# NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 03/16/2016

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Jennifer Jessup
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 02/10/2016

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201602-0648-006
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Application for Commission in the NOAA Officer Corps
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0047
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/2019 DISCONTINUE DATE:

| BURDEN: | RESPONSES | HOURS | COSTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previous | 1,800 | 2,475 | 21,750 |
| New | 900 | 1,163 | 10,875 |
| Difference | | | |
| Change due to New Statute | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change due to Agency Discretion | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change due to Agency Adjustment | -900 | -1,312 | -10,875 |
| Change due to PRA Violation | 0 | 0 | 0 |

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Dominic J. Mancini
Acting Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

| List of ICs | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IC Title | Form No. | Form Name | CFR Citation |
| Application for Commission in the NOAA Officer Corps and Interview | NOAA Form 56-42 | Application for NOAA Corps | |
| References for NOAA Corps Applicants | NOAA Form 56-42A | Reference letter and form | |

# 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
DOC/NOAA/Commissioned Personnel Center

2. OMB control number
a. 0648 - 0047
b. [ ] None

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [ ] New Collection
b. [ ] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [✔] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify:____/____

7. Title
Application for Appointment in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)
NOAA Forms 56-42 and 56-42A

9. Keywords
'servicemembers', 'active duty', 'uniformed service'

10. Abstract

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps is the uniformed service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a bureau of the United States Department of Commerce. The NOAA Corps provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines who serve their country by supporting NOAA's mission of surveying the Earth's oceans, coasts, and atmosphere to ensure the economic and physical well-being of the Nation. NOAA Corps officers operate vessels and aircraft engaged in scientific missions and serve in leadership positions throughout NOAA. Persons wishing to apply for an appointment in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps must submit an application package that consists of form 56-42, three letters of recommendation using form 56-42A and official college transcripts. Applicants must also complete an interview with a NOAA Corps officer.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. P Individuals or households
b. ___ Business or other for-profit
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions
d. ___ Farms
e. ___ Federal Government
f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [ ] Voluntary
b. [✔] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents: 900
b. Total annual responses: 900
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically: 100 %
c. Total annual hours requested: 1,163
d. Current OMB inventory: 2,475
e. Difference: -1,312
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change: ____
2. Adjustment: -1,312

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs: 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M): 11
c. Total annualized cost requested: 11
d. Current OMB inventory: 22
e. Difference: -11
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change: ____
2. Adjustment: -11

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. P Application for benefits
b. ___ Program evaluation
c. ___ General purpose statistics
d. ___ Audit
e. ___ Program planning or management
f. ___ Research
g. ___ Regulatory or compliance

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [ ] Recordkeeping
b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [✔] Reporting
1. [✔] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [ ] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [ ] Other (describe) ____

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[ ] Yes [✔] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: LT Jeffrey Peirera
Phone: 301-713-7226

## 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<br>signed by Lawrence Krepp, Director, Recruiting | Date<br>2/10/2016 |
| Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer | |
| Signature<br>BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488<br>Digitally signed by BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488<br>DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=OTHER, cn=BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488<br>Date: 2016.03.18 13:19:04 -04'00' | Date |

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**
**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NOAA COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS**
**OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0047**

## A. JUSTIFICATION

This request is for extension of this information collection.

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

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) is the uniformed service of NOAA, a bureau of the Department of Commerce. The NOAA Corps provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines who serve their country by supporting NOAA's mission of surveying the Earth's oceans, coasts, and atmosphere to ensure the economic and physical well-being of the Nation.

The statutory authorities for this information collection are 33 USC Chapter 43, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps and PL 112-166 Section 2. (gg)(1), Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011. NOAA Corps officers serve under Presidentially-confirmed appointments. The current authorized end strength of the NOAA Corps is 321 commissioned officers on the active duty list. Officers may resign their commissions, or may request voluntary retirement when eligible. Each resignation or retirement creates a vacancy on the list of active duty officers.

The collection of appropriate personal, educational, and professional qualifications information is critical in order to identify those applicants with the educational background, intelligence, high moral standards, and strong leadership potential required to serve the Nation as a member of this uniformed service. Persons wishing to be considered for a NOAA Corps Commission must submit a complete application package, including NOAA Form 56–42, at least three letters of recommendation, and official transcripts. A personal interview must also be conducted. Eligibility requirements include a bachelor's degree with at least 48 credit hours of science, engineering, or other disciplines related to NOAA's missions (including either calculus or physics), excellent health, normal color vision with uncorrected visual acuity no worse than 20/400 in each eye (correctable to 20/20), and ability to complete 20 years of active duty commissioned service prior to their 62nd birthday.

### 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.

Application information may be submitted on a year-round basis, but the primary periods of collection are immediately preceding summer and winter college graduations. This information is used by the NOAA Commissioned Personnel Center to assess whether an applicant meets or

exceeds the statutory minimum appointment qualifications and other legal obligations of citizenship. Completed applications are examined by the NOAA Officer Personnel Board in order to rate and/or assess the level of qualification, suitability, and availability of candidates for appointment.

The two forms (application, 56-42 and reference, 56-42A) are now fully electronic, the result of efforts to reduce paperwork, clarify the collection process and improve the quality of applicant responses.

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

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

The primary means of information gathering is through an electronic application process, with the applicant entering data online (http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/recruiting/application.html). Paper forms are available upon request. Currently, although the data may be entered online, the final version of the application must be printed, signed, and submitted in hard copy due to a lack of infrastructure to support secure digital submissions.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.**

This is a unique application and there is no duplication with other efforts.

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

N/A.

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

The information collected is used for identifying both minimum eligibility and level of qualification of applicants for the NOAA Corps. Reducing or eliminating this collection would severely hinder the ability of the NOAA Corps to recruit officer candidates with the educational background, intelligence, high moral standards, and strong leadership potential required to serve the Nation as a member of this uniformed service.

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

None.

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

A Federal Register Notice published on November 18, 2015 (80 FR 72049) solicited public comment on this collection. No comments were received.

Those individuals who are selected for a commission provide NOAA Corps recruiting with a customer satisfaction survey once they have completed the recruiting process. Some examples of the information gathered are given below as submitted by the most recent group of candidates in 2012:

Q: Overall, how would you rate your experience during the application process?
A: Of the 10 selectees, 4 rated Excellent, 5 Good, 1 Average.

Q: What improvements can you suggest to make these processes better?

Summarized answers:
1) Clearer guidance on document submission.
2) Having more information on what to pack for BOTC.
3) Improved communication during the application process.

Please rate the following specific items:

| | |
|---|---|
| Communication throughout the selection process: | Excellent – 6, Good – 1, Average – 3 |
| Questions were answered quickly and completely: | Excellent – 6, Good – 2, Average – 2 |
| Length of the selection and appointment process: | Excellent – 3, Good – 6, Average – 1 |
| Follow through from administrative staff: | Excellent – 6, Good – 2, Average – 2 |

Recruiting Office plan to address the feedback above:
New website launched in 2016 will have one page of instructions, bulleted with links to forms. Contact information for questions is on that page as well.

The Pre-reporting guide will be posted on the website and selectees can access that information at any time. Previously, we sent it via email after they were cleared for appointment ~2 months before starting training. The document is currently under modification at the training center.

Improved communication throughout the process continues to be the biggest challenge. We have created specific email accounts to field different questions and submissions. While there are

only two recruiters, these separate accounts help screen and prioritize the influx of questions and documents. The new website has a "Frequently asked questions" section and we are hopeful that this will lessen the amount of emails and calls needing timely responses.

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

None.

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

This information collection is a Privacy Act Systems of Records, COMMERCE/NOAA-1, Applicants for the NOAA Corps. The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, is the statutory authority for confidentiality of this information collection, and assurance of confidentiality citing this authority is provided on the information collection forms.

**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.**

None.

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

**Estimated Total Respondents and Responses: 900 (application and interview are counted as one response) Annual Burden Hours: 1,163**

150 applications x 5 hours/applicant for paperwork = 750 hours
150 applications x 1.5 hours/applicant for interviewing = 225 hours
150 applications x 5 references (750) x 15 minutes/reference = 188 hours.

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

**Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $10,875**

150 applicants x $10/applicant postage or delivery charge = $1,500
150 applicants x $10/applicant college transcripts = $1,500
150 applicants x $50/applicant transportation to interview = $7,500
750 references x $0.50/letter postage or delivery charge = $375.

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

Excluding salaries for NOAA personnel, which have been accounted for elsewhere, additional costs pertaining specifically to this application process include travel for Officer Personnel Board members to attend board meetings.

**Total annualized cost for recruiting/selection effort: $6,000.00**
Salaries for NOAA personnel (accounted for elsewhere) = $0.00.
Officer Personnel Board member travel (2 meetings/year) = $6,000.00.

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

Adjustments were made due to revised numbers of applications, increased time estimate for the application, and corrected and decreased estimate for interview time.

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

N/A.

**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.**

N/A.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.**

N/A.

## B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

N/A.

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Application for Appointment in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

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

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 19, 2016.

**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 LCDR Madeleine Adler—Chief, NOAA Corps Recruiting, or LT Jeffrey Pereira—NOAA Corps Recruiting Officer; OMAO–CPC–OCMD, 8402 Colesville Road, Suite 500, Silver Spring, MD 20910, ((800)-299–6622), *noaacorps.recruiting@noaa.gov*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection. The NOAA Commissioned Corps is the uniformed component of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a bureau of the Department of Commerce. Officers serve under Senate-confirmed appointments and Presidential commissions (33 U.S.C. chapter 17, subchapter 1, sections 853 and 854). The NOAA Corps provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines, who are dedicated to the service of their country and optimization of NOAA's missions to ensure the economic and physical well-being of the Nation.

NOAA Corps officers serve in assignments throughout NOAA, as well as in each of NOAA's Line Offices (National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, National Ocean Service, National Weather Service, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and Office of Planning, Programming and Integration).

Persons wishing to be considered for a NOAA Corps Commission must submit a complete application package, including NOAA Form 56–42, at least three letters of recommendation, and official transcripts. A personal interview must also be conducted. Eligibility requirements include a bachelor's degree with at least 48 credit hours of science, engineering or other disciplines related to NOAA's missions (including either calculus or physics), excellent health, normal color vision with uncorrected visual acuity no worse than 20/400 in each eye (correctable to 20/20) and ability to complete 20 years of active duty commissioned service prior to their 62nd birthday.

#### II. Method of Collection

Applicants must utilize the E-recruit electronic application process (*https://cpc.omao.noaa.gov/erecruit/login.jsp*) and then submit paper forms via mail. An in-person interview is also required.

#### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0047.

*Form Number(s):* NOAA 56–42 and NOAA 56–42A.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of a currently approved information collection).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 150.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Written applications, 5 hours; interviews, 90 minures; references, 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,088.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* $10,875 in recordkeeping, recording and travel 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 13, 2015.

**Sarah Brabson,**

*NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015–29405 Filed 11–17–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–12–P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XD294**

### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for exempted fishing permit.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces receipt of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application from the Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC). If granted, this permit would allow up to five AKSC-member Amendment 80 vessels to conduct experimental fishing in two subareas of the Bering Sea that are closed to fishing with trawl gear. Under the permit, experimental fishing with non-pelagic trawl gear would be authorized in Reporting Area 516 of Zone 1 that is otherwise closed to all trawl gear and the Red King Crab Savings Area (RKCSA) that is otherwise closed to non-pelagic trawl gear. The AKSC would collect data on crab prohibited species catch (PSC) rates during commercial groundfish fishing operations inside the Area 516 seasonal closure, the RKCSA, and adjacent areas that are currently open to non-pelagic trawling. The objective of the EFP is to evaluate PSC rates and overall catch of target species in the above-mentioned closed areas compared with the areas currently open to fishing with trawl gear. This experiment has the potential to promote the objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**DATES:** Submit comments on this EFP application on or before December 15, 2015.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will