

As per 2 CFR part 200.329, all recipients of non-construction federal financial assistance awards are required to provide performance (technical) reports to the agency at intervals no less frequently than annually and no more frequently than quarterly in order for the agency to properly monitor the award and meet oversight responsibilities. The awarding agency must use OMB-approved common forms for this purpose or seek permission for program-specific forms that will collect the required data elements. The Coral Reef Conservation Program seeks OMB approval to revise this information collection to require use of a program-specific form for semi-annual reporting and tracking specific indicators. These indicators align with the new Coral Reef Conservation Program Strategic Plan (2018; [https://www.coris.noaa.gov/activities/strategic\\_plan2018](https://www.coris.noaa.gov/activities/strategic_plan2018)) and will be used to track national progress toward these strategic goals through 2040. The program-specific form for semi-annual reporting will be a revised version of what is currently in use for NOAA's Marine Debris Program and will standardize reporting across projects.

The number of respondents, responses, and burden hours have been corrected from the previous submission. The previous submission included federal employees and contractors working on behalf of NOAA as part of the burden for the collection. This burden has been removed and is instead added to the cost to the federal government.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions; State or Local Government; Federal government.

**Frequency:** Semi Annual to Annual.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Required to obtain or retain benefits.

**Legal Authority:** Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 *et seq.*).

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and

entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0448.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2021–14002 Filed 6–29–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–JE–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Western Pacific Community Development Program Process

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on March 2, 2021 (86 FR 12178) during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

**Agency:** NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Commerce.

**Title:** Western Pacific Community Development Process.

**OMB Control Number:** 0648–0612.

**Form Number(s):** None.

**Type of Request:** Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

**Number of Respondents:** 5.

**Average Hours per Response:** 6 hours.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** 30 hours.

**Needs and Uses:** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) established the western Pacific community development program to promote the participation of western Pacific communities in fisheries that they have traditionally depended upon, but in which they may not have the capabilities to support continued and substantial participation, possibly due to economic, regulatory, or other barriers. To be eligible to participate in

the western Pacific community development program, a community must meet the criteria set forth in 50 CFR part 665.20, and submit a community development plan that describes the purposes and goals of the plan, the justification for proposed fishing activities, and the degree of involvement by the indigenous community members, including contact information. This collection of information is needed to determine whether communities submitting a proposal are eligible for participation in the community development program, and whether the activities proposed under the plan are consistent with the intent of the program, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable laws.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations; and Not-for-profit institutions.

**Frequency:** As required.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**Legal Authority:** 50 CFR 665.

This information collection request may be viewed at <https://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0612.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2021–13870 Filed 6–29–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB158]

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Exempted Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the NMFS Panama City, FL laboratory. If granted, the EFP would authorize NMFS or NMFS contracted observers and commercial fishers aboard contracted commercial fishing vessels to collect certain deep-water snapper species in waters of the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Puerto Rico. The EFP would exempt this activity from complying with certain seasonal and area closures and from certain bag limits in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. The purpose of the EFP is to describe benthic habitats for deep-water reef fish species off Puerto Rico and to determine life history information for black, blackfin, cardinal, queen, silk, and wenchman snappers.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than July 30, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the application, identified by “NOAA–NMFS–2021–0058”, by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter “NOAA–NMFS–2021–0058” in the Search box. Click the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Sarah Stephenson, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

*Instructions:* Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Electronic copies of the EFP application and related documents are available from the website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/caribbean-exempted-fishing-permits-efps>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Stephenson, 727–824–5305; email: [Sarah.Stephenson@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Stephenson@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The EFP is requested 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 applicant is currently conducting exempted fishing activities under an EFP for a similar deep-water snapper research project off Puerto Rico that was issued on July 30, 2020, and is valid through August 1, 2021. Notice of receipt of the application for the current EFP, with an opportunity to comment, published in the **Federal Register** on June 16, 2020 (85 FR 36377). No public comments on that EFP were received from that notice or since then.

The applicant requests authorization to collect deep-water reef fish species in the U.S. EEZ off the west coast, northeast coast, and southeast coast of Puerto Rico. The applicant is seeking to gather information that could be used to describe habitats for deep-water reef fish species off Puerto Rico, and to obtain additional life history information about black, blackfin, cardinal, queen, silk, and wenchman snappers. Specimens would be collected by NMFS or NMFS contracted observers and commercial fishers aboard contracted commercial fishing vessels. These activities may be conducted without NMFS staff aboard the contracted commercial vessel. If granted, this permit would exempt project participants from certain seasonal and area closure regulations codified at 50 CFR 622.435 and from certain reef fish bag limit regulations codified at 50 CFR 622.437(b), as identified and described below. Pending issuance, the EFP would be expected to be effective from August 1, 2021, through August 1, 2023. NMFS has approved a Fishery Management Plan for the EEZ off Puerto Rico. Regulations to implement that plan, which maintains the same seasonal and area closures and bag limits applicable to Federal waters off Puerto Rico as under the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery or Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and codified at 50 CFR 622.435 and 622.437, are likely to be proposed in the near future. If those regulations are finalized, the EFP will be updated to reflect the proper citations for the exempted regulations.

Activities under the EFP would consist of harvesting reef fish during 135 fishing trips per year (45 trips per coast), of which 40 trips would be within the U.S. EEZ off Puerto Rico. The

remaining trips would be conducted in Puerto Rico territorial waters. The target depth range for this project is 100 to 650 m, with sampling sites selected in each 50 m depth range throughout the overall depth range.

Project activities would be conducted from August 1, 2021, through August 1, 2023. Sampling off the coast of Puerto Rico would occur along the western coast from Isabela to Puerto Real, including Isla de Desecheo Marine Reserve; along the northeast coast from San Juan to Fajardo, extending out to Isla de Culebra; and along the southeast coast from Santa Isabel to Buena Vista, extending out to Isla de Vieques. Sampling is planned to occur for approximately 7 to 10 days per month year-round over the duration of the EFP.

Sampling would be conducted by hook-and-line drift fishing in deep-water habitats. On each fishing trip, three to six sites would be fished per day based on weather and distance between the sampling sites. Four vertical lines would be deployed per site. The first line would have a small, lightweight, water sampling device, which when impacting the seafloor, would trigger a syringe to collect a water sample (no hooks would be attached to this line). The line would then be immediately retrieved. This line would also test for water current direction before other equipment is deployed to minimize the potential gear loss.

The second line would have an underwater video camera system encased in a lightweight frame with an extended baited arm attached to the bottom portion of the line (no hooks would be attached to this line). Once deployed, the underwater video camera system would soak for 30 minutes at the sampling site.

The third and fourth lines would each have a maximum of 12 (#9) hooks attached to the bottom portion of the line above a 5–10 pound bottom weight. One line would be baited with fish and the other line baited with squid. The baited lines would be fished simultaneously, and include a small blinking LED light attached to the line. Once deployed, the two fishing lines would soak for 20 minutes. All lines would be retrieved via electric reel on the commercial vessel.

The applicant would target black, blackfin, cardinal queen, silk, and wenchman snappers, but also anticipates encountering other deep-water reef fish species during sampling. Each year, a maximum of 1,060 of the targeted species (up to 60 black snapper; up to 200 blackfin snapper; up to 200 cardinal snapper; up to 200 queen snapper; up to 200 silk snapper; and up

to 200 wenchman snapper) would be retained under the EFP. Additionally, each year, a maximum of 350 of the incidental species (up to 100 vermilion snapper; up to 100 red hind; up to 100 black, red, tiger, and yellowfin grouper, combined; and up to 50 misty and yellowedge grouper, combined) would be retained. If the incidental deep-water reef fish species are caught during the applicable seasonal and area closures, they would be possessed onboard the vessel only for the purpose of taking length measurements and tissue samples (fin clips or muscle plugs) prior to being returned to the water.

Length measurements would be recorded for all species caught except for any species for which harvest is prohibited under Federal law (*i.e.*, goliath and Nassau groupers, and midnight, rainbow, and blue parrotfishes). These prohibited species would be returned immediately to the water with a minimum of harm. For the targeted species, the gonads, eyes, fin or muscle tissues, and otoliths would be removed for histological and ageing analyses conducted by NMFS and the contracted observers, Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and the University of South Carolina.

In order to minimize the negative biological effects of bringing these deep-water species to the surface, the commercial fishing vessel would have venting tools onboard to properly vent fish being released back in the water to facilitate their return to depth.

Under the EFP, the applicant would be allowed to fish for and possess deep-water reef fish species in or from the Bajo de Sico closed area during the October 1 through March 31 closure period (50 CFR 622.435(a)(2)(iv)). A maximum of 25 fishing trips would occur per year in the Bajo de Sico area, 50 total during the project. Of those 50 trips, it is estimated that 25 trips would occur during the seasonal closure in the Bajo de Sico area. In addition, the applicant would be allowed to fish for and possess the deep-water reef fish species during species-specific seasonal closures: Black, red, tiger, yellowfin, and yellowedge grouper during the February 1 through April 30 seasonal closure (50 CFR 622.435(a)(1)(i)); red hind during the December 1 through the last day of February seasonal closure from the EEZ west of 67°10' W longitude (50 CFR 622.435(a)(1)(ii)); and black, blackfin, silk, and vermilion snappers during the October 1 through December 31 seasonal closure (50 CFR 622.435(a)(1)(iii)). The applicant would also be exempt from certain recreational bag limit regulations at 50 CFR

622.437(b)(1), though the EFP would specify retention limits. Specifically, the applicant would be limited to 30 groupers and snappers, combined, per person per day or, if 2 or more persons are aboard, 60 groupers and snappers, combined, per vessel per day. The parrotfish recreational bag limit of 2 parrotfish per person per day or, if 3 or more persons are aboard, 6 parrotfish per vessel per day would still apply.

The applicant intends to retain samples of the targeted species caught during the seasonal or area closures. After samples are taken from the targeted species, the remainder of the fish caught during a seasonal or area closure would be given to the contracted commercial fishermen for personal use and consumption. For incidental species, the EFP would allow the applicant to possess the species during the applicable seasonal and area closures for sufficient time to record length measurements and to collect tissue samples. If the targeted or incidental species are caught outside the closed seasons and closed areas, the commercial fishermen may retain them, consistent with applicable law.

NMFS finds this application warrants further consideration based on a preliminary review. Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition on conducting sampling activities within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, or special management zones, without additional authorization, and requiring compliance with best practices in the event of interactions with any protected species. NMFS may also require annual reports summarizing the amount of reef fish species harvested during the seasonal and area closures, as well as during the period of effectiveness of any issued EFP. Additionally, NMFS would require any sea turtles taken incidentally during the course of the activities to be handled with due care to prevent injury to live specimens, observed for activity, and returned to the water.

A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS' review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the affected state(s), the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that it is consistent with all applicable law.

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

Dated: June 24, 2021.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-13908 Filed 6-29-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB116]

#### Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals

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

**ACTION:** Notice; affirmative finding annual renewals for Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Spain.

**SUMMARY:** The NMFS Assistant Administrator (Assistant Administrator) has completed an affirmative finding annual renewal for the Governments of Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Spain. (referred to hereafter as "The Nations") under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). These affirmative findings will continue to allow the importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna and yellowfin tuna products harvested in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) for 1 year in compliance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) by purse seine vessels operating under The Nations' jurisdiction or exported from The Nations. NMFS bases the affirmative finding annual renewals on reviews of documentary evidence submitted by the Governments of The Nations and of information obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

**DATES:** These affirmative finding annual renewals are effective for the 1-year period of April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Justin Greenman, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 W Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, (562) 980-3264, [justin.greenman@noaa.gov](mailto:justin.greenman@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, allows for importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna harvested by purse seine vessels in the ETP from a nation with jurisdiction over purse seine vessels with carrying capacity greater than 400