ADDRESS: Dr. Ronald C. Baird, Director; National Sea Grant College Program; 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11716; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald Baird of the National Sea Grant College Program at the address given above; telephone (301) 713-2448 or fax number (301) 713-1031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 209 of the Act establishes a Sea Grant Review Panel to advise the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program on the implementation of the Sea Grant Program. The panel provides advice of such matters as:

(a) The Sea Grant Fellowship Program;

(b) Applications or proposals for, and performance under, grants and contracts award under section 205 and section 205 of the Sea Grant Program Improvement Act of 1976 as amended (33 U.S.C. 1124);

(c) The designation and operation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes; and the operation of the sea grant program;

(d) The formulation and application of the planning guidelines and priorities under section 204(a) and (c)(1) (33 U.S.C. 1123 (a) and (c)(1)); and

(e) Such other matters as the Secretary refers to the panel for review and advice.

The Panel is to consist of 15 voting members composed as follows: Not less than eight of the voting members of the panel should be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields included in marine science. The other voting members shall be individuals who by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, extension service, state government, industry, economics, planning, or any other activity which is appropriate to, and important for, any effort to enhance the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, or conservation of ocean and coastal resources. No individual is eligible to be a voting member of the panel if the individual is (a) the director of a sea grant college, sea grant regional consortium, or sea grant program, (b) an applicant for or beneficiary (as

determined by the Secretary) of any grant or contract under Section 205 (33 U.S.C. 1124) or (c) a full-time officer or employee of the United States. The Director of the National sea grant College Program and one Director of a sea grant Program also serve as non-voting members. Positions on the panel will become vacant during 1998. Candidates who are selected to fill these vacancies will be appointed for a 3-year term.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

[FR Doc. 98-16986 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042398D]

Vessel Registration and Fisheries Information System

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Sustainable Fisheries Act, passed in October 1996, added various amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to deliver an implementation plan for a national fishing vessel registration and fisheries information system (System) in a Report to Congress. NMFS has developed, in consultation with interested parties, a draft of the implementation plan.

DATES: Written comments on the implementation plan must be received on or before August 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to: Fisheries Statistics and Economic Division (F/ST1), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301) 713-2328; fax (301) 713-4137. The implementation plan is available for public comment by mail from the address here, or in electronic form (pdf format) via the world wide web at <http://www.nmfs.gov/sfa>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Holliday, (301) 713-2328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, amended in 1996, directs the Secretary

to deliver a report to Congress on the implementation of a national fishing vessel registration and information management system.

NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, coastal states, the three regional commissions (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission), and the eight regional Fishery Management Councils (New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Pacific, North Pacific, and Western Pacific) play various roles in commercial fishing vessel registration and marine fisheries data collection. Consistent with previous directions from the Assistant Administrator of NMFS, NMFS has been engaged in collaborative processes to develop joint regional data collection and planning activities with these organizations. Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act directs the Secretary to create a plan that will coordinate the techniques used to collect and disseminate data and to integrate these vessel registration and fisheries information systems on a national basis. This is to be accomplished while taking into account the unique characteristics of regional fisheries.

Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act sets a number of benchmarks for a national vessel registration and fisheries information system. It also defines several principles that should guide the system's development. These include the reduction of duplicative information reporting burdens on the fishing industry and the integration of existing data collection and information management systems to the furthest extent possible.

NMFS organized the implementation plan into two components: the Vessel Registration System and the Fisheries Information System (FIS). Within these components, the proposed System addresses information management architecture, integration and harmonization of data collection programs, and the institutional arrangements and accountability issues.

Vessel Registration System

Vessel registration, licensing, and permitting systems among the coastal states, territories, tribal entities and the U.S. Coast Guard have been reviewed. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requests a plan for a national system that contains the following information for each fishing vessel: (1) The name and official number or other identification, together with the address of the owner or operator or both; (2) gross tonnage,

vessel capacity, type and quantity of fishing gear, mode of operation, and other such pertinent information with respect to vessel characteristics as the Secretary may require; and (3) identification of the fisheries in which the fishing vessel participates. Currently, no vessel registration system at any level fully satisfies these criteria.

Fisheries Information System

State and Federal data collection programs and information management systems have developed over time to meet specific regional needs and reflect varying degrees of integration and management efficiency. These efforts, often state-Federal partnerships, have definite time frames and outcomes. NMFS has relied on these processes to support development of the section 401 FIS.

Process

The creation of the proposed system has targeted the highest level of detail possible in the draft report to produce specific and justifiable estimates of implementation steps and resource requirements. NMFS has consulted many major stakeholders, and has gathered input through a series of presentations and meetings with stakeholders, using a "discussion draft" paper to highlight critical issues and options. These stakeholders included internal NMFS organizational units as well as external entities. NMFS has, to the extent possible, reconciled the comments of the various stakeholders in the draft implementation plan.

Authority: Pub. L. 104-297.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

William W. Fox, Jr.,

*Director, Office of Science and Technology,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-17128 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Sea Grant Review Panel; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Sea Grant Review Panel. The meeting will have several purposes. Panel members will

discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program management and evaluation, national strategic investments, education and extension, technology problems, legislative changes and other matters as described below.

DATES: The announced meeting is scheduled during two days: Wednesday, July 8, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, July 9, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring Metro Center III; 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11836; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald C. Baird, Director; National Sea Grant College Program; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11716; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; 301 713-2448 extension 163.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Panel, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by Section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (Pub. L. 94-461, 33 U.S.C. 1128) and advises the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, also the Administrator of NOAA, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, July 8, 1998

8:30 a.m.—Welcoming and Opening Formalities
9:00 a.m.—NOAA and National Sea Grant Office Update
10:30 a.m.—Sea Grant Association Update
12:00 p.m.—Working Lunch
1:30 p.m.—Program Evaluation
3:45 p.m.—Historically Black Colleges and Universities Evaluation Report
4:15 p.m.—Recognition Ceremony for Outgoing Review Panel Members
5:00 p.m.—Adjourn

Thursday, July 9, 1998

8:30 a.m.—National Strategic Initiatives Discussion
10:30 a.m.—Technology Update
11:30 a.m.—30th Anniversary Committee Update
11:45 a.m.—Working Lunch
1:30 p.m.—Sea Grant Review Panel Liaison Reports
2:00 p.m.—Sea Grant Review Panel Comments