

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 04/23/2012

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 02/15/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201202-0648-002
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Vessel and Gear Marking
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0373

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: 04/30/2015

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	14,043	6,954	286,040
New	15,077	7,935	220,536
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	1,034	981	-65,504
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official:

Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Vessel Marking			50 CFR 635.6
Atlantic HMS Gear Marking			50 CFR 635.6

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 b. <input type="checkbox"/> None 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
ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES VESSEL AND GEAR MARKING
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0373

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This Supporting Statement is submitted as part of a Paperwork Reduction Act information collection to meet regulatory vessel marking and gear marking requirements in fisheries for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS). This request is for an extension of a currently approved collection and is a comprehensive collection for vessel and gear marking for all HMS vessels. The information collection regarding vessel marking would not apply to recreational fishing vessels, but does apply to gear marking, in the case of recreational vessels targeting swordfish and using handline gear.

Enforcement:

The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on regulatory compliance. The ability to link fishing or other activity to a vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of the regulations issued under the authority of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#) (16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*) to govern domestic and foreign fishing and under the authority of laws implementing international treaties. The purpose of the collection of this information is also to comply with the United States (U.S.) obligations under the [Atlantic Tunas Convention Act](#) (ATCA; 16 U.S.C. 971). ATCA requires the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to promulgate regulations adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The authority to issue these regulations has been delegated from the Secretary to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. Section 971 d(c)(3) of ATCA provides the statutory authority to require the collection of information necessary to implement the recommendations of ICCAT.

Vessel marking allows enforcement agents to monitor fishing activity and document fishery violations from the air, thus eliminating the need to board a vessel. This may protect finfish (both target and non-target species) as well as marine mammals and sea birds. Appropriate gear marking would reduce the need for enforcement agents to board vessels at sea and document the violation first hand by watching the gear being hauled. For example, if marked pelagic longline gear is in a closed area, an enforcement agent does not need to wait for a vessel to retrieve the gear in order to initiate enforcement action. This reduces costs for both the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement. There are also safety benefits of gear and vessel identification; for example it could help locate missing vessels.

Fishermen would likely mark their gear regardless of Federal requirements. Fishing gear is expensive, and if lost, could result in additional expense or the inability to complete fishing activities on a fishing excursion. Marking one's gear is a means of differentiating one's fishing

gear from another fisherman's gear and would improve the likelihood of retrieving gear that may become lost or difficult to retrieve during fishing activities.

Protected Species:

In order to monitor compliance with the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) and the [Endangered Species Act](#), it is necessary to identify entanglements of protected species with fishing gear. If an entanglement is reported while the gear is unattended, NMFS can investigate the details of the entanglement using the gear marking to identify the owner of the gear. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. Gillnets and longlines also interact with marine mammals and are subject to gear and vessel marking requirements.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.

The vessel identification number provides law enforcement personnel with a means to monitor fishing and other related activities to ascertain whether the vessel's observed activities are in accordance with those authorized for that vessel. Vessels that hold permits in specific fisheries are readily identified through a permit database, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement (fly-overs vs. vessel boardings).

In handline, harpoon, and buoy gear fisheries for HMS, it is sometimes necessary to tie a fish off to a float for a short time before the fish can be retrieved by the vessel. In such cases, it is necessary to identify the vessel engaged in fishing, hence the requirement for float marking. In the pelagic longline fishery for HMS, radio beacons called high-fliers are used to locate the line upon retrieval. Gillnets and bottom longlines also use floats to control the fishing gear.

The regulations specify that fishing gear must be marked with the vessel's official number. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked, e.g., location. Law enforcement personnel rely on this information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations. Gear that is not properly identified may be confiscated. The identifying number on fishing gear is used by NMFS, the USCG, and other marine agencies in issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Gear marking helps ensure that a vessel harvests fish only with its own gear and does not transfer gear to other vessels. It also helps to enforce closed areas. Gear violations are more readily prosecuted, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement. Cooperating fishermen also use the number to report placement of gear in unauthorized areas, gear conflicts, lost gear, and protected species entanglements.

Fishermen who comply with the regulations ultimately benefit, as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred and more burdensome regulations are avoided. This information collection would not apply to recreational fishing gear or vessels.

The information collected will not be disseminated to the public; as it consists solely of vessel and gear identification, it 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.

This collection of information does not involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques. The requirement that fishing vessels and fishing gear be marked with an identifying number does not lend itself to information processing technology. However, regulations pertaining to this information collection, and other HMS regulations will be available on the HMS Web site at www.nmfs.noaa.sfa/hms/.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There is no duplication with other collections.

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

Nearly all vessels in the HMS fisheries are categorized as small businesses. The collection will 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.

NMFS would have to expend more resources on at sea boardings, aerial reconnaissance, or other enforcement tools if the collection were not conducted or were conducted less frequently.

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

Not Applicable.

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 September 2, 2011 (76 FR 54738) solicited public comment on this collection. No comments were received.

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

No payments or gifts are to be offered as part of this information collection.

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

There is no confidentiality, since this is a display requirement.

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.

No information of a sensitive nature is requested.

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

Vessel marking

Of the 8,601 commercial permit holders in the Atlantic tuna fishery, 436 also have NMFS Northeast Regional Office permits and thus are covered under that vessel marking collection (OMB Control No. 0648-0350). This leaves 8,165 Atlantic tuna permit holders that would need to be covered by the HMS vessel marking collection.

The total number of vessels fishing for swordfish and sharks using longline gear in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is estimated at approximately 501. It is further estimated that approximately 85 percent of these longline vessels (426) have NMFS Southeast Regional Office permits for additional fisheries and would thus be covered under the vessel marking collection for those fisheries (OMB Control No. 0648-0358). This leaves about 75 longline vessels, plus an estimated 92 vessels that catch sharks and swordfish with gillnets (sharks) and harpoons or buoy gear (swordfish), to be covered by the HMS vessel marking collection. Estimated time to mark each vessel is 45 minutes.

Total annual respondents and responses: $8,165 + 167 = 8,332$

Total annual burden for marking tuna vessels:

8,165 vessels @ 45 minutes = 6,124 hours

Total annual burden for marking directed, incidental, and handgear swordfish and shark vessels:

167 (75 + 92) vessels @ 45 minutes = 125 hours

Total annual vessel marking burden hours for HMS: $6,124 + 125 = 6,249$.

Gear marking

Handgear: The total number of vessels fishing for HMS using handline and harpoon, in the EEZ is estimated at approximately 380 in 2010. This includes recreational vessels targeting swordfish using handline gear. Estimated time to mark each float is 15 minutes. In most cases, regulations, availability of fish, or weather/sea conditions would limit catch to a few fish per day; thus it is assumed that each vessel would have a maximum of five floats.

Total number of respondents: 380 vessels

Total number of responses: 380 vessels @ 5 floats = 1,900 responses

Annual burden hours for marking HMS handgear:

380 vessels x 5 floats @ 15 minutes = **475 hours** (1,900 x 15/60)

Longline gear: As of October 1, 2010, the total number of vessels fishing for swordfish and sharks using longline gear in the EEZ is estimated at approximately 392, based on the number of limited access permits for swordfish and sharks (none of these marking requirements are covered under other information collections, as is the case for vessel marking). In the pelagic longline fishery for HMS, for 177 vessels, about eight radio beacons called high-fliers are used to monitor each longline set. In addition, in both the pelagic and the bottom longline fishery (215 vessels) for HMS, the terminal floats must be marked. Estimated time to mark each high-flier or float is 15 minutes.

Total number of respondents: 177 + 215 = 392 vessels

Total number of responses: 1,770 + 430 = 2,200

177 vessels @ 10 responses (8 high-fliers + 2 terminal floats) = 1,770 responses

215 vessels @ 2 terminal floats = 430 responses

Total number of responses for marking HMS longline gear = 2,200

Annual burden for marking HMS pelagic longline gear (tunas and swordfish):

177 vessels x 8 high-fliers @ 15 minutes = 354 hours (1,416 x 15/60)

177 vessels x 2 terminal floats @ 15 minutes = 89 hours (354 x 15/60)

Annual burden for marking HMS bottom longline gear (sharks):

215 vessels x 2 terminal floats @ 15 minutes = 108 hours (430 x 15/60)

Total annual burden hours for marking HMS longline gear:

= **551 hours** (354 + 89 + 108)

Swordfish Buoy Gear: Currently there are 75 vessels participating in the swordfish handgear fishery who may use buoy gear. Participants in this fishery may have up to 35 flotation devices onboard, all of which would be marked with either the vessel or permit identification number.

Annual respondents: 75

Annual responses: 75 x 35 = 2,625

Annual burden for marking swordfish buoy gear:
75 vessels x 35 flotation devices @ 15 minutes = **656 hours** (2,625 x 15/60)

Gillnet gear: Currently, 10 vessels participate in the gillnet fishery for sharks. The HMS FMP banned the use of gillnet for tunas, and NMFS has, in a separate rulemaking, banned driftnets in the swordfish fishery. Therefore, those vessels are not included in this PRA collection. In the gillnet fishery for sharks, terminal floats must be marked. Estimated time to mark each float is 15 minutes.

Annual respondents: 10
Annual responses: 10 x 2 floats = 20
Total annual burden hours for marking gillnet gear:
10 vessels x 2 floats @ 15 minutes = **5 hours** (20 x 15/60)

Total number of respondents for all HMS gear: 857 vessels (380 + 392 + 75 + 10)
Total number of responses for all HMS gear: 6,745 responses (1,900 + 2,200 + 2,625 + 20)
Total gear marking burden hours for all HMS gear = 1,687 hours (475 + 551 + 656 + 5) – rounded down to 1,686 in ROCIS.

Total number of vessel and gear marking respondents: **9,189** (8,332 + 857)
Total number of vessel and gear marking responses: **15,077** (6,745 + 8,332)
Total annual burden hours for vessel and gear marking: **7,936** (1,687 + 6,249) – rounded down to 7,935 in ROCIS.

Vessels requiring marking:	8,332
Additional vessels requiring shark or swordfish handgear marking:	288
Additional vessels requiring longline marking:	<u>317</u>

Total unduplicated respondents: **8,937**

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).

The cost to fishermen for vessel marking and gear marking is minimal. Materials needed are paint and paint brush or applicator, and possibly a stencil. Vessel marking and gear marking is approximately \$24 per year each for vessel marking and each vessel's gear marking. It is estimated that the combination of weather and water exposure will result in painting once per year to maintain legibility.

Total annual vessel marking cost for 8,332 vessels @ \$24 = \$199,968
Total annual gear marking cost for 857 vessels @ \$24 = \$20,568

TOTAL: \$220,536.

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

There is no cost to the Federal Government.

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

Adjustments:

The previous calculation for unduplicated respondents did not take into account vessels requiring gear marking, but not vessel marking, under this OMB Control No. (that is, for some of the vessels whose gear requires marking, the vessel marking itself is covered under other fisheries' vessel marking information collections). In this request, rather than the unduplicated respondents equaling the vessels requiring marking, the additional vessels requiring ONLY gear marking were added.

The hours and costs have been adjusted to reflect current activity in the various fisheries, as well as increased cost for marking materials. Net increases: 2,051 unduplicated respondents (8,937, up from 6,886), 1,034 responses (15,077, up from 14,043), 981 hours (7,936, up from 6,955).

Although the estimated cost per vessel marking and per vessel for its gear marking is now \$24, there is an overall decrease in cost due to an apparent error in the last submission, in which the cost per vessel's gear being marked was multiplied by each gear marking, yielding a much higher cost. Net decrease in cost: \$65,504: 220,536, down from \$286,040).

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

No results are published.

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.

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

No exceptions are requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

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 November 1, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Rich Malinowski, (727) 824-5305 or Rich.Malinowski@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Region manages the U.S. fisheries of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico under the Fishery Management Plans (FMP) for each Region. The Regional Fishery Management Councils prepared the FMPs pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The regulations implementing the FMPs that have reporting requirements are at 50 CFR part 622.

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR part 622 form the basis for this collection of information. Requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner is crucial to enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the MSA. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The requirements imposed in the Southeast Region are for coral aquacultured live rock; golden crab traps; mackerel gillnet floats; spiny lobster traps; black sea bass pots; and buoy gear.

This request is for a revision of a currently approved information collection. This revision includes the addition of Buoy Gear identification requirements and the removal of Stone Crab trap identification requirements.

II. Method of Collection

The markings will be placed directly on the gear.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0359.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (revision of a currently approved collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,298.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 25,645.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$384,675.

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: August 29, 2011.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-22488 Filed 9-1-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Vessel and Gear Marking

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 November 1, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Craig Cockrell, (301) 427-8503 or Craig.Cockrell@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a current information collection.

Under current regulations at 50 CFR 635.6, fishing vessels permitted for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species must display their official vessel numbers on their vessels. Flotation devices and high-flyers attached to certain fishing gears must also be marked with the vessel's number to identify the vessel to which the gear belongs. These requirements are necessary for identification, law enforcement, and monitoring purposes.

Specifically, all vessel owners that hold a valid HMS permit under 50 CFR 635.4, other than an HMS Angling permit, are required to display their vessel identification number. Numbers must be permanently affixed to, or painted on, the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and on an appropriate weather deck, so as to be clearly visible from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

Furthermore, the owner or operator of a vessel for which a permit has been issued under § 635.4 and that uses handline, buoy gear, harpoon, longline, or gillnet, must display the vessel's name, registration number or Atlantic Tunas, HMS Angling, or HMS Charter/Headboat permit number on each float attached to a handline, buoy gear, or harpoon, and on the terminal floats and high-flyers (if applicable) on a longline or gillnet used by the vessel. The vessel's name or number must be at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) in height in block letters or Arabic numerals in a color that contrasts with the background color of the float or high-flyer.

II. Method of Collection

Marking will be done directly on vessels and gear.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0373.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Affected Public: Non-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,575.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7,613.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$303,000.

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: August 29, 2011.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-22487 Filed 9-1-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XA640

Pacific Halibut Fishery; Guideline Harvest Levels for the Guided Sport Fishery for Pacific Halibut in International Pacific Halibut Commission Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

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

ACTION: Notice of guideline harvest level.

SUMMARY: NMFS provides notice of the 2011 Pacific halibut guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for the guided sport fishery in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Regulatory Areas 2C (Southeast Alaska) and 3A (Central Gulf of Alaska). This notice is necessary to meet the regulatory requirement to publish notice announcing the GHLs and to inform the public about the 2011 GHLs for the guided sport fishery for halibut. The GHLs are benchmark harvest levels for participants in the guided sport fishery. The 2011 GHLs remain the same as the 2010 GHLs; the Area 2C GHL is 788,000 lbs (357.4 mt); and the Area 3A GHL is 3,650,000 lbs (1,655.6 mt).

DATES: The GHLs are effective February 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011. This period is specified by IPHC as the sport fishing season in all waters in and off Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gabrielle Aberle, (907) 586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In 2003, NMFS implemented a final rule (68 FR 47256, August 8, 2003) to establish GHLs for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) harvested by the guided sport fishery in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A. Regulations implementing the GHLs have been amended twice. In 2008, the GHL table was corrected at 50 CFR 300.65(c)(1) (73 FR 30504, May 28, 2008). In 2009, regulatory provisions were amended for NMFS' annual publication of the GHL notice and to clarify NMFS' authority to take action at any time to limit the guided sport angler catch to the GHL (74 FR 21194, May 6, 2009).

This notice is consistent with § 300.65(c) and announces the 2011 GHLs for the guided sport fishery for Pacific halibut in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A. Regulations at § 300.65(c)(1) specify the GHLs based on the total constant exploitation yield (CEY) that is established annually by the IPHC. The total CEY for 2011 is 5,390,000 lbs (2,444.9 mt) in Area 2C, and 23,520,000 lbs (10,668.5 mt) in Area 3A. The corresponding GHLs are 788,000 lbs (357.4 mt) in Area 2C, and 3,650,000 lbs (1,655.6 mt) in Area 3A. The GHLs in Areas 2C and 3A did not change from the 2010 level. NMFS may take action at any time to limit the guided sport halibut harvest to as close to the GHL as practicable (50 CFR 300.65(c)(3)).

NMFS published a final rule implementing the charter halibut

limited access program for the guided sport halibut fishery in Areas 2C and 3A on January 5, 2010 (75 FR 554). As of February 1, 2011, this program limits the number of charter vessels that may participate in the guided sport halibut fishery in these areas. On July 22, 2011, NMFS published proposed regulations that would implement a catch sharing plan to allocate an annual halibut catch limit, established by the IPHC, between the guided sport and commercial fisheries in Areas 2C and 3A (76 FR 44156). If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, this new allocation program would not be effective before 2012.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*

Dated: August 30, 2011.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XA675

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings.

DATES: The SSC will meet Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Thursday, September 22 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee will meet Thursday, September 22, 2011 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Admiral Fell Inn, 888 South Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231 telephone: (410) 522-7377.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore PhD, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the SSC meeting