

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 08/14/2012

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 06/08/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201205-0648-003
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Documentation of Fish Harvest
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0365

The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 08/31/2015

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	100	50	0
New	100	50	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Documentation of Fish Harvest			50 CFR 622.45

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

<p>1. Agency/Subagency originating request</p>	<p>2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____</p>
<p>3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired</p> <p>e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired</p> <p>f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number</p> <p>For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions</p>	<p>4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated</p>
	<p>5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
	<p>6. Requested expiration date</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____</p>
<p>7. Title</p>	
<p>8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)</p>	
<p>9. Keywords</p>	
<p>10. Abstract</p>	
<p>11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government</p>	<p>12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</p>
<p>13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden</p> <p>a. Number of respondents _____</p> <p>b. Total annual responses _____</p> <p> 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____%</p> <p>c. Total annual hours requested _____</p> <p>d. Current OMB inventory _____</p> <p>e. Difference _____</p> <p>f. Explanation of difference</p> <p> 1. Program change _____</p> <p> 2. Adjustment _____</p>	<p>14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>)</p> <p>a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____</p> <p>b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____</p> <p>c. Total annualized cost requested _____</p> <p>d. Current OMB inventory _____</p> <p>e. Difference _____</p> <p>f. Explanation of difference</p> <p> 1. Program change _____</p> <p> 2. Adjustment _____</p>
<p>15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit</p>	<p>16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting</p> <p> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly</p> <p> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually</p> <p> 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____</p>
<p>17. Statistical methods</p> <p>Does this information collection employ statistical methods</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p>

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
DOCUMENTATION OF FISH HARVEST
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0365**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This request is for revision and extension of a current information collection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a final rule to implement Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP) on January 25, 1999 ([64 FR 3624, RIN 0648-AK05](#)). That rule contained an information collection requirement that dealers possessing red porgy, gag, or black grouper, harvested during seasonal closures must maintain documentation that such fish were harvested from areas other than the South Atlantic. On June 29, 2009, a final rule implementing Amendment 16 to the FMP was published, which added several more species to the information collection ([74 FR 30964, RIN 0648-AW64](#)). These species include greater amberjack, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney.

During January through April, no person may sell or purchase a red porgy, gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, or coney. In addition, during April, no person may sell or purchase greater amberjack, harvested from South Atlantic Federal waters or, if harvested by a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, harvested from the South Atlantic (i.e., state or Federal waters). This prohibition does not apply to a dealer's purchase or sale of such species harvested from an area other than the South Atlantic, provided such fish is accompanied by documentation of harvest outside the South Atlantic.

There is a program change to include the additional species added to this information collection in 2009. There is no change to burden, as dealers possessing the original three species generally possess one or more of the additional species.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

A dealer's purchase or sale of greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, or coney harvested from an area other than the South Atlantic must be accompanied by documentation of harvest outside the South Atlantic. Such documentation must contain the information specified in 50 CFR part 300 subpart K (quoted in its entirety in the attached [50 CFR § 622.45\(d\)\(6\)-\(9\)](#)) for marking containers or packages of fish or wildlife that are imported, exported, or transported in interstate commerce. The required documentation will allow dealers to sell fish which were

caught from areas outside the South Atlantic during closed seasons. The following information is required to be maintained on each container and/or catch of harvested greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, or coney, during closed seasons:

- a) The official number of the vessel harvesting the greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, or coney
- b) The registered name of the vessel harvesting the above-named species
- c) The home port of the vessel harvesting the above-named species
- d) The port of offloading from the vessel harvesting the above-named species
- e) The date of offloading from the vessel harvesting the above-named species
- f) A statement signed by the dealer attesting that the the above-named species were harvested from an area other than the South Atlantic.

Law Enforcement Officers from NMFS will use the data when investigating the sale of fish during those periods when fishing is restricted. Record keeping is required to document the origin of the fish being sold out of season.

NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Although the information collected is not expected to be disseminated directly to the public, results may be used in scientific, management, technical, or general informational publications. Should NMFS decide to disseminate the information, it will be subject to the quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The records required at the time of inspection are to be maintained by the fish dealer and must remain and be retained with the fish product, container, and/or catch being sold during those periods when fishing is restricted. Thus, these are documents that cannot be captured or transferred electronically or automated in any format available through information technology.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There are no similar or comparable programs, as only federal regulations have been developed for this specific situation.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Most of the dealers in these fisheries can be categorized as small businesses. The collection will not have a significant impact on small businesses, and no special modifications of the requirements were considered necessary to accommodate the needs of small businesses.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

There is no reporting frequency requirement for the dealers. Records are maintained and made available upon request by NMFS Law Enforcement Officers. If records are not kept either proper enforcement could not take place or dealers would be prohibited from possessing otherwise legal fish.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

No special circumstances require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice soliciting public comment on the information collection was published on February 14, 2012 (77 FR 8217). No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are provided.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

There is no assurance of confidentiality provided.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No sensitive information is required.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The recordkeeping requirement is expected to be utilized 100 times each year (an average of 4 times per each of 25 dealers) and to consume 30 minutes for each response. The total burden for this request is 50 hours.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

The recordkeeping requirement is consistent with normal business practices and should not involve any additional cost.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

There is no cost to the government other than regular staff time: approximately 50 hours per year at \$20 per hour, or \$1,000.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

The final rule implementing Amendment 16 to the FMP implemented a seasonal closure for additional snapper-grouper species (74 FR 30964, June 29, 2009). This took place after the last request under this OMB Control Number. In addition to red porgy, gag and black grouper, these species now include greater amberjack, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney. Dealers possessing any of these species harvested during seasonal closures must maintain documentation that such fish were harvested from areas other than the South Atlantic. There is no change to burden, as dealers possessing the original three species generally possess one or more of the additional species.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

No formal publications based on these collections are planned.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

The collection does not employ statistical methods.

Input may be submitted to: TourismStrategyComment@trade.gov by Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Electronic comments are preferred. Written comments may be sent to: Jennifer Pilat, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Suite 4043, International Trade Administration, Washington, DC, 20230.

The Executive Order is available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/01/24/2012-1568/establishing-visa-and-foreign-visitor-processing-goals-and-the-task-force-on-travel-and-p-1>.

Authority: Section 3 of Executive Order 13597 *Establishing Visa and Foreign Visitor Processing Goals and the Task Force on Travel and Competitiveness Request for Comments:* ITA seeks comments on key stakeholder priorities to be considered in the development of the Strategy. Comments should include a reference to this **Federal Register** notice. The Task Force will consider the comments submitted in response to this request, as well as other inputs, in its development of the Strategy.

Dated: February 9, 2012.

Jennifer Pilat,

Deputy Director, Office of Advisory Committees and Industry Engagement.

[FR Doc. 2012-3400 Filed 2-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 120123059-2058-01]

Evaluating the Usability of Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NIST is soliciting interest in supplying electronic health record (EHR) systems for use by NIST in research to develop a framework for assessing the usability of health information technology (HIT) systems, EHRs in particular, and performance-oriented user interface design guidelines for EHRs. Manufacturers interested in participating in this research will be asked to execute a Letter of Understanding. Interested parties are invited to contact NIST for information regarding participation, Letters of Understanding and shipping information.

DATES: Manufacturers who wish to participate in the program must submit a request and an executed Letter of

Understanding by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on March 15, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Letters of Understanding may be obtained from and should be submitted to Svetlana Lowry, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Information Access Division, Building 225, Room A232, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8940, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8940. Letters of Understanding may be faxed to: Svetlana Lowry at (301) 975-5287.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, you may telephone Svetlana Lowry at (301) 975-4995, or email: svetlana.lowry@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will be conducting research to support the development of procedures for measuring and evaluating the usability of health information technology (HIT) systems. NIST research is designed to: (1) Develop a set of guidelines/standards for the usability of HIT/EHRs, and (2) develop a framework for assessing EHR usability in development of a report titled "NIST Usability Guidelines and Evaluation Framework for EHR Systems." NIST may also examine relevant instructions, documentation and EHR error messages.

NIST is soliciting interest in supplying existing EHR systems for use by NIST in research to develop performance-oriented user interface design guidelines for EHRs, and a framework for assessing the usability of EHRs. Interested manufacturers should contact NIST at the address given above. NIST will supply a Letter of Understanding, which the manufacturer must execute and send back to NIST. The Letters of Understanding will be entered into pursuant to the authorities granted NIST under 15 U.S.C. 3710a. NIST will then provide the manufacturer with instructions for shipping the EHR system. NIST anticipates that it will take approximately one year to conduct all necessary research. No modification to the manufacturers' product is permitted during the research process. NIST may transport equipment to locations off site from NIST's main campus as required for the purpose of conducting usability studies. NIST will ensure that all off site usability testing locations have the same or higher level of security and system protection procedures as the on-site NIST labs located in the Usability Laboratory in Gaithersburg, MD. At the conclusion of the experiments, NIST will remove the EHR systems from all computers on which they were installed and return them to the manufacturers.

Information acquired during the tests regarding potential usability problems will be reported to the respective manufacturer. Usability testing results for identifiable vendor systems will not be released subject to the terms and conditions in the Letters of Understanding. Comparative information (e.g., testing results from unidentified EHR systems A, B, and C) may be released in a blind manner in a report from NIST titled "NIST Usability Guidelines and Evaluation Framework for EHR Systems."

Participating manufacturers should include or provide a technical tutorial on the use of the EHR system. NIST will pay all shipping costs associated with sending the EHR system installation and training materials except those not permitted by law (such as shipping insurance, which, if desired, must be purchased by the manufacturer). NIST must pay shipping costs directly and cannot reimburse manufacturers for shipping costs. Unless the manufacturer desires to pay such shipping insurance costs, there is no other cost to the manufacturer for the testing.

EHR systems that will be accepted for the experiments may include inpatient and outpatient EHRs. NIST will not accept actual personal health information as part of this project.

Dated: February 8, 2012.

Willie E. May,

Associate Director for Laboratory Programs.

[FR Doc. 2012-3415 Filed 2-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Documentation of Fish Harvest

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 16, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,

Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at Jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Rich Malinowski; telephone: (727) 824-5305 or rich.malinowski@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection.

The seafood dealers who process red porgy, gag, black grouper, or greater amberjack during seasonal fishery closures must maintain documentation, as specified in 50 CFR part 300 subpart K, that such fish were harvested from areas other than the South Atlantic. The documentation includes information on the vessel that harvested the fish and where and when the fish were offloaded. The information is required for the enforcement of fishery regulations.

II. Method of Collection

The information is in the form of a paper affidavit which remains with the respondent.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0365.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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: February 9, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-3369 Filed 2-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA970

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures; 2012 Research Fishery

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: On October 31, 2011, NMFS published a notice inviting qualified commercial shark permit holders to submit an application to participate in the 2012 shark research fishery. The shark research fishery allows for the collection of fishery-dependent data for future stock assessments while also allowing NMFS and commercial fishermen to conduct cooperative research to meet the shark research objectives of the Agency. Every year, the permit terms and permitted activities (*e.g.*, number of hooks and trip, retention limits) specifically authorized for selected participants in the shark research fishery are designated depending on the scientific and research needs of the Agency as well as the number of NMFS-approved observers available. In order to inform selected participants of this year's specific permit requirements and ensure all terms and conditions of the permit are met, NMFS is holding a mandatory permit holder meeting for selected participants. In this notice, NMFS announces the date and time of that meeting.

DATES: A conference call will be held on February 17, 2012.

ADDRESSES: A conference call will be conducted. See **SUPPLEMENTARY**

INFORMATION for information on how to access the conference call.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Delisse Ortiz at (301) 427-8503, or online at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635.

The final rule for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP (73 FR 35778, June 24, 2008, corrected at 73 FR 40658, July 15, 2008) established, among other things, a shark research fishery to maintain time series data for stock assessments and to meet NMFS' research objectives. The shark research fishery gathers important scientific data and NMFS allows selected commercial fishermen the opportunity to earn more revenue from selling the sharks caught, including sandbar sharks. Only the commercial shark fishermen selected to participate in the shark research fishery are authorized to land/harvest sandbar sharks subject to the sandbar quota available each year. The sandbar shark base quota is 87.9 mt dw per year through December 31, 2012, although this number may be reduced in the event of overharvests, if any. The selected shark research fishery participants also have access to the non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS), small coastal sharks (SCS), and pelagic shark quotas subject to retention limits and quotas per §§ 635.24 and 635.27, respectively.

On October 31, 2011 (76 FR 67149), NMFS published a notice inviting qualified commercial shark permit holders to submit an application to participate in the 2012 shark research fishery. NMFS received 19 applications, of which 16 applicants were determined to meet all the qualifications. From the 16 qualified applicants, NMFS randomly selected 5 participants after considering how to meet research objectives in particular regions. During the annual application period, commercial shark permit holders (directed and incidental) are invited to submit an application to participate in the shark research fishery. NMFS expects to invite qualified commercial shark permit holders to submit an application for the 2013 shark research fishery later this year.

Every year, the permit terms and permitted activities (*e.g.*, number of