

collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This final rule contains the collection-of-information requirements subject to review and approval by OMB under the PRA. These requirements have been approved by OMB under OMB control number 0648–0205 for notification prior to a fishing trip and OMB control number 0648–0358 for vessel identification requirements. The public reporting burden is estimated to be 45 minutes per vessel for vessel identification requirements and 5 minutes for notification prior to a trip, per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding these burden estimates, or any other aspects of the collections of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to NMFS and OMB (see ADDRESSES).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 622

Fisheries, Fishing, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Virgin Islands.

Dated: September 29, 2003.

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■ For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is amended as follows:

PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

■ 1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 2. In § 622.1, table 1, the following entry is added in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 622.1 Purpose and scope.

* * * * *

TABLE 1.—FMPs IMPLEMENTED UNDER PART 622

FMP title	Responsible fishery management council(s)	Geographical area
* * *	* * *	* * *
FMP for Pelagic Sargassum Habitat of the South Atlantic Region.	SAFMC	South Atlantic

TABLE 1.—FMPs IMPLEMENTED UNDER PART 622—Continued

FMP title	Responsible fishery management council(s)	Geographical area
* * *	* * *	* * *

■ 3. In § 622.2, the definition of “Pelagic sargassum” is added in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 622.2 Definitions and acronyms.

* * * * *

Pelagic sargassum means the species *Sargassum natans* or *S. fluitans*, or a part thereof.

* * * * *

■ 4. In § 622.6, paragraph (a)(1)(i) introductory text is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.6 Vessel and gear identification.

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) *Official number.* A vessel for which a permit has been issued under § 622.4, and a vessel that fishes for or possesses *pelagic sargassum* in the South Atlantic EEZ, must display its official number—

* * * * *

■ 5. In § 622.8, paragraphs (a), (b) introductory text, and (c) introductory text are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.8 At-sea observer coverage.

(a) *Required coverage*—(1) *Pelagic sargassum.* A vessel that harvests or possesses pelagic sargassum on any trip in the South Atlantic EEZ must carry a NMFS-approved observer.

(2) *Golden crab.* A vessel for which a Federal commercial permit for golden crab has been issued must carry a NMFS-approved observer, if the vessel's trip is selected by the SRD for observer coverage.

(b) *Notification to the SRD.* When observer coverage is required, an owner or operator must advise the SRD in writing not less than 5 days in advance of each trip of the following:

* * * * *

(c) *Observer accommodations and access.* An owner or operator of a vessel on which a NMFS-approved observer is embarked must:

* * * * *

■ 6. In § 622.35, paragraph (g) is added to read as follows:

§ 622.35 South Atlantic EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

* * * * *

(g) *Pelagic sargassum area and seasonal restrictions*—(1) *Area*

limitations. (i) No person may harvest pelagic sargassum in the South Atlantic EEZ between 36°34'55 " N. lat. (directly east from the Virginia/North Carolina boundary) and 34° N. lat., within 100 nautical miles east of the North Carolina coast.

(ii) No person may harvest or possess pelagic sargassum in or from the South Atlantic EEZ south of 34° N. lat.

(2) *Seasonal limitation.* No person may harvest or possess pelagic sargassum in or from the South Atlantic EEZ during the months of July through October. This prohibition on possession does not apply to pelagic sargassum that was harvested and landed ashore prior to the closed period.

■ 7. In § 622.41, paragraph (k) is added to read as follows:

§ 622.41 Species specific limitations.

* * * * *

(k) *Pelagic sargassum.* The minimum allowable mesh size for a net used to fish for pelagic sargassum in the South Atlantic EEZ is 4.0 inches (10.2 cm), stretched mesh, and such net must be attached to a frame no larger than 4 ft by 6 ft (1.2 m by 1.8 m). A vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ with a net on board that does not meet these requirements may not possess any pelagic sargassum.

■ 8. In § 622.42, paragraph (g) is added to read as follows:

§ 622.42 Quotas.

* * * * *

(g) *Pelagic sargassum.* The quota for all persons who harvest pelagic sargassum in the South Atlantic EEZ is 5,000 lb (2,268 kg), wet, landed weight. See § 622.35(g)(1) for area limitations on the harvest of pelagic sargassum.

■ 9. In § 622.43, paragraph (a)(7) is added and paragraph (b)(2) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.43 Closures.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(7) *Pelagic sargassum.* Pelagic sargassum may not be fished for or possessed in the South Atlantic EEZ and the sale or purchase of pelagic sargassum in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is prohibited.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) The prohibition on sale/purchase during a closure for allowable octocoral in paragraph (a)(2) of this section or for pelagic sargassum in paragraph (a)(7) of this section does not apply to allowable octocoral or pelagic sargassum that was