

On May 26, 2000, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior, working cooperatively with the State of Hawaii and consulting with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, to develop recommendations for a new, coordinated management regime to increase protection of the coral reef ecosystem of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and provide for sustainable use of the area. Upon consideration of their recommendations and comments received during the public visioning process on this initiative, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13178 on December 4, 2000, establishing the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve), pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000 (Act), Public Law 106-513.

As described in Executive Order 13178, the approximately 1,200 mile stretch of coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are some of the healthiest and most extensive coral reefs in the United States. In their own right, the spectacular coral reefs and lands provide an amazing geological record of volcanic and erosive powers that have shaped this area. This vast area supports a dynamic reef ecosystem that supports more than 7,000 marine species, of which approximately half are unique to the Hawaiian Island chain. This incredibly diverse ecosystem is home to many species of coral, fish, birds, marine mammals, and other flora and fauna including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the threatened green sea turtle, and others. In addition, this area has great cultural significance to Native Hawaiian as well as linkages to early Polynesian culture—making it additionally worthy of protection and understanding. This is truly a unique and special place, a coral reef ecosystem like no place on earth, and a source of pride, inspiration, and satisfaction for all Americans, especially the people of Hawaii.

The purpose of the Reserve is to ensure the comprehensive, strong, and lasting protection of the coral reef ecosystem and related marine resource and species of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The Reserve extends approximately 1200 nautical miles long and 100 nautical miles wide. The Reserve is adjacent to and seaward of the seaward boundaries of the State of Hawaii and the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, and overlays the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge to the extent that it extends

beyond the seaward boundaries of the State of Hawaii.

As required by the Act and Executive Order 13178, NOAA is initiating the process to designate the Reserve as a national marine sanctuary and will proceed with the steps of the designation process pursuant to the applicable provisions of sections 303 and 304 of the NMSA (16 U.S.C. 1433 and 1434). In designating the sanctuary, the Executive Order directs NOAA to supplement or compliment the existing Reserve. As part of the process, NOAA shall, in consultation with the Governor of the State of Hawaii, determine whether State submerged lands and waters should be included as part of the sanctuary. In designating and managing the sanctuary, the Secretary shall consider the advice and recommendations of the Reserve Council established pursuant to paragraph (f) of section 5 of E.O. 13178. The Reserve Council is expected to be established in January, 2001.

NOAA will prepare an environmental impact statement, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and management plan which will examine the management, boundary and regulatory alternatives associated with sanctuary designation. NOAA will hold scoping meetings, tentatively planned for spring 2001, to solicit information and comments on the range and significance of issues related to sanctuary designation and management. Individuals and representatives of interested organizations and government agencies are invited and encouraged to attend. Opportunities for comment will exist throughout this process and will be announced in the **Federal Register**, the local media, and other appropriate channels.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 *et seq.*, Pub. L. 106-513.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)
Dated: January 11, 2001.

John Oliver,

Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092500B]

Coral, Golden Crab, Shrimp, Spiny Lobster, Red Drum, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources, and Snapper-Grouper Fisheries of the South Atlantic

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

ACTION: Issuance of an exempted fishing permit.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the issuance of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) for the North Carolina Aquariums (applicant), headquartered in Raleigh, NC. The EFP authorizes the applicant, with certain conditions, to collect for public display up to 60 red porgy and up to 500 lb (227 kg) of coral/live rock in Federal waters off North Carolina each year for 2 years. The three North Carolina Aquariums are located at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Kure Beach, North Carolina. This EFP is similar to a previously approved EFP for North Carolina Aquariums that expired earlier this year.

DATES: The newly issued EFP is effective January 12, 2001, through December 31, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EFP are available from Peter Eldridge, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Eldridge, 727-570-5305; fax 727-570-5583; e-mail: peter.eldridge@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

The EFP authorizes the applicant, with certain conditions, to collect for public display up to 60 red porgy and up to 500 lb (227 kg) of coral/live rock in Federal waters off North Carolina each year for 2 years.

The North Carolina Aquariums (NCA), with aquariums located at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Kure Beach, is a public, non-profit, self-supporting institution established to promote an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the diverse natural and cultural resources associated with North Carolina's ocean, estuaries, rivers,

streams, and other aquatic environments. The several aquariums are major educational and conservation institutions with extensive field study and outreach programs. The specimens will be maintained in the various NCA facilities for public display.

The proposed collection involves activities otherwise prohibited by Federal regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plans for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats, and the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fisheries of the South Atlantic Region. The applicant requests authorization in order to harvest and possess corals, live rock, and red porgy taken from Federal waters off North Carolina.

The EFP has a number of conditions concerning the harvest of prohibited species and corals, the gear that can be employed, and bycatch restrictions. The EFP requires an annual report to NMFS that lists taken specimens.

A notice of receipt of the application for this permit was published in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 2000 (65 FR 58745). In addition to announcing the receipt of the application, public comments were requested. No public comments were received. Also, consistent with the requirements of 50 CFR 600-745(b)(3)(1), NMFS provided copies of the EFP application to the State of North Carolina, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard along with information on the EFP's effects on target species. All of the consulted entities supported the issuance of the EFP.

Failure of the permittee to comply with the terms and conditions of the EFP may be grounds for revocation, suspension or modification of this permit, as well as civil or criminal sanctions.

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

Dated: January 10, 2001.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 01-1379 Filed 1-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management,

Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 3507(j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by January 31, 2001. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.*, new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment. 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 respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: January 12, 2001.

Joe Schubart,

Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: New.

Title: Performance Report—Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Abstract: This package contains instructions and the form necessary for grantees and contractors supported under Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals, CFDA No. 84.325. Data are obtained from grantees and are used to assess and monitor the implementation of IDEA and for Congressional reporting.

Additional Information: This program is a high priority initiative and an essential part of the Administration's overall strategy to allow the Department of Education to better facilitate the availability of an adequate amount of qualified personnel to better serve the needs of our children.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 450

Burden Hours: 2,250

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements, contact Sheila Carey at (202) 708-6287 or via her internet address Sheila_Carey@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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