

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.

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

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
PROFILE OF SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE U.S. CARIBBEAN
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This request is for a new information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to collect socio-economic data on small-scale fishermen operating in the U.S. Caribbean. The survey intends to collect information on demographics, fishing practices, costs and earnings (revenues, variable and fixed costs), capital investment, and attitudes and perceptions about the performance of selected management actions.

The data gathered will be used to describe U.S. Caribbean small-scale fleets, assess their economic performance, develop models to investigate the socio-economic impact of regulatory proposals, and examine fishermen's perceptions about the effectiveness of management measures, especially area and seasonal closures. The paucity of socio-economic data is a significant hurdle in evaluation of regulatory proposals in the region. The only continuous fishery data collection (i.e., local trip-tickets) mainly gathers landings and fishing effort data. Therefore, periodic socio-economic data collections are required to assemble current cultural, economic and social information. Up-to-date socio-economic data is needed to support the Agency's conservation and management goals, to strengthen and improve fishery management decision-making, and to satisfy legal mandates under the Reauthorization of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#) (MSA), the [Regulatory Flexibility Act](#) (RFA), the [Endangered Species Act](#), and the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA), [Executive Order 12866](#) (EO 12866), and other pertinent statutes.

The MSA mandates that conservation and management measures prevent over-fishing and obtain an optimum yield (OY) on a sustained basis. It also established new requirements to end and prevent overfishing with the use of annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs). Moreover, MSA requires that conservation and management measures take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to: (a) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (b) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

The need and the authorization to collect these socioeconomic data are found in the MSA, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, the RFA, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, the NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4372 *et seq.*, and EO 12866. The MSA states that the collection of reliable data is essential to the effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the fishery resources of the United States. The nation's fisheries should be "conserved and maintained so as to provide OYs on a continuing basis". Furthermore, eight of the ten National Standards under the MSA, which provide guidance to the regional fishery management councils, have implications for economic

analyses. For example, under section 303 (a) (9) of the MSA, a fishery management plan must include a Fishery Impact Statement (FIS), which assesses, specifies, and describes the likely effects of the conservation and management measures on participants in the fisheries being managed, fishing communities dependent on these fisheries, and participants in fisheries in adjacent areas.

Under the RFA, the Small Business Administration needs a determination of whether a proposed rule has a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities that are to be directly regulated. For RFA purposes, one of the criteria to determine significant economic impact involves an assessment of the change in short-term accounting profits for small entities. The NEPA requires a determination of whether Federal actions significantly affect the human environment. This requires a number of economic analyses including the impact on entities that are directly regulated and those that are indirectly affected. Lastly, EO 12866 mandates an economic analysis of the benefits and costs to society of each regulatory alternative considered by the fishery management councils, and a determination of whether the rule is significant.

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.

One-time, voluntary surveys will be used to collect information on costs and earnings of small-scale fishing operations and on fishermen's perceptions about the effectiveness of regulations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The interviews will be mainly conducted in-person; however, some interviews may be conducted over the telephone as needed to minimize any burden on the fishermen. Ms. Flavia Tonioli from the University of Miami's Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (UM-CIMAS) has been hired to conduct these interviews, create a database, and assist in the analysis of the data. NMFS staff will provide names, addresses, and phone numbers from a stratified random sample of commercial fishermen. We estimate that 971 surveys will be conducted.

The data collected in combination with existing trip ticket data will be used for descriptive and analytical purposes. The data collected will be used to describe U.S. Caribbean small-scale fleets, assess their economic performance, develop models to investigate the socio-economic impact of regulatory proposals, and examine fishermen's views about the effectiveness of management measures, especially area and seasonal closures. This information is required for the development of amendments to U.S. Caribbean fishery management plans.

Two separate survey instruments have been developed. The first instrument will collect information on costs and earnings and the second instrument will collect information on fishermen's perceptions about the effectiveness of regulations. The instruments have been translated into Spanish to minimize the burden on non-English speaking respondents.

We intend to draw two separate samples for each survey instrument. Hence, it is likely that some respondents may be selected to complete both surveys, particularly in the U.S. Virgin

Islands, which has a smaller population. If a respondent is selected to answer both surveys, then we plan to interview him/her with at least a one-month interval to minimize any burden.

The costs and earnings survey form has the following sections: 1) demographic background, 2) fishing practices and capital investment in vessels and fishing equipment. 3) trip earnings and costs, and 4) fixed costs.

The ‘demographic information’ section elicits information about fisherman’s demographic characteristics. It elicits information about the fisherman’s age, marital status, number of dependents, participation level (i.e., full-time vs. part-time), percentage income derived from fishing and non-fishing activities, and level of satisfaction with their occupation. This section provides valuable data to contextualize the demographic background of the fishermen.

The ‘fishing practices and capital investment’ section inquires about the average number of trips taken per week, main characteristics of the primary fishing vessel and fishing gears used (including market value) and annual expenditures devoted to the repair and maintenance of the primary fishing vessel and gear. The information collected in this section will be used to estimate the opportunity cost of capital and economic depreciation.

The ‘earnings and variable costs’ section solicits information about trip level revenues and costs. Variable costs vary with the level of harvesting activity. Variable costs are broken into operating expenses (i.e., fuel and oil, bait, ice, food, and supplies) and into labor expenses. Generally, crew remuneration is paid as a share of the trip’s net revenue. The ‘fixed costs’ section inquires about those costs that fishermen incur regardless whether the vessel operates or stays idle. They are independent of the level of fishing activity. Fixed costs include mooring fees, hull, engine, and fishing gear maintenance and repair expenses, fishing permit and vessel registration fees, vessel and gear mortgage payments, and insurance payments. The information collected in these two last sections is necessary for the development of economic models to estimate profits levels.

The regulatory performance perceptions survey form has the following sections: 1) demographic background, and 2) perceptions about the efficacy of federal area closures, 3) perceptions about the efficacy of federal seasonal closures, and 4) perceptions about the efficacy of territorial area closures.

The ‘demographic information’ section elicits information about fisherman’s demographic characteristics. It elicits information about the fisherman’s age, marital status, number of dependents, participation level (i.e., full-time vs. part-time), percentage income derived from fishing and non-fishing activities, and level of satisfaction with their occupation. This section provides valuable data to contextualize the demographic background of the fishermen. The remaining three perception sections inquire about the perceived biological and socio-economic performance of federal and territorial area and seasonal closures. It also inquires about ways to improve to the efficacy of this fishery management tool.

The information sought will be of practical use since NMFS social scientists will utilize for descriptive and analytical purposes. In addition, the information collected will be used for the

development of amendments to fishery management plans. The survey will collect demographic, economic and social information, which otherwise would be unavailable.

The information collected will be disseminated to the public and used to support publicly disseminated information. NOAA Fisheries Service 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. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subject to quality control measures and a 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 data needed will be primarily collected using in-person interviews (or telephone interviews in cases where it is easier for respondents) because they are more versatile and less burdensome than mail surveys. We do not anticipate using online questionnaires because of the limited access to internet in some parts of the U.S. Caribbean. In addition, in-person interviews may be preferable because many of the answers do not lend themselves to simple ‘yes/no’ answers and because of the presence of open-ended questions, which are burdensome to complete in written form (inadvertently leading to higher non-response rates). Moreover, in-person surveys allow the interviewer to explore the logic and/or reasoning behind the ranking of ‘Lickert scale’ answers.

The contractor does not anticipate using laptops or other electronic devices to record the answers since some of the questions are open ended. Typing verbatim could extend the length of the interview, which would further burden the interviewees and result in incomplete surveys.

The data collected will not be available to the public over the internet given its confidential nature. However, a report summarizing the salient, aggregated results will be available online once the data collection and analysis is completed.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

We contacted the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), the U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Puerto Rico’s Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) to inform them about our intention to collect socio-economic data and to inquire about other on-going or prospective data collections in the area. These agencies noted that they were not planning nor they were aware of any current or planned data collections that targeted commercial fishermen.

However, the DFW noted that they were aware of two upcoming data collections that focused on recreational fishermen (i.e., shore-based and boat-based recreational fishing studies) on the island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Since these studies will be interviewing recreational fishermen, we do not expect any duplication. Nevertheless, we contacted both Principal

Investigators (PIs), (Dr. Theresa Goedeke from the National Ocean Service and Dr. James Berkson from NMFS), to discuss mechanisms to better coordinate our research efforts in the area. We agreed that to minimize the burden on the inhabitants of St. Croix, we would start our proposed data collection in Puerto Rico and then move it to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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

Most commercial fishing operations in the U.S. Caribbean are owner or family-operated small businesses.¹ We have taken several steps to minimize the burden on these small businesses. First, we designed the survey instrument so that only the minimum data requirements for present and future management needs are collected. Surveys will be available in English and Spanish to reduce any burden to non-English speaking fishermen. Second, responses to the in-person survey will be voluntary. Fishermen who do not wish to participate in the interviews, can choose not to partake. Third, the interviews will be conducted at times and places that are convenient to fishermen. This will minimize any potential disruption to their fishing practices. Last, the wording of the surveys will be modified slightly to account for regional differences.

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

If the proposed information were not collected (or collected less frequently), then NOAA and the CFMC would not be able to adequately satisfy the legal requirements put forth by the MSA, NEPA, and EO 12898. These mandates require regional fishery management councils to establish conservation and management measures, which take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to provide sustained fishing community participation and to minimize, to the extent possible, adverse economic impacts on such communities. Furthermore, these requirements also mandate that regional fishery management councils to establish conservation and management measures using the best available information.

The absence of up-to-date socio-economic information would limit the Agency's ability to estimate the economic impacts of management proposals and examine the performance of existing regulations. Hence, the merits of management proposals would continue to be debated without sound information. In addition, the availability of current information would minimize the likelihood of unforeseen impacts of existing regulations and court challenges on the grounds of deficient analysis. Last, the collection of detailed socioeconomic data will allow fishery managers to make timely and better-informed decisions by having the best scientific information available.

¹ Barbara L. Kojis y Norman J. Quinn, *Census of the Marine Commercial Fishers of the U.S. Virgin Islands*, 2011.

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

There are no special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of 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 published on Thursday, November 15, 2012 (77 FR 68104-68105) solicited public comments. We received no public comments.

We consulted with CFMC, DNER and DFW staff about the availability of socio-economic 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. Staff from these agencies indicated that their agencies lacked up-to-date, detailed socio-economic data on the economics of small-scale fleets and perceptions about management effectiveness. Secondly, they stated that the proposed data collection would help fill a void in their knowledge of these fisheries. Thirdly, they stated that the data collection was timely because last costs and earnings data collection took place over 4 years ago. These agencies also offered several suggestions to improve the wording of the questions and proposed minor changes to the data elements (i.e., variables) to be collected. Lastly, staff also suggested placing the technical report online to make the findings widely available.

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

No payments or gifts will be provided to respondents.

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

As stated on the survey instruments, information provided will be considered private and will be treated as confidential in accordance with [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#), Confidential Fisheries Statistics and section 402(b) of the MSA (16 U.S.C. 1881, *et seq.*).

In addition, NMFS' data confidentiality policy does not allow its employees to release confidential data, other than in aggregate form, as the MSA protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those who submitted data. Whenever data are requested, the Agency will ensure that information identifying the pecuniary business activity of a particular individual is

not identified. Only group averages or group totals will be presented in any reports, publications, or oral presentations of the study's results.

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.

The survey does not inquire about sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, or other similar matters of a personal and sensitive nature.

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

We estimated that the number of respondents will be 973, possibly with some duplication for the two surveys (see Part B, Question 1 for sample sizes; we estimate an 80% response rate) and the time per response will be about 1 hour. Hence, we are requesting 973 burden hours. The one hour per response burden includes the time for reading the instructions, reviewing the questions, and completing the survey instrument. This estimate is based on the type of questions asked, length of the survey instrument, and contractor's experience conducting similar surveys.

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).

There will be no financial cost to the public to participate in this study.

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

We anticipate that the contractor's cost for the data collection and analysis will be \$210,000. This cost covers the expenditures related to the following activities: development of survey instrument, training interviewers, printing of forms, travel, data collection and processing, data entry and quality control, and report writing. In addition to the above contractor expenses, federal costs include NMFS staff time. The NMFS staff will be responsible for developing and administering the contract, collaborating with the development of the survey, monitoring performance and reviewing final report. We estimate that the cost NFMS supervision will be approximately \$10,000/year. Thus, the total annualized (for one year) cost to the federal government would be \$220,000.

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

The program change is for the collection of new socioeconomic data.

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

We anticipate completing the data collection in Puerto Rico by the end of 2013 and in the U.S. Virgin Islands by mid to late 2014. We expect to complete the analysis of the Puerto Rico data

by May 2014 and of the U.S. Virgin Islands data by October 2014. We plan to publish two technical reports describing the salient results of these studies. These reports should be available online by January 2015.

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.

The OMB control number and expiration date will be displayed.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
PROFILE OF SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE U.S. CARIBBEAN
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The absence of federal fishing licenses in the U.S. Caribbean required us to draw from the local trip ticket and commercial fishermen census databases to build the sampling frames for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.¹ The trip ticket database provided us with a list of active fishermen (i.e., actively landing fish) and the censuses supplied us with their most current addresses. In 2011, the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Island's trip ticket databases recorded 804 and 330 active fishermen respectively.

We plan to complete 501 surveys in Puerto Rico and 472 surveys in the U.S. Virgin (Tables 1 and 2). Because of different sources and amounts of funding for the costs and earnings data collection we plan to conduct 351 surveys in Puerto Rico and 236 surveys in the U.S. Virgin Islands and for the regulatory perceptions survey we intend to conduct 150 surveys in Puerto Rico and 235 surveys in the U.S. Virgin Islands. We estimate a response rate of 80% based on Agar *et al.*'s (2008) costs and earnings work in the U.S. Caribbean.² Due to the size and regional variation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, we plan to stratify the sample by coastal region (i.e., North, South, East and West). We will weight each coastal region by the number of fishermen in the area.

¹ The only exception is the HMS permit, which is required for those vessels harvesting tunas, swordfish, and sharks in the Atlantic Ocean, including Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean waters.

² Agar, J., J. Waters, M. Valdes-Pizzini, M. Shivlani, T. Murray, J. Kirkley, and D. Suman, 2008. U.S. Caribbean Fish Trap Fishery Socioeconomic Study. *Bulletin of Marine Science*, Vol. 82, No. 3, pp. 315-331.

Table 1: Sampling design for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Study	Strata	Population Size	Survey Sample	Expected Response Rate	Number of Expected Completed Surveys per Strata
Costs & Earnings	North coast	160	87	0.8	70
	West coast	316	172	0.8	138
	South coast	221	120	0.8	96
	East coast	107	58	0.8	47
Regulatory Perceptions	North coast	160	37	0.8	30
	West coast	316	74	0.8	59
	South coast	221	52	0.8	41
	East coast	107	25	0.8	20
Total		804			501

Table 2: Sampling design for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Study	Strata	Population Size	Survey Sample	Expected Response Rate	Number of Expected Completed Surveys per Strata
Costs & Earnings	St. Thomas	170	150	0.8	120
	St. Croix	160	145	0.8	116
Regulatory Perceptions	St. Thomas	170	150	0.8	120
	St. Croix	160	145	0.8	116
Total		330			472

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

One-time, voluntary surveys will be used to elicit costs and earnings, and regulatory perceptions information. A stratified random sample by coastal region will be used in Puerto Rico and simple random sample will be used the U.S. Virgin Islands. The stratification for Puerto Rico is needed because of the relatively larger size of this island (relative to the U.S. Virgin Islands) and also to better capture the economic performance of the small-scale fleet which varies geographically due to the spatial (and temporal) availability of various finfish and shellfishes species.

To minimize the burden on fishermen, a list containing a random sample of fishermen for each island will be provided to the contractor. The list will contain the following information: fisherman name, address, and phone number. A list in excess of 1,100 names will be provided to take into account the possibility that some fishermen will decline to participate in this voluntary survey. Should a fisherman decline to participate in the survey, the contractor could then select an additional fisherman from the list until the survey goal for the given stratum is reached.

The selected fishermen will be contacted by phone to set up their interviews. If their contact information is outdated, then we will ask local fish cooperative presidents and/or other fishermen for the updated information.

For outreach in Puerto Rico, we plan to put an announcement in 'Fuete and Verguilla' (Bottom Line and Leader) (local newsletter for Puerto Rican fishermen put out by Sea Grant: http://www.seagrantpr.org/catalog/publications/fuete_verguilla.html), letting the fishermen know that the survey is coming; and in USVI we plan to send letters to the local fishery advisory committees in St. Thomas and in St. Croix.

The data collected will be used for descriptive and analytical purposes. Descriptive uses include the estimation of average harvesting costs per trip and total harvesting costs for the fleet. The procedures for estimating harvesting costs in the sampling universe will be based on the standard equations available in various statistical texts such as Thompson (1992).³ For a description of analytical purposes the reader is directed to section Part A, Question 2.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Several steps have been taken to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response, in addition to the initial outreach regarding the surveys. First, the contractor hired has considerable survey experience and familiarity with local fishing communities and practices. She has conducted several socio-economic surveys with fishermen in the Florida Keys, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Second, the in-person interviews will be conducted at times and places convenient to fishermen. This will minimize any potential disruption to their fishing practices. Third, respondents will be asked to provide information about major gear and cost categories only, thus avoiding what respondents often perceive as unnecessary detail. Last, surveys will be available in English and Spanish to further reduce any burden to non-English speaking fishermen. The contractor, who will be conducting the interviews, is fluent in both English and Spanish. To deal with non-response we will use call-backs and two-phase sampling procedures as described in textbooks such as Lohr's. (see, Lohr's, S., 1998. Sampling: design and analysis). A sample size of 1225 will provide reliable estimates of the cost structure and regulatory perceptions of the industry.

³ Thompson, Steven K., 1992. Sampling. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 343 p.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

To refine the data collection, we initially shared our straw man survey with NMFS and CFMC staff to seek feedback on its content and clarity. After detailed discussions, we incorporated their main suggestions and will pre-test the revised survey instrument with 9 fishermen to ensure that questionnaire is succinct and easy to understand.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Dr. Juan Agar from the NMFS was consulted on the statistical aspects of the study design. NMFS social scientists and CFMC staff will use the data collected for regulatory analysis. Dr. Juan Agar can be reached at (305) 361-4218.

Ms. Flavia Tonioli from the University of Miami's Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (UM-CIMAS) has been hired to conduct the data collection, create a database, and assist in the analysis of the data. Ms. Tonioli can be reached at (305) 361-4567.

Interviewer introduction

English version:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries is embarking on a social science initiative entitled "**PROFILE OF SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE U.S. CARIBBEAN**". The goal of this initiative is to develop socio-economic profiles of hook and line, trap, net and dive fisheries in the US Caribbean, including the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. This research seeks to describe the various user groups, fishing practices, revenue and cost structure of the fleets. We are also interested in learning your views about the performance of area and seasonal closures in your area.

We have been hired by NOAA Fisheries to conduct a number of interviews with members of the community involved in fishing and diving. To minimize any burden on you and your family, we would like to interview you at time convenient to you.

The survey is voluntary. However, we strongly encourage you to participate. You have a vital stake in the way fishery decisions are made, and only you can provide valuable information strengthen the management, protection, and conservation marine resources. Your information will be treated as confidential.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Juan Agar, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, at 305-361-4218 or by email at Juan.Agar@noaa.gov.

Versión in Español.

La Administración Nacional Oceánica y Atmosférica (NOAA) Pesquerías ha embarcado en una iniciativa de ciencias sociales titulado "**PERFIL DE PESQUERIAS DE PEQUEÑA ESCALA COMERCIAL EN EL CARIBE AMERICANO**". El objetivo de esta iniciativa es desarrollar perfiles socio-económicos de los pescadores que utilizan línea y anzuelo, nasas, redes y SCUBA en el Caribe de Americano, incluyendo las Islas Vírgenes de EE.UU. y Puerto Rico. Esta investigación pretende describir los diversos usuarios, las prácticas de pesca, la estructura de costos e ingresos de la flota. También nos interesa conocer sus perspectivas sobre la eficacia de las áreas de cierre y vedas en su región.

NOAA nos contratado para llevar a cabo una serie de entrevistas con miembros de la comunidad que participan en estas pesquerías. Para reducir al mínimo cualquier imposición, nos gustaría hacerle una entrevista en el momento que sea más oportuno para usted.

La encuesta es voluntaria. Sin embargo, lo queremos alentar a participar. Usted tiene un interés vital en la manera que las decisiones de la pesca se desarrollan, y sólo usted puede proporcionar información valiosa para fortalecer la gestión, protección y conservación de los recursos marinos. Sus datos serán tratados de forma confidencial.

Gracias por su cooperación. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor no dude en comunicarse con el Dr. Juan Agar, NOAA, Centro de Pesquerías del Sudeste, al 305-361-4218 o por correo electrónico a Juan.Agar@noaa.gov.

Costs and Earnings Survey Instrument

PROFILE OF SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE U.S. CARIBBEAN (Costs and Earnings Survey Instrument –English Version)

Interviewer Name	Date	No. Contacts	Refusal reason	Survey #	Respondent's Name

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per response including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching the existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this burden to Bob Walker, National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149. This reporting is required under and is authorized under 50 CFR 622.5(a) (1) (v). NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 states that the information provided shall be treated as confidential. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The NMFS requires this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. These data will be used to develop a socioeconomic profile of the hook and line, trap, net and dive fisheries.

Everything we talk about will be confidential. When we finish our interviews and other work, we will write a report that summarizes everything we have learned. We will not use people's names in our reports, or write about anything that is sensitive. Participation in this survey is voluntary, and you do not need to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. If you agree that sounds okay and if you do not have any questions, I would like to start by asking you a few basic questions about you and your fishing operation.

Demographic Information

Interview started _____

1. How old are you? _____ years
2. What is your marital status? Single Married Divorced Widow Other: _____
3. How many family members do you support? _____ (including yourself)
4. How many years of commercial fishing experience do you have? _____ years
5. How would you describe your participation in the fishery?

 Fish year-round, on full-time basis
 Fish year-round, on part-time basis Subsistence/food additional income]
 Fish on a seasonal basis, on full-time basis Subsistence/food additional income]
 Fish on a seasonal basis, on part-time basis Subsistence/food additional income]
 Fish when feel like it.
 No longer fish
6. What percentage of your household income (not personal income) is derived from commercial fishing? _____%
7. If not 100%, which non- commercial fishing activities do you engage in? _____
8. How satisfied are you with your occupation as a commercial fisherman?

 Completely satisfied Mostly satisfied Somewhat satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 Somewhat dissatisfied Mostly dissatisfied Completely dissatisfied
9. Taken all together, how would you say things are these days--would you say that you are?

 Very happy Pretty happy Not too happy

Capital Investments in Vessel, Fishing Gear and Equipment.

10. Do you **own** and **operate** a fishing vessel? Yes No

If No, how would you describe yourself?

- Captain on someone else's boat
- Vessel owner, not operator
- Crew
- Other: _____

11. How many fishing vessels do you own? ____ boats

Boat Number	Working condition (Y/N)	Length (ft.)	Hull type (Fiberglass, Alum, Wood, Steel, etc.)	Number of engines and propulsion rate	Today's market (sale) value of vessel and engines (\$)	Repair and maintenance costs incurred in the last 12 months (\$)
Primary				No: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel: HP (1): <input type="checkbox"/> Gas: HP (2):		
Boat Trailer						

12. What was the average price paid for fuel during the last 12 months? \$ __ . __ __/gallon

13. Do you own the following electronic equipment used for fishing?

- GPS Depth finder Fish finder Radio EPIRB
- Cellular Winch (Electric Hydraulic) Other: _____

Aggregate market value of this electronic equipment (\$): _____

Fishing gear (for USVI only)

14. Please provide the following information about these gears.

Gear and associated fishing equipment	Units owned	Units fished on a typical fishing trip	Today's market (sale) value of fishing gear and associated equipment (\$)	Repair and maintenance costs incurred in the last 12 months (\$)
SCUBA (Tanks, BC, spear, etc.)	Tanks:	Tanks:		
Free diving (Fins, Mask, spear, etc.)				
Fish traps (w/buoys, rope, etc.)				
Lobster traps (w/buoys, rope, etc.)				
Handlines		# lines: hook/line:		
Bandit/Power reels		# lines: hook/line:		
Buoyed Hook & line		# lines: hook/line:		
Surface gillnet				
Seine net				
Cast net				
Longline				

Fishing gear (for Puerto Rico only)

15. Please provide the following information about these gears.

Artes de pesca y equipo asociado	Units owned	Units fished on a typical fishing trip	Today's market (sale) value of fishing gear and associated equipment (\$)	Repair and maintenance costs incurred in the last 12 months (\$)
SCUBA (Tanks, BC, spear, etc.)	Tanks:	Tanks:		
Free diving (Fins, Mask, spear, etc.)				
Fish traps (w/buoys, rope, etc.)				
Lobster traps (w/buoys, rope, etc.)				
Handlines		# lines: hook/line:		
Anchored Bottom line		# lines: hook/line:		
Buoyed Bottom line		# lines: hook/line:		
Horizontal longline				
Rod and reel				
Trolling				
Beach seine				
Gillnet				
Trammel net (lobster, fish)				
Cast net (bait, shrimp)				

Earnings and Variable Costs

16. Please describe the main variable costs incurred during a regular fishing trip

	Most common trip	Second most common trip	Third most common trip
Top 3 revenue generating species	1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____	1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____	1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____
Primary gear used (mixed if 3+) Only enter 2 nd gear if catch > 25%			
Fished in federal waters	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Trip duration (hours)			
Average number of trips per week	_____ trips/week	_____ trips/week	_____ trips/week
Boat fuel and oil cost (\$/trip)	\$: _____ Fuel used (gal) : _____	\$: _____ Fuel used (gal) : _____	\$: _____ Fuel used (gal) : _____
Truck fuel cost (\$/trip)			
Ice cost (\$/trip)			
Bait cost (\$/trip)			
Food and beverage cost (\$/trip)			
Air supply cost (\$/trip)	\$ __ refill X # __ tanks	\$ __ refill X # __ tanks	\$ __ refill X # __ tanks
Other expenses (\$/trip): _____			
Number of crew	Hired captain: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Crew:	Hired captain: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Crew:	Hired captain: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Crew:
Crew costs (exclude owner operator) (\$/trip)	Hired captain (if any): \$ _____ Crew: \$ _____	Hired captain (if any): \$ _____ Crew: \$ _____	Hired captain (if any): \$ _____ Crew: \$ _____
Total Cost (\$/trip)			
Average landings (lbs./trip)			
Range of landings (lbs/trip) -Maximum			
Average price of landings (\$/lbs.)			
Average revenue per trip (\$/trip)			
Average net revenue per trip (\$/trip)			

17. Please describe hired captain and crew remuneration mechanism (e.g., share system, fixed payment):

Fixed Costs

18. Please describe the main fixed costs incurred during a regular fishing trip

	Annual costs (\$/year)	Monthly costs (\$/month)
Boat license		
Trailer license		
Fish cooperative dues		
Mooring/Dockage fees		
Fishing licenses (Federal, HMS, territorial, species permits)		
Insurance payments (vessel, trailer, truck, crew)		
Loans on vessel	Interest rate:	
Loans on trailer	Interest rate:	
Loans on gear and equipment	Interest rate:	
Loans on engines	Interest rate:	
Expenses for professional services (book-keeping, accounting, legal)		
Property taxes (property, vessel all but income ones)		
Office expenses (rent, cell, utilities, supplies)		

Interview ended (time): ____

PERFIL DE LAS FLOTAS DE PEQUENA ESCALA EN EL CARIBE AMERICANO
(Encuesta de Costos e Ingresos –Versión en Español)

Nombre de entrevistador	Fecha	Numero de contactos	Razón por no completar encuesta	Número de encuesta	Nombre del encuestado

Estimamos que, en promedio, se tomara una hora en completar este cuestionario, esto incluye el tiempo repasando las instrucciones, identificando las fuentes de datos existentes, buscando y manteniendo los datos necesarios, y completando y revisando la recolección de la información. Si tiene comentarios acerca de este estimado o cualquier otro aspecto o problema asociado a esta entrevista comuníquese con el Señor Bob Walker, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149. Este informe es requerido y autorizado por 50 CFR 622.5(a)(1)(v). La información considerada será confidencial de acuerdo a la Orden Administrativa 216-100 de la Nacional Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sin embargo, ninguna persona será obligada a responder, ni será penalizada por no hacerlo. NMFS solicita esta información para la conservación y el manejo de los recursos pesqueros marinos. Estos datos se utilizarán para desarrollar un perfil socio-económico de las flotas comerciales.

Todo lo que hablemos será confidencial. Cuando terminemos nuestras entrevistas y otros aspectos de este proyecto, escribiremos un informe en el que resumirá todo lo que hemos aprendido. No utilizaremos nombres de personas en este informe, tampoco escribiremos sobre temas sensitivos. Su participación en esta encuesta es completamente voluntaria y no tiene que contestar ninguna pregunta que no desee contestar. Si usted está de acuerdo con esto, y no tiene dudas, me gustaría comenzar con la entrevista haciéndole algunas preguntas relacionadas a sus prácticas pesqueras.

Información Demográfica
comenzó la entrevista _____

Hora que

1. ¿Cuántos años tiene? _____ años
2. ¿Cuál es su estado civil? Soltero Casado Divorciado Viudo Otro: _____
3. ¿Cuántos miembros familiares dependen económicamente de Usted? _____ (incluyéndolo a Usted)
4. ¿Cuántos años de experiencia como pescador comercial tiene? _____ años

5. ¿Cómo describiría el grado de su participación en la pesca?

- Pesco todo el año, a tiempo completo.
- Pesco todo el año, a tiempo parcial.
- Pesca por temporada, a tiempo completo [ingresos consumo /dieta]
- Pesca por temporada, a tiempo parcial [ingresos consumo /dieta]
- Pesco cuando tengo ganas
- No pesco más

6. ¿Qué porcentaje de sus ingresos de hogar (no personales) provienen de la pesca comercial? _____ %

7. Si no es 100%, a otras actividades no relacionadas con la pesca comercial se dedica?

8. ¿Qué tan satisfecho está con su ocupación de pescador comercial?

- Completamente satisfecho Muy satisfecho Algo satisfecho
- Ni satisfecho ni insatisfecho
- Algo insatisfecho Muy insatisfecho Completamente insatisfecho

9. Tomando todo el conjunto, diría usted que es?

- Muy feliz Bastante feliz No muy feliz Nada feliz

Inversiones de Capital en Embarcaciones, Artes, y Equipos de Pesca

10. ¿Es dueño y operador de la embarcación con la que pesca? SI NO

De ser **NO**, entonces, cuál de éstas opciones lo describen mejor:

- Capitán en la embarcación de otra persona
- Dueño pero no operador de la embarcación
- Proel
- Otro: _____

11. ¿De cuántos barcos de pesca es dueño? _____ barcos

Barco numero	En condición laborable (S/N)	Largo (pies)	Tipo de casco (Fibra de vidrio, Aluminio, Madera,	Numero de motores	Propulsion (HP) of engines	Gastos de reparación y mantenimiento incurridos en los últimos 12 meses (\$)	El valor de mercado (si se venden hoy) del

			Hierro, etc.)				barco y los motores (\$)
Primario				Diesel: Gasolina:	<input type="checkbox"/> HP (1): <input type="checkbox"/> HP (2):		
Trailer							

12. ¿Cuál fue el precio promedio que pago por combustible en los pasados 12 meses? \$ ____ .____
____/galón

13. ¿Es dueño de los equipos eléctricos siguientes utilizados para la pesca?

- GPS Depth finder Fish finder Radio
 EPIRB
 Celular Winch/Guinche (Electric Hydraulic) Other: _____
 Valor de mercado total de estos equipos electronicos de pesca (\$): _____?

Artes de pesca (Islas Vírgenes Americanas solamente)

14. ¿Por favor provea la siguiente información sobre estas artes?

Artes de pesca y equipo asociado	Unidades	Unidades usadas por viaje	Valor de mercado (re-venta) de las artes y equipo asociado (\$)	Costo de reparación y manteniendo incurrido en los últimos 12 meses (\$)
SCUBA (Tanque, BC, arpón, etc.)	Tanques:	Tanques:		
A Pulmón/skin (Tanque, arpón, etc.)				
Nasas (con boyas, sogas etc.)				
Cajones (con boyas, sogas etc.)				
Cordel de mano		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Cala eléctrica/ Palangre vertical (potala)		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Cala/ Palangre vertical (de galonear)		#líneas: # anz./línea:		
Palangre		#líneas: # anz./línea:		
Trasmallo de superficie				
Chinchorro				
Atrarraya				

Artes de pesca (Puerto Rico solamente)

15. ¿Por favor provea la siguiente información sobre estas artes?

Artes de pesca y equipo asociado	Unidades	Unidades usadas por viaje	Valor de mercado (re-venta) de las artes y equipo asociado (\$)	Costo de reparación y manteniendo incurrido en los últimos 12 meses (\$)
----------------------------------	----------	---------------------------	---	--

SCUBA (Tanque, BC, arpón, etc.)	Tanques:	Tanques:		
A Pulmón/skin (Tanque, arpón, etc.)				
Nasas (con boyas, sogas etc.)				
Cajones (con boyas, sogas etc.)				
Cordel de mano		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Cala/ Palangre vertical (potala)		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Cala/ Palangre vertical (de galonear)		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Palangre horizontal		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Cana		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Silga		# líneas: # anz./línea:		
Chinchorro				
Trasmallo				
Mallorquín (langosta, peces)				
Atarraya (carnada, camarón)				

Ingresos y Costos Variables

16. ¿Por favor, describa los ingresos adquiridos y costos variables incurridos durante un viaje típico?

	Viaje más frecuente	2do viaje más frecuente	3er viaje más frecuente
Principales 3 especies más remuneradas	1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____	1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____	1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____
Arte primario (mixto si hay 3+) Solo entrar 2 nd arte si capturas > 25%			
Pesca en aguas federales	Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Duración del viaje (horas)			
Numero promedio de viajes por semana	_____ viajes/semana	_____ viajes/semana	_____ viajes/semana
Costo de combustible y aceite (\$/viaje)	\$: _____ Combustible (gal) : _____	\$: _____ Combustible (gal) : _____	\$: _____ Combustible (gal) : _____
Costo de combustible para trailer (\$/viaje)			
Costo de hielo (\$/viaje)			

Costo de carnada (\$/viaje)			
Costo de rancho/comestibles (\$/viaje)			
Costo de aire de tanque (\$/viaje)	\$ __ recambio X # __ tanques	\$ __ recambio X # __ tanques	\$ __ recambio X # __ tanques
Otros gastos (\$/viaje): _____			
Numero de proeles/ayudantes	Capitán contratado: Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Proeles:	Capitán contratado: Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Proeles:	Capitán contratado: Si <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Proeles:
Costos de proeles (excluya dueño-operador) (\$/viaje)	Capitán contratado: (si hay): \$ _____ Proeles:\$ _____	Capitán contratado: (si hay): \$ _____ Proeles:\$ _____	Capitán contratado: (si hay): \$ _____ Proeles:\$ _____
Costo total (\$/viaje)			
Promedio capturas (libras/viaje)			
Rango capturas (libras/viaje) Máximo			
Precio promedio de capturas (\$/libras)			
Ingreso promedio (\$/viaje)			
Ingreso neto promedio (\$/viaje)			

17. ¿Por favor, describa como remunera a sus proeles y capitán contratado (p. ej., a la parte, pago fijo)?

Costos fijos

18. ¿Por favor, describa sus costos fijos incurridos durante el año?

	Costos anuales (\$/año)	Costos mensuales (\$/mes)
Licencia de la embarcación		
Licencia del trailer		
Cuotas de asociación/cooperativa pesquera		
Gastos de muelle/atracadero		
Gastos en licencias y permisos federales y territoriales		
Gastos de seguro (barco, trailer, truck, proeles)		
Préstamos para la embarcación	Tasa de interés:	
Préstamos para el trailer		

	Tasa de interés:	
Préstamos para artes y equipos	Tasa de interés:	
Préstamos para motores	Tasa de interés:	
Gastos para servicios profesionales (contador, abogado)		
Impuestos (propiedad, barco pero no de ingresos personales)		
Gastos de oficina (alquiler, celular, servicios, etc.)		

Interview ended (time): ____

Regulatory Perceptions Survey Instrument

PROFILE OF SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE U.S. CARIBBEAN (Regulatory Perceptions Survey Instrument –English Version)

Interviewer Name	Date	No. Contacts	Refusal reason	Survey #	Respondent's Name

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per response including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching the existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this burden to Bob Walker, National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149. This reporting is required under and is authorized under 50 CFR 622.5(a) (1) (v). NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 states that the information provided shall be treated as confidential. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The NMFS requires this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. These data will be used to improve our understanding about the performance of area and season closures.

Everything we talk about will be confidential. When we finish our interviews and other work, we will write a report that summarizes everything we have learned. We will not use people's names in our reports, or write about anything that is sensitive. Participation in this survey is voluntary, and you do not need to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. If you agree that sounds okay and if you do not have any questions, I would like to start by asking you a few basic questions about you and your perceptions about the efficacy of area and season closures in your region.

Demographic Information

Interview started _____

1. How old are you? _____ years
2. What is your marital status? Single Married Divorced Widow Other: _____
3. How many family members do you support? _____ (including yourself)
4. How many years of commercial fishing experience do you have? _____ years
5. How would you describe your participation in the fishery?
 - Fish year-round, on full-time basis
 - Fish year-round, on part-time basis [Subsistence/food additional income]
 - Fish on a seasonal basis, on full-time basis [Subsistence/food additional income]
 - Fish on a seasonal basis, on part-time basis [Subsistence/food additional income]
 - Fish when feel like it.
 - No longer fish
6. What percentage of your household income (not personal income) is derived from commercial fishing? _____%
7. If not 100%, which non- commercial fishing activities do you engage in? _____
8. How satisfied are you with your occupation as a commercial fisherman?
 - Completely satisfied Mostly satisfied somewhat satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 - Somewhat dissatisfied Mostly dissatisfied completely dissatisfied
9. Taken all together, how would you say things are these days--would you say that you are?
 - Very happy Pretty happy Not too happy Not happy

Perceptions about the Efficacy of Federal Area Closures (U.S. Virgin Islands only)

10. Now, please tell us about the performance of the following federal closed areas?

Closed Areas in Federal Jurisdiction	Have you fished here? (Y/N)	Please state whether you disagree or agree with the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5 (1=strongly disagree; 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree, NK=don't know, NA=no answer)								In general, is there good compliance with the regulations within the area closure? (Y/N)	In general, has the area closure been effective? (Y/N)
		Protects Spawning Aggregations	Increases reef fish abundance <u>within</u> the closed area	Increases reef fish abundance <u>outside</u> the closed area	Protects fish sensitive habitats (e.g., nursery areas)	Restores or maintains habitat quality (e.g., mangroves, coral reefs, sea-grasses)	Adversely impacts my ability to support myself and family	Creates social or economic hardships on fishing dependent communities	Maintains or enhances employment and investment opportunities (e.g., charter, diver operators)		
Mutton Snapper spag area (St. Croix) March 1- June 30			Species:	Species:							
Lang Bank Red Hind spag area (St. Croix) Dec 1- Feb 28			Species:	Species:							
Grammanik Bank (St. Thomas) Feb 1- April 30			Species:	Species:							

Perceptions about the Efficacy of Territorial Area Closures (U.S. Virgin Islands only)

12. Now, please tell us about the performance of the following territorial area closures?

Closed Areas in Territorial Jurisdiction	Have you fished here? (Y/N)	Please state whether you disagree or agree with the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5 (1=strongly disagree; 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree, NK=don't know, NA=no answer)								In general, is there good compliance with the regulations within the area closure? (Y/N)	In general, has the area closure been effective? (Y/N)
		Protects Spawning Aggregations	Increases reef fish abundance w ithin the closed area	Increases reef fish abundance o utside the closed area	Protects fish sensitive habitats (e.g., nursery areas)	Restores or maintains habitat quality (e.g., mangroves, coral reefs, sea-grasses)	Adversely impacts my ability to support myself and family	Creates social or economic hardships on fishing dependent communities	Maintains or enhances employment and investment opportunities (e.g., charter, diver operators)		
Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (St. Thomas)			Species:	Species:							
Buck Island Reef National Monument (St. Croix)			Species:	Species:							
East End Marine Park (St. Croix)			Species:	Species:							
VI National Park (St. John)			Species:	Species:							
VI Coral Reef National Monument (St. John)			Species:	Species:							

Perceptions about the Efficacy of Federal Area Closures (Puerto Rico only)

13. Now, please tell us about your views about the performance of the following federal closed areas?

Closed Areas in Federal Jurisdiction	Have you fished here? (Y/N)	Please state whether you disagree or agree with the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5 (1=strongly disagree; 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree, NK=don't know, NA=no answer)								In general, is there good compliance with the regulations within the area closure? (Y/N)	In general, has the area closure been effective? (Y/N)
		Protects Spawning Aggregations	Increases reef fish abundance <u>wi</u> <u>hin</u> the closed area	Increases reef fish abundance <u>o</u> <u>utside</u> the closed area	Protects fish sensitive habitats (e.g., nursery areas)	Restores or maintains habitat quality (e.g., mangroves, coral reefs, sea-grasses)	Adversely impacts my ability to support myself and family	Creates social or economic hardships on fishing dependent communities	Maintains or enhances employment and investment opportunities (e.g., charter, diver operators)		
Tourmaline (Boya 8)			Species:	Species:							
Bajo de Sico			Species:	Species:							
Abrir la Sierra (Boya 6)			Species:	Species:							

Perceptions about the Efficacy of Commonwealth Area Closures (Puerto Rico only)

15. Now, please tell us about the performance of the following territorial closed areas?

Closed Areas in Federal Jurisdiction	Have you fished here? (Y/N)	Please state whether you disagree or agree with the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5 (1=strongly disagree; 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree, NK=don't know, NA=no answer)								In general, is there good compliance with the regulations within the area closure? (Y/N) (Y/N)	In general, has the area closure been effective? (Y/N)
		Protects Spawning Aggregations	Increases reef fish abundance <u>with</u> <u>in</u> the closed area	Increases reef fish abundance <u>o</u> <u>utside</u> the closed area	Protects fish sensitive habitats (e.g., nursery areas)	Restores or maintains habitat quality (e.g., mangroves, coral reefs, sea-grasses)	Adversely impacts my ability to support myself and family	Creates social or economic hardships on fishing dependent communities	Maintains or enhances employment and investment opportunities (e.g., charter, diver operators)		
Reserva Natural Canal de Luis Peña (Culebra)			Species:	Species:							
Isla de Mona y Monito			Species:	Species:							
Isla de Desecheo			Species:	Species:							
Tres Palmas (Ricon)			Species:	Species:							
Isla Caja de Muertos			Species:	Species:							
Laguna de Condado			Species:	Species:							

16. Taken all together, how effective would you say the seasonal closures have been?

- Mostly effective Somewhat effective Had no effect Mostly ineffective

17. What recommendations would you like to offer to improve the efficacy of the seasonal closures?

18. Taken all together, how effective would you say the area closures have been?

- Mostly effective Somewhat effective Had no effect Mostly ineffective

19. What recommendations would you like to offer to improve the efficacy of the area closures?

Interview ended (time): ____

PERFIL DE LAS FLOTAS DE PEQUENA ESCALA EN EL CARIBE AMERICANO

(Encuesta de Percepciones de la Eficacia de las Regulaciones –Versión en Español)

Nombre de entrevistador	Fecha	Numero de contactos	Razón por no completar encuesta	Número de encuesta	Nombre del encuestado

Estimamos que en promedio se tomara una hora en completar este cuestionario, esto incluye el tiempo repasando las instrucciones, identificando las fuentes de datos existentes, buscando y manteniendo los datos necesarios, y completando y revisando la recolección de la información. Si tiene comentarios acerca de este estimado o cualquier otro aspecto o problema asociado a esta entrevista comuníquese con el Señor Bob Walker, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149. Este informe es requerido y autorizado por 50 CFR 622.5(a)(1)(v). La información considerada será confidencial de acuerdo a la Orden Administrativa 216-100 de la Nacional Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sin embargo, ninguna persona será obligada a responder, ni será penalizada por no hacerlo. NMFS solicita esta información para la conservación y el manejo de los recursos pesqueros marinos. Estos datos se utilizarán para mejorar nuestro conocimiento sobre la eficacia de las áreas de cierre y vedas.

Estamos haciendo un estudio socio-económico de la pesca en el Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, con atención a las operaciones pesqueras que usan cordeles, redes (trasmallos, mallorquines) y pesca submarina (SCUBA). El propósito es conocer cuáles son las características económicas de estos tipos de pesca, como funcionan y conocer cómo se afectarías con las reglamentaciones pesqueras del Estado Libre Asociado y las del Gobierno Federal. El Servicio Nacional de Pesquerías Marinas (NMFS) necesita ésta información para conservar y manejar apropiadamente los recursos marinos pesqueros.

Todo lo que hablemos será confidencial. Cuando terminemos nuestras entrevistas y otros aspectos de este proyecto, escribiremos un informe en el que resumirá todo lo que hemos aprendido. No utilizaremos nombres de personas en este informe, tampoco escribiremos sobre temas sensitivos. Su participación en esta encuesta es completamente voluntaria y no tiene que contestar ninguna pregunta que no desee contestar. Si usted está de acuerdo con esto, y no tiene dudas, me gustaría comenzar con la entrevista haciéndole algunas preguntas relacionadas a la eficacia de las áreas de cierre y vedas en su región.

Información Demográfica

Hora que comenzó la entrevista _____

1. ¿Cuántos años tiene? _____ años
2. ¿Cuál es su estado civil? Soltero Casado Divorciado Viudo Otro: _____
3. ¿Cuántos miembros familiares dependen económicamente de Usted? _____ (incluyéndolo a Usted)
4. ¿Cuántos años de experiencia como pescador comercial tiene? _____ años
5. ¿Cómo describiría el grado de su participación en la pesca?
 Pesco todo el año, a tiempo completo.
 Pesco todo el año, a tiempo parcial.
 Pesca por temporada, a tiempo completo [ingresos consumo /dieta]
 Pesca por temporada, a tiempo parcial [ingresos consumo /dieta]
 Pesco cuando tengo ganas
 No pesco más
6. ¿Qué porcentaje de sus ingresos de hogar (no personales) provienen de la pesca comercial? _____ %
7. Si no es 100%, a otras actividades no relacionadas con la pesca comercial se dedica? _____
8. ¿Qué tan satisfecho está con su ocupación de pescador comercial?
 Completamente satisfecho Muy satisfecho Algo satisfecho Ni satisfecho ni insatisfecho
 Algo insatisfecho Muy insatisfecho Completamente insatisfecho
9. Tomando todo el conjunto, diría usted que es?
 Muy feliz Bastante feliz No muy feliz Nada feliz

Percepciones sobre la Eficacia de las Áreas de Cierre Federales (Islas Vírgenes Americanas solamente)

10. ¿Ahora nos gustaría saber cómo siente sobre desempeño de las siguientes áreas de cierre **federales**?

Áreas de Cierre en Jurisdicción Federal	¿Ha pescado en estas áreas? (S/N)	Usted, ¿está de acuerdo o en desacuerdo con las siguientes afirmaciones sobre áreas de cierre, o diría que no sabe? (Escala: 1= totalmente de desacuerdo; 2= ddesacuerdo, 3=Indiferente/Neutral, 4= De acuerdo 5=Muy de acuerdo; NS=No sé; NC=No contesta)								En general, hay buen cumplimiento con los reglamentos en esta área de cierre? (S/N)	En general, esta área de cierre ha sido eficaz? (S/N)
		Protege agregaciones de desove (spawning aggregations)	Aumenta la abundancia de peces de arrecife adentro del área de cierre.	Aumenta la abundancia de peces de arrecife en áreas pesqueras adyacentes al área de cierre	Protege especies explotadas en áreas vulnerables (p.ej. áreas de vivero)	Restaura o mantiene la calidad del hábitat (p.ej. arrecifes de coral, mangles)	Crea problemas para mantener a mi familia y a mí.	Crea problemas sociales o económicos en las comunidades que dependen de la pesca.	Mantiene y/o aumenta las oportunidades de empleo e inversión (p.ej. charters, operadores de buceo)		
Cierre de area desove de Sama/Mutton Snapper spag area (St. Croix) March 1- June 30			Especies:	Especies:							
Cierre de Mero pinto (Cabrilla) Lang Bank Red Hind spag area (St. Croix) Dec 1- Feb 28			Especies:	Especies:							
Grammanik Bank (St. Thomas) Feb 1- April 30			Especies:	Especies:							

Percepciones sobre la Eficacia de las Áreas de Cierre Federales (Puerto Rico solamente)

13. ¿Ahora nos gustaría saber cómo siente sobre desempeño de las siguientes áreas de cierre federales?

Áreas de Cierre en Jurisdicción Federal	¿Ha pescado en esta área? (S/N)	Usted, ¿está de acuerdo o en desacuerdo con las siguientes afirmaciones sobre áreas de cierre, o diría que no sabe? (Escala: 1= totalmente de desacuerdo; 2= en desacuerdo, 3=Indiferente/Neutral, 4= De acuerdo 5=Muy de acuerdo; NS=No sé; NC=No contesta)								¿En general, hay buen cumplimiento con los reglamentos en esta área de cierre? (S/N)	¿En general, esta área de cierre ha sido eficaz? (S/N)
		Protege agregaciones de desove (spawning aggregations)	Aumenta la abundancia de peces de arrecife adentro del área de cierre.	Aumenta la abundancia de peces de arrecife en áreas pesqueras adyacentes al área de cierre	Protege especies explotadas en áreas vulnerables (p.ej. áreas de vivero)	Restaura o mantiene la calidad del hábitat (p.ej. arrecifes de coral, mangles)	Crea problemas para mantener a mi familia y a mí.	Crea problemas sociales o económicos en las comunidades que dependen de la pesca.	Mantiene y/o aumenta las oportunidades de empleo e inversión (p.ej. charters, operadores de buceo)		
Tourmaline (Boya 8)			Especies:	Especies:							
Bajo de Sico			Especies:	Especies:							
Abrir la Sierra (Boya 6)			Especies:	Especies:							

Percepciones sobre la Eficacia de las Áreas de Cierre Territoriales (Puerto Rico solamente)

15. ¿Ahora nos gustaría saber cómo siente sobre desempeño de las siguientes áreas de cierre federales?

Áreas de Cierre en Jurisdicción Federal	¿Ha pescado en estas áreas? (S/N)	Usted, ¿está de acuerdo o en desacuerdo con las siguientes afirmaciones sobre áreas de cierre, o diría que no sabe? (Escala: 1= totalmente de desacuerdo; 2= en desacuerdo, 3=Indiferente/Neutral, 4= De acuerdo 5=Muy de acuerdo; NS=No sé; NC=No contesta)								En general, hay buen cumplimiento o con los reglamentos en esta área de cierre? (S/N)	En general, esta área de cierre ha sido eficaz? (S/N)
		Protege agregaciones de desove (spawning aggregations)	Aumenta la abundancia de peces de arrecife adentro del área de cierre.	Aumenta la abundancia de peces de arrecife en áreas pesqueras adyacentes al área de cierre	Protege especies explotadas en áreas vulnerables (p.ej. áreas de vivero)	Restaura o mantiene la calidad del hábitat (p.ej. arrecifes de coral, mangles)	Crea problemas para mantener a mi familia y a mí.	Crea problemas sociales o económicos en las comunidades que dependen de la pesca.	Mantiene y/o aumenta las oportunidades de empleo e inversión (p.ej. charters, operadores de buceo)		
Reserva Natural Canal de Luis Peña (Culebra)			Especies:	Especies:							
Isla de Mona y Monito			Especies:	Especies:							
Isla de Desecheo			Especies:	Especies:							
Tres Palmas (Ricon)			Especies:	Especies:							
Isla Caja de Muertos			Especies:	Especies:							
Laguna de Condado			Especies:	Especies:							

16. ¿Tomado en conjunto, que tan efectivas han sido las vedas? Dirías que han sido

- Muy eficaces Algo eficaces No han tenido efecto Muy ineficaces

17. ¿Qué recomendaciones le gustaría ofrecer para mejorar la eficacia de las vedas?

18. ¿Tomado en conjunto, que tan efectivas han sido las áreas de cierre? Dirías que han sido

- Muy eficaces Algo eficaces No han tenido efecto Muy ineficaces

19. ¿Qué recomendaciones le gustaría ofrecer para mejorar la eficacia de las áreas de cierre?

Interview ended (time): ____

established records of distinguished professional service, and their knowledge of issues affecting teams established under the NCST Act. The Committee will advise the Director of NIST on carrying out studies of building failures conducted under the authorities of the NCST Act and will review the procedures developed to implement the NCST Act and reports issued under section 8 of the NCST Act (15 U.S.C. 7307). Background information on the NCST Act and information on the NCST Advisory Committee is available at <http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst/>.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App., notice is hereby given that the NCST Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, December 10, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. The meeting will be open to the public.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to update the Committee on the status of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Disaster and Failure Studies Program, receive NIST's response to the Committee's 2011 annual report recommendations, update the Committee on the progress of the NIST Technical Investigation of the May 22, 2011 Tornado in Joplin, MO, and gather information for the Committee's 2012 Annual Report to Congress. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst/>.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to items on the Committee's agenda for this meeting are invited to request a place on the agenda. Approximately fifteen minutes will be reserved for public comments, and speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received, but is likely to be 5 minutes each. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, and those who were unable to attend in person are invited to submit written statements to the National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 8600, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8600, via fax at (301) 975-4032, or electronically by email to ncstac@nist.gov.

All those wishing to speak must submit their request by email to the

attention of Mr. Eric Letvin, eric.letvin@nist.gov by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, December 3, 2012.

All visitors to the NIST site are required to pre-register to be admitted. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting must register by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, December 3, 2012, in order to attend. Please submit your full name, email address, and phone number to Michelle Harman. Non-U.S. citizens must also submit their country of citizenship, title, and employer/sponsor. Mrs. Harman's email address is michelle.harman@nist.gov, and her phone number is (301) 975-5324.

Dated: November 7, 2012.

Willie E. May,

Associate Director for Laboratory Programs.

[FR Doc. 2012-27689 Filed 11-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Socio-Economic Profile of Small-Scale Commercial Fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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 January 14, 2013.

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 Dr. Juan J. Agar, (305) 361-4218 or Juan.Agar@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to collect socio-

economic data about small scale fishermen and seafood dealers operating in the U.S. Caribbean. The survey intends to collect information on demographics, fishing practices, costs and earnings (revenues, variable and fixed costs), market and distribution channels, capital investment, attitudes and perceptions about the performance management actions and the health of local fisheries, including the impact of invasive species. The data gathered will be used to describe U.S. Caribbean fisheries, assess socio-economic performance of small-scale fleets, and evaluate the socio-economic impacts of Federal regulatory actions. In addition, the information will be used to strengthen and improve fishery management decision-making, satisfy legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, and other pertinent statutes.

II. Method of Collection

The socio-economic information sought will be collected via in-person, telephone and mail surveys.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (request for a new information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hr.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 2,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$ 0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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: November 8, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-27707 Filed 11-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Fisheries of the Caribbean; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of cancellation for SEDAR Review Workshop for Caribbean blue tang and queen triggerfish.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR assessments of the Caribbean stocks of blue tang and queen triggerfish will no longer have an in-person Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

DATES: The Review Workshop originally scheduled for February 4-7, 2013 has been cancelled. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original notice published in the **Federal Register** on May 7, 2012 (77 FR 26746).

The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR includes three workshops: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Stock Assessment Workshop; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Stock Assessment Workshop is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the

Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Consensus Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

February 4-7, 2013; SEDAR 30 Review Workshop—CANCELLED

The in-person Review Workshop, scheduled for 4-7 February 2013 to review the 2012 assessments of blue tang and queen triggerfish, has been cancelled. At the Assessment workshop, held October 16-17, 2012 in Miami, FL, the Assessment Panel decided not to move forward with the blue tang assessment due to data issues and determined that little could be accomplished for queen triggerfish beyond what had been completed to date.

Given the reduced scope of assessment products in need of review, the in-person workshop is being cancelled in favor of a Desk Review. The Desk Review would still utilize Center for Independent Experts (CIE) Reviewers. The Reviewers would be provided the assessment reports of each species, review them according to the Terms of Reference (TOR), and provide an individual independent review report. Those reports would be made available to the analysts, as well as to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), for their review and discussion before the SSC makes any management recommendations. The timing of the Desk Review would be similar to the timing already in place for the project, with the plan to have the material imparted to the SSC by early March 2013.

All other previously-published information remains unchanged.

Dated: November 8, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-27682 Filed 11-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (Committee) in Santa Cruz, California.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, December 5, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Thursday, December 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Refer to the web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hotel Paradox, 611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA, 95060.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kara Yeager, Designated Federal Officer, MPA FAC, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-713-7242, Fax: 301-713-3110); email: kara.yeager@noaa.gov; or visit the National MPA Center Web site at <http://www.mpa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee, composed of external, knowledgeable representatives of stakeholder groups, was established by the Department of Commerce (DOC) to provide advice to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior on implementation of Section 4 of Executive Order 13158, which calls for the development of a National System of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The National System aims to strengthen existing MPAs and MPA programs through national and regional coordination, capacity building, science and analysis. The meeting is open to the public, and public comment will be accepted from 4:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. In general, each individual or group will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. If members of the public wish to submit written statements, they should be submitted to the Designated Federal Official by November 30, 2012.

Matters to be Considered: The focus of the Committee's meeting will be the development of workplans by the Subcommittees (Jobs, Recreation and