

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved this information collection under OMB control number 0648-0376. NMFS estimates that the public reporting burden for this information collection will average 4 hours for bidding and 4 hours for voting in a referendum. Persons affected by this final rule will also be subject to other collection-of-information requirements referred to in the rule and also approved under OMB control number 0648-0376. These requirements and their associated response times are: completing and filing a fish ticket (10 minutes), submitting monthly fish buyer reports (2 hours), submitting annual fish buyer reports (4 hours), and fish buyer/fish seller reports when a person fails either to pay or to collect the loan repayment fee (2 hours).

This final rule also contains a new collection-of-information requirement that OMB has approved under the same OMB control number. The provision allows the public 30 days to advise us of any license or permit holder or vessel owner claims that conflict with accepted bidders' representations about holding, owning, or retaining any of the crab or non-crab reduction permits, the reduction/privilege and reduction/history vessels, or the crab or non-crab reduction fishing histories. Responses are voluntary, but NMFS estimates the public reporting burden for this collection of information will be 1 hour per response.

These response estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. Interested persons may send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspect of this data collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to both NMFS and OMB (see **ADDRESSES**).

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, and no person is subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, an information collection subject to the PRA requirements unless that information collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This action will not result in any adverse effects on endangered species or marine mammals.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 600

Fisheries, Fishing capacity reduction, Fishing permits, Fishing vessels, Intergovernmental relations, Loan programs -business, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 8, 2003.

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Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

■ For the reasons in the preamble, the National Marine Fisheries Service amends 50 CFR part 600 as follows:

PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT PROVISIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 600 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 561, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 1861a(b) through (e), 46 App. U.S.C. 1279f and 1279g, section 144(d) of Division B of Pub. L. 106-554, section 2201 of Pub. L. 107-20, and section 205 of Pub. L. 107-117.

■ 2. Section 600.1018 is added to Subpart L to read as follows:

§ 600.1018 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab species program.

(a) *Purpose.* This section's purpose is to implement the program that Section 144(d) of Division B of Pub. L. 106-554, as amended by section 2201 of Pub. L. 107-20 and section 205 of Pub. L. 107-117, enacted for BSAI crab species.

(b) *Terms.* Unless otherwise defined in this section, the terms defined in § 600.1000 expressly apply to the program for BSAI crab. Likewise, the terms defined in § 679.2 of this chapter also apply to terms not otherwise defined in either § 600.1000 or this section. The following terms used in this section have the following meanings for the purpose of this section:

Acceptance means NMFS' acceptance, on behalf of the United States, of a bid.

Bid means a bidder's irrevocable offer, in response to an invitation to bid under this section, to surrender, to have revoked, to have restricted, to relinquish, to have withdrawn, or to have extinguished by other means, in the manner this section requires, the bidder's reduction fishing interest.

Bid amount means the dollar amount of each bid.

Bidder means either a qualifying bidder bidding alone or a qualifying bidder and a co-bidder bidding together who at the time of bidding holds the reduction fishing interests specified at § 600.1018(e).

Bid crab means the crab that NMFS determines each bidder's reduction/history vessel (see definition) harvested, according to the State of Alaska's records of the documented harvest of crab, from each reduction endorsement fishery and from the Norton Sound fishery during the most recent 5 calendar years in which each reduction

endorsement fishery was for any length of time open for directed crab fishing during a 10-calendar-year period beginning on January 1, 1990, and ending on December 31, 1999.

Bid score means the criterion by which NMFS decides in what order to accept bids in the reverse auction this section specifies.

Co-bidder means a person who is not a qualifying bidder, but who at the time of bidding owns the reduction/privilege vessel this section requires to be included in a bid and is bidding together with a qualifying bidder.

Crab means the crab species covered by the Fishery Management Plan for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs pursuant to § 679.2 of this chapter.

Crab license means a License Limitation Program license for crab issued pursuant to § 679.4(k)(5) of this chapter.

Crab reduction permit means a non-interim crab license endorsed for one or more reduction endorsement fisheries, regardless of whether it is also endorsed for the Norton Sound fishery.

FSD means NMFS' Financial Services Division, located in NMFS' Silver Spring, MD, headquarters office.

Non-crab reduction permit means a fishing license, including all of its predecessor history, for which a bidder is the holder of record on December 12, 2003 and which was issued based on the fishing history of the bidder's -reduction/history vessel.

Norton Sound fishery means the non-reduction fishery defined in § 679.2 of this chapter as the area/species endorsement for Norton Sound red king and Norton Sound blue king crab.

NVDC means the U.S. Coast Guard's National Vessel Documentation Center located in Falling Waters, WV.

Qualifying bidder means a person who at the time of bidding is the license holder of record of a crab reduction permit.

Qualifying voter means a person who at the time of voting in a referendum is the license holder of record either of an interim or a non-interim crab license, except a crab license whose sole area/species endorsement is for the Norton Sound fishery.

RAM Program means NMFS' Restricted Access Management Program located in NMFS' Juneau, AK, regional office.

Reduction endorsement fishery means any of the seven fisheries that § 679.2 of this chapter defines as area/species endorsements except the area/species endorsement for the Norton Sound fishery.