

impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before July 6, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0613 in the subject line of your comments. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Susan Wang, Fishery Biologist, NMFS West Coast Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, (562) 980-4199, [Susan.Wang@noaa.gov](mailto:Susan.Wang@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This is a request for renewal of an approved information collection. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), West Coast Region, is the sponsor of this information collection which is authorized under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to evaluate activities involving threatened green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*).

On April 7, 2006, NMFS listed the Southern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of North American green sturgeon as threatened under the ESA (71 FR 17757). On June 2, 2010, NMFS established protective regulations for the Southern DPS under section 4(d) of the ESA (ESA 4(d) rule) (75 FR 30714; 50 CFR 223.210). To comply with the ESA and the protective regulations, entities must obtain take authorization prior to engaging in activities involving take of Southern DPS fish unless the activity is covered by an exception or exemption. The ESA defines "take" as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Certain activities described in the "exceptions" provision of 50 CFR 223.210(b) are not subject to the take prohibitions if they adhere to specific criteria and reporting requirements. Under the "exemption" provision of 50

CFR 223.210(c), the take prohibitions do not apply to scientific research, scientific monitoring, and fisheries activities conducted under an approved 4(d) program or plan. Similarly, take prohibitions do not apply to tribal resource management activities conducted under a Tribal Plan for which the requisite determinations described in 50 CFR 223.210(c)(3) have been made.

To ensure that activities qualify under exceptions to or exemptions from the take prohibitions, local, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, and private organizations are asked to submit detailed information regarding their activity on a schedule to be determined by NMFS staff. This information is used by NMFS to (1) track the number of Southern DPS fish taken as a result of each action; (2) understand and evaluate the cumulative effects of each action on the Southern DPS; and (3) determine whether additional protections are needed for the species, or whether additional exceptions may be warranted. NMFS designed the criteria to ensure that actions meeting the criteria would adequately limit effects on threatened Southern DPS fish, such that additional protections in the form of a federal take prohibition would not be necessary and advisable.

**II. Method of Collection**

Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms. Methods of submittal include email of electronic forms, and mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0613.

*Form Number(s):* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions; State, local, or Tribal government; Federal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 58.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Written notification describing research, monitoring, or habitat restoration activities, 40 hours; Development of Fisheries Management and Evaluation plans or state 4(d) research programs, 40 hours; Reports, 5 hours; Development of a Tribal Fishery Management Plan, 20 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,760 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$200.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

*Legal Authority:* Endangered Species Act.

**IV. Request for Comments**

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this information collection request. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2026-08641 Filed 5-1-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XF714]

**New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is

scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Advisory Panel to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. EST. Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/j/11VdWy3CRgCy50mIMrSCmA>.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; Phone (978) 281-9300

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Agenda**

The Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel will meet to discuss a 2026 action to include Atlantic herring specifications for 2027–2031, river herring and shad management measures, and other measures as well as make recommendations to the Atlantic Herring Committee, as appropriate. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-

Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 30, 2026.

**Anna Michelle Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026-08596 Filed 5-1-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XF738]

**Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF). Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 19, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by the following method:

- *Email:* [nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line “MA DMF herring genomics EFP.”

All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing 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 “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ashley Trudeau, Fishery Resource Management Specialist, [ashley.trudeau@noaa.gov](mailto:ashley.trudeau@noaa.gov), 978-281-9252.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The applicant submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
50 CFR 648.201(d)(1) ..... § 648.202(a)(1) .....	No harvest in Area 1A during January–May ..... Restriction on midwater trawling from June 1 to September 30 in Area 1A.	To allow harvest in Area 1A during April and May. To allow use of midwater trawl in Area 1A during June–September.
§ 648.80(a)(3)(vi) .....	Restrictions on fishing in Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GB) Exemption Areas.	To allow use of small mesh bottom trawl in GOM and GB Regulated Mesh Areas.
§ 648.81(d)(1) .....	Seasonal gear restrictions in GOM Cod Protection Closures.	To allow use of small mesh bottom trawl during April–November in GOM Cod Protection Closure Areas, excluding year-round groundfish closed areas.
§ 648.11, but not to include § 648.11(m)(2).	Monitoring coverage .....	Sampling trips will be non-representative of the herring fishery and could negatively affect Northeast Fisheries Observer Program data quality. As stated in § 648.11(m)(2), the participating vessels are still required to submit pre-trip notifications.