

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek  
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.  
Room 6625  
Washington, DC 20230

08/17/2004

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for approval of a revision of an information collection received on 06/10/2004.

TITLE: Alaska Region Gear Identification Requirements

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0353

EXPIRATION DATE: 08/31/2007

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	15,000	3,750	4
New	12,552	3,138	17
Difference	-2,448	-612	13
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		-612	13

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

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OMB Authorizing Official	Title
Donald R. Arbuckle	Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

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# 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 <span style="float: right;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> None</span> 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
7. Title	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
8. Agency form number(s) ( <i>if applicable</i> )	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
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

### ALASKA REGION GEAR IDENTIFICATION

OMB Control No. 0648-0353

#### INTRODUCTION

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the groundfish fisheries by U.S. vessels in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the coast of Alaska under the following Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared, and NMFS approved, the FMPs under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* These FMPs are implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 679. General regulations that also pertain to these fisheries appear in subpart H of 50 CFR part 600.

This collection describes identification requirements on marker buoys for hook-and-line, longline pot, and pot-and-line gear used in groundfish fisheries.

#### JUSTIFICATION

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

Requirements that fishing gear be marked with identification information are essential to facilitate fisheries enforcement and actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of regulations. The regulations at 50 CFR § 679.24 specify that longline marker buoys must be marked with the Federal fisheries permit number or State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) vessel registration number. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked, e.g., location and color. Law enforcement personnel rely on this information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations. Gear that is not properly identified is confiscated.

**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.**

The NOAA Fisheries Office for Enforcement (NOAA Enforcement) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) use the identification of fishing gear in issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Gear violations are more readily prosecuted, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement. Cooperating fishermen also use the gear identification to report placement or occurrence of gear in unauthorized areas. Fishermen marking their gear correctly ultimately are benefitted, as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred and more burdensome regulations are avoided.

This request renews a collection of information that describes requirements to mark identification information on marker buoys for hook-and-line, longline pot, and pot-and-line gear. Most fishermen properly identify marker buoys and are not adversely affected by this requirement. In addition to Federal gear-marking requirements at 50 CFR § 679.24, ADF&G regulations (5 AAC 28.050) require fishermen to mark crab and groundfish pots with the ADF&G vessel registration number of the vessel operating the gear. Since many Pacific cod fishermen already participate in State groundfish and crab fisheries, they already are complying with this requirement. Fishermen incur the costs of marking their own marker buoys. Marking of buoys reduces the costs to NOAA Enforcement and USCG enforcement efforts and allows for more effective enforcement of gear rules.

Marker buoys are required to be marked with:

Marker buoys identification

Vessel Federal fisheries permit number, or  
Vessel's ADF&G vessel registration number

Markings must be in characters at least 4 inches (10.16 cm) in height and 0.5 inch (1.27 cm) in width in a contrasting color visible above the water line and must be maintained so the markings are clearly visible.

The cost to fishermen is minimal. Materials needed are paint and paintbrush, or permanent ink applicator, and possibly a stencil. Assuming the buoy needs to be repainted every year, the operator of each vessel would need approximately 15 minutes to paint each buoy with either the Federal fisheries permit number or the ADF&G vessel registration number. Most fishermen have their marker buoys identified by the ADF&G vessel registration number.

<b>Marker buoys identification, Respondent</b>	
Number of respondents (1,196 hook and line + 496 pot)	1,692
Frequency of response (1/year x number of buoys)	annual
<b>Total annual responses</b>	<b>12,552</b>
Time per response (15 minutes = 0.25 hr)	0.25 hr
<b>Total burden hours</b>	<b>3,138 hr</b>
1,292 vessels use 6 buoys (7,752 buoys @ .25 = 1,938 hrs)	
400 vessels use 12 buoys (4,800 buoys @ .25 = 1,200 hrs)	
Personnel cost	\$15 hr
<b>Total personnel cost (3,138 x \$15)</b>	<b>\$47,070</b>
Miscellaneous supplies (paint and paintbrush)	\$10
<b>Total miscellaneous costs (\$10 x 1,692)</b>	<b>\$16,920</b>

<b>Marker buoys identification, Federal Government</b>	
<b>Total burden hours</b>	<b>0 hr</b>
Personnel cost	\$25/hr
<b>Total personnel cost</b>	<b>\$0</b>

The information collected will not be disseminated to the public because the information is identification on a marker buoy and is not submitted to NMFS.

**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 requirement that fishing gear be marked with an identifying number does not lend itself to technology.

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

No other existing collection is duplicated.

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

The collection does not have a significant impact on small businesses, and no special modifications of the requirements were considered necessary to accommodate the needs of small businesses.

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

The NOAA Enforcement and USCG could not enforce the fisheries management measures if the gear marking were not required.

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

No special circumstances require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the 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.**

NMFS published a notice in the Federal Register (68 FR 70233, December 17, 2003) soliciting public comments on the information collection (attached). The comments resulted in the adjustments explained under Question 15.

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

The NMFS Alaska Region will not provide any payment or gift to respondents.

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

There is no assurance of confidentiality provided, as marking of gear occurs on an individual basis. No information is submitted to NMFS.

**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.**

This information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature.

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

Total estimated responses are 12,552. Total estimated time burden is 3,138 hours, a decrease of 612 hr. Total estimated personnel cost is \$47,070. Personnel labor costs are estimated at \$15 per hour.

**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 #12 above).**

Total estimated miscellaneous costs are \$16,920.

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

There would be no Federal costs associated with this collection, because it is a marking requirement from which no information is received to process.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.**

As a result of the *Federal Register* notice announcing the intended renewal of this collection, NMFS heard from several members of the fishing industry and also NOAA Enforcement requesting the removal of the requirement to mark the vessel name on the buoy. The ADF&G vessel registration number is used in both ADF&G fisheries and in the International Pacific Halibut Commission halibut fishery, and is considered adequate information for purposes of enforcement of fishery regulations. This data collection is adjusted by removing the requirement to mark the name of the vessel on the marker buoy. An adjustment of 0 time and \$0 is assigned to this change.

The collection is revised by adjusting (decreasing) the number of respondents to match the number of 2003 Federal fisheries permits issued to vessels using hook-and-line and pot gear (2,116 - 1,692 = decrease of 424 respondents).

The total estimated time burden is reduced from 3,750 to 3,138 hours, a decrease of 612 hr.

The total annual responses are reduced from 15,000 to 12,552. The responses represent an annual marking of each vessel's buoys.

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

The information collected will not be published, and no statistical sampling of the information is planned.

**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.**

This collection describes a requirement for each fishermen to mark the marker buoys of his/her vessel with an identification number. No form or other documentation exists that would contain an expiration date.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-1.**

This collection describes a requirement for each fishermen to mark the marker buoys of his/her vessel with an identification number. No form or other documentation exists that would contain an expiration date.

**B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

This collection will not employ statistical methods.

# Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

## Public Law 94-265

As amended through October 11, 1996

### SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS 16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) **REQUIRED PROVISIONS.**--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall--

(1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are--

(A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;

(B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and

(C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;

(2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;

(3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;

(4) assess and specify--

(A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),

(B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and

(C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States;

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, and charter fishing in the fishery, including, but not limited to, information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

(6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;

(7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;

(8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;

(9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--

(A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment; and

(B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants;

(10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;

(11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the

extent practicable and in the following priority--

(A) minimize bycatch; and

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

**97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297**

**(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.**--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]\* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]\*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued

pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--

(A) present participation in the fishery,

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,

(C) the economics of the fishery,

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and

(F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and

(12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are

determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

**97-453, 104-297**

**(c) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.**--Proposed regulations which the Council deems necessary or appropriate for the purposes of--

(1) implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary simultaneously with the plan or amendment under section 304; and

(2) making modifications to regulations implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment may be submitted to the Secretary at any time after the plan or amendment is approved under section 304.

NOAA needs the information to ensure that the sites selected meet national standards.

## II. Method of Collection

Much information can be submitted electronically via a Web site. Other information can be submitted in paper form.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0121.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 27.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 2,000 for a management plan; 2,000 hours for a site nomination; 15 hours for an annual report/work plan; and 2 hours beyond basic application information for an application requiring a categorical exclusion checklist, state historical office comments, a preliminary engineering report for a construction project or restoration, or a Federal Consistency Certification.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 14,180.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$30,794.

## 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: December 10, 2003.

### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-31136 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121103C]

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Region Gear Identification Requirements

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

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before February 17, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, 907-586-7008, or [Patsy.Bearden@noaa.gov](mailto:Patsy.Bearden@noaa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Abstract

Regulations at 50 CFR 679.24 require that all hook-and-line, longline pot, and pot-and-line marker buoys carried on board or used by any vessel regulated under 50 CFR part 679 shall be marked with the vessel name, Federal permit number, or registration number. The regulations also specify the size and color of markings. The marking of gear aids law enforcement and enables other fishermen to report on misplaced gear.

#### II. Method of Collection

No information is collected; this is a gear-marking requirement.

#### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0353.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,116.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 15 minutes per buoy.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,750.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$4,332.

## 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: December 10, 2003.

### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-31137 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121203A]

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Socio-economic Assessment of Marine Protected Areas Management Preferences

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