

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection or recordkeeping requirements contained in the Federal-State Research on Cooperatives Program, as found in 7 CFR Part 4285.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before May 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20080-3252, telephone (202) 690-0368. (This is not a toll free number.) E-mail:

tstaff@rurdev.usda.gov. The Federal Information Relay service on 1-800-877-8339 may be used by TDD users.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal-State Research on Cooperatives Program.

OMB Number: 0570-0005.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to extend the currently approved information collection and record keeping requirements.

Abstract: The Federal-State Research on Cooperatives (FSROC) Program, is authorized under Section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*). The FSROC Program is a matching fund program designed to assist State Department of Agriculture and State Agricultural Experiment Stations in conducting research related to cooperatives. The program is not currently funded, but existing agreements are in place and future funding is anticipated.

The FSROC Program is conducted using cooperative agreements which include a need for reporting information on the project proposals. In addition, the accepted proposals are required to keep financial records of the project funds and to make program and financial progress reports on a quarterly basis.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection information is estimated to average 3.48 hours per response with a variation of from 10 minutes to 36 hours.

Respondents: State departments of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and other related State agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 14.25.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1712 Hours.

Copies of this information collection and record keeping can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 720-9588.

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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, Washington, DC 20250-0743. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 21, 1997.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 97-7997 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

Business Development Center Applications: Chicago I and Chicago II

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

ACTION: Cancellation.

SUMMARY: The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is cancelling the announcement to solicit competitive applications under its Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) Program to operate the Chicago I and Chicago II MBDCs. This solicitation was originally published in

the **Federal Register**, Tuesday, June 18, 1996, Vol. 61, No. 118, page 30856.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, 11.800 Minority Business Development Center)

Dated: March 25, 1997.

Frances B. Douglas,

Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.

[FR Doc. 97-8022 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-M

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program Evaluation Survey

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. Phone number: (202) 482-3272.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to: Elizabeth Bury, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Building 301, Room C-100, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; phone: (301) 975-3944, and fax: (301) 926-3787.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

This submission under the Paperwork Reduction Act represents a request for extension of a currently approved collection by the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. The information collection activity referenced is being conducted in partnership with the Department's Bureau of the Census.

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a nationwide

system of services and support for smaller manufacturers giving them unprecedented access to new technologies, resources, and expertise. Sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the MEP is comprised of a network of locally based manufacturing extension centers working with small manufacturers to help them improve their manufacturing competitiveness.

Obtaining specific information from clients about the impact of MEP services is essential for the National Institute of Standards and Technology officials to evaluate program strengths and weaknesses and plan improvements in program effectiveness and efficiency. This information is not available from existing programs or other sources.

II. Method of Collection

The survey will be administered using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) technology.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0693-0021.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Renewal of an existing collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8,460.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,410.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Cost: There is no cost to respondents other than their time to respond to the survey.

IV. Requests 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 will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 25, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-7980 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032197B]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Socioeconomic Assessment Panel (SEP). **DATES:** The meeting will be held beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 1997 and will conclude on Friday, April 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Radisson Bay Harbor Inn, 7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL; telephone: 813-281-8900.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301, North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Antonio B. Lamberte, Economist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to review available social and economic data on the Gulf migratory group of king and Spanish mackerels and to determine the social and economic implications of the levels of acceptable biological catches recommended by the Council's Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel. The SEP may recommend to the Council total allowable catch levels for the 1997-1998 fishing year.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by April 16, 1997.

Dated: March 24, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-8061 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 032497B]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will hold its 92nd meeting.

DATES: The meetings will be held on April 21-25, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai and Pakalana/Anthurium Rooms, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 855-4811.

Council address: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1405, Honolulu, HI 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A meeting of the full Advisory Panel (AP) will be held on Monday, April 21, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Tuesday, April 22, 1997, the Pacific Insular Area Fishing Agreement (PIAFA) Working Group will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and the Fishery Data Collection Committee will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Council's Standing Committees will meet on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Council's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Committee will meet concurrently with the Enforcement Standing Committee. The full Council will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 1997, and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 1997.

The Council will discuss and may take action on the following agenda items:

1. Report on the AP meeting and recommendations to the Council.
2. Reports from the islands.
3. Reports on enforcement issues, including:
 - (a) U.S. Coast Guard report,
 - (b) NMFS activities and VMS update,
 - (c) VMS Data Request for research, and
 - (d) status of violations.
4. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requirements for Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendments, including:
 - (a) consistency of definitions;
 - (b) bycatch;
 - (c) fishing sectors (commercial, recreational, charter);