

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

10/12/2004

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 07/21/2004.

TITLE: Vessel Monitoring System Requirements in the
Western Pacific Pelagic Longline Fishery

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE
OMB NO.: 0648-0441
EXPIRATION DATE: 10/31/2007

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	1,445,568	743	0
New	1,436,640	399	0
Difference	-8,928	-344	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		-344	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

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

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
VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) REQUIREMENT
IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERY
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0441**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) established regional fishery management councils, including the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), to develop fishery management plans for fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ). These plans, if approved by the Secretary of Commerce, are implemented by Federal regulations, which are enforced by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), in cooperation with State agencies to the extent possible. The fishery management plans are intended to regulate fishing to ensure sustained productivity and achievement of optimum yield from the resources for the benefit of the U.S.

The Council has prepared, and the Secretary has approved and implemented, through regulations at 50 CFR Part 660, a Fishery Management Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (FMP). The regulations require all permit holders participating in the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery to maintain and operate vessel monitoring system (VMS) units on their vessels after they have been advised by NMFS of a requirement to carry such units. NMFS provides the units and installs them at no cost to the permit holders. Installation has been arranged at times when the vessel is in port between trips to ensure minimal disruption to the vessel's other activities. However, the vessel owner or representative generally takes the time to observe the installation. In addition, the vessel owner or representative typically observes the maintenance check of the VMS unit and any software changes.

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.

On a broad level, the VMS vessel location reports are used to facilitate enforcement of the area closures in the fishery. The reports not only provide NMFS and USCG real-time vessel location and activity information, but also can be used to check the accuracy of vessel position information reported by the vessel operator in the daily fishing logbooks required by regulations. This is important in determining or verifying locations of catch by species and time, as well as locations in which there were interactions with protected species, such as endangered and threatened sea turtles. The information provides a basis for determining whether changes in management are needed to protect sensitive species or to address fishery interaction problems and for evaluating the impacts of potential changes.

The information collected will not be disseminated to the public inasmuch as it is primarily for

use internally by NMFS law enforcement and USCG. The information will enable the both agencies to effectively monitor any potential for violations of the longline area closure regulation. The information may be used by NMFS scientists to cross-check the accuracy of logbook information submitted to NMFS by the vessel operators. Any of the information that might be used to support publicly disseminated information would first be aggregated and/or summarized to maintain the confidentiality of the information pertaining to the individual vessels.

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 VMS requirement integrates current information technology in the fishery management and monitoring process. The collection of information is automatic and invisible. Many vessel owners have taken advantage of this technology by linking personal computers to VMS units to improve communication with other vessels. Although not related directly to VMS, there is potential for the system to be used by fishermen to transmit their catch and effort data to NMFS on a real-time basis. NMFS is currently developing a program for electronic reporting to take the place of paper logbooks.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There are no similar comparable programs to collect real-time vessel location information. Requiring vessel operators to make at-sea reports of vessel locations would have been much more costly and difficult, and would have imposed a direct reporting burden on the vessel operator. The VMS unit is passive and automatic, requiring no reporting time of the vessel operator.

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

Vessels in western Pacific fisheries generally range in size from 20 feet to 100 feet. Those who participate in the fisheries are categorized as “small businesses” which are affected in a similar manner by the VMS requirement. In all cases, NMFS notifies the vessel owner when the requirement would take effect and arrange times when installation of the unit could be performed to minimize interfering with vessel operations. There is no reporting burden on vessel owners to arrange for VMS installation. The vessel owner is free to decide whether to connect a personal computer to the VMS unit and use the capabilities of the VMS unit in transmitting messages to a home office or other vessels.

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

If the VMS is not operational, NMFS law enforcement agents and USCG would be tasked with monitoring longline fishing closed areas via air and surface patrols. The annual cost of relying on traditional surveillance methods using air and surface patrols for time and area coverage is

estimated at more than \$25 million. Comparatively, VMS provides between 95% - 98% coverage at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

There is no reporting frequency requirement for the vessel owner. The frequency with which a vessel VMS is polled to determine location is set by NMFS and USCG depending on the proximity to longline fishing closed areas and the EEZ boundary.

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

The collection is consistent with OMB guidelines except that the VMS reports more frequently than quarterly (multiple times per day). That frequency is necessary for enforcing regulations.

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.

A Federal Register Notice (copy attached) solicited public comments on this submission; none 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 provided

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

Efforts were made in the design of the VMS program to ensure the security of all at-sea position data on individual vessels, including data analyses and storage. The system includes measures to minimize the risk of direct or inadvertent disclosure of fishing location information. These data are considered by vessel operators to be proprietary; hence, NMFS and USCG have taken steps to secure this information as “official use only” throughout the program design. Information submitted is confidential under the Magnuson Act and NOAA regulations.

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 questions are asked of a sensitive nature.

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

In calculating the number of position reports per year we have used hourly reports, at 1 second per report.

164 vessels x 24 seconds per day x 365 days per year = 399 hours.

Total estimated burden hours = 399 hours per year.

Total estimated responses = 1,436,640

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).

No direct or indirect costs are imposed on vessel operators by the VMS requirement. The initial installation and maintenance costs for VMS are sustained by NMFS.

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

The initial cost to the government during the first year of the program included 120 VMS units, software, installation, and equipment for a base station, with a total estimated cost of approximately \$600,000. For subsequent years, the estimated cost of the total program is \$100,000 per year, primarily for messaging costs.

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

Inasmuch as the VMS program has been in place for roughly ten years, the participants in the Hawaii pelagic longline fishery are familiar with NMFS' activities in maintaining and installing VMS units. As such the vessel owners or operators do not spend time observing the work performed by NMFS, and hence there are no burden hours for the respondents associated with this activity.

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

No formal scientific publications based on these collections are planned at this time. NMFS and the Council will use the data (primarily in an aggregated, non-confidential format) for management reports and fishery management plan amendments and evaluations. However, subsequent use of the data collected over a series of years may include scientific papers and publications.

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 identified in Item 19 of the

OMB 83-I.

N/A

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

No Statistical Methods are employed.

Fishery Conservation and Management

§ 660.26

to contact in order to arrange observer placement.

§ 660.24 Gear identification.

(a) *Identification.* The operator of each permitted vessel in the fishery management area must ensure that the official number of the vessel be affixed to every longline buoy and float, including each buoy and float that is attached to a radar reflector, radio antenna, or flag marker, whether attached to a deployed longline or possessed on board the vessel. Markings must be legible and permanent, and must be of a color that contrasts with the background material.

(b) *Enforcement action.* Longline gear not marked in compliance with paragraph (a) of this section and found deployed in the EEZ will be considered unclaimed or abandoned property, and may be disposed of in any manner considered appropriate by NMFS or an authorized officer.

§ 660.25 Vessel monitoring system.

(a) *VMS unit.* Only a VMS unit owned by NMFS and installed by NMFS complies with the requirement of this subpart.

(b) *Notification.* After a Hawaii longline limited access permit holder has been notified by the SAC of a specific date for installation of a VMS unit in the permit holder's vessel, the vessel must carry the VMS unit after the date scheduled for installation.

(c) *Fees and charges.* During the experimental VMS program, a Hawaii longline limited access permit holder shall not be assessed any fee or other charges to obtain and use a VMS unit, including the communication charges related directly to requirements under this section. Communication charges related to any additional equipment attached to the VMS unit by the owner or operator shall be the responsibility of the owner or operator and not NMFS.

(d) *Permit holder duties.* The holder of a Hawaii longline limited access permit and the master of the vessel operating under the permit must:

(1) Provide opportunity for the SAC to install and make operational a VMS unit after notification.

(2) Carry the VMS unit on board whenever the vessel is at sea.

(3) Not remove or relocate the VMS unit without prior approval from the SAC.

(e) *Authorization by the SAC.* The SAC has authority over the installation and operation of the VMS unit. The SAC may authorize the connection or order the disconnection of additional equipment, including a computer, to any VMS unit when deemed appropriate by the SAC.

§ 660.26 Longline fishing prohibited area management.

(a) *Prohibited areas.* Longline fishing shall be prohibited in the longline fishing prohibited areas as defined in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section.

(b) *Longline protected species zone.* The protected species zone is 50 nm from the center geographical positions of Nihoa Island, Necker Island, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef, Midway Islands, and Kure Island, as defined in § 660.12.

(c) *Main Hawaiian Islands.* (1) From February 1 through September 30 each year, the longline fishing prohibited area around the main Hawaiian Islands is the portion of the EEZ seaward of Hawaii bounded by straight lines connecting the following coordinates in the order listed:

Point	N. lat.	DW. long.
A	18°05'	155°40'
B	18°20'	156°25'
C	20°00'	157°30'
D	20°40'	161°40'
E	21°40'	161°55'
F	23°00'	161°30'
G	23°05'	159°30'
H	22°55'	157°30'
I	21°30'	155°30'
J	19°50'	153°50'
K	19°00'	154°05'
A	18°05'	155°40'

(2) From October 1 through the following January 31 each year, the longline fishing prohibited area around the main Hawaiian Islands is the portion of the EEZ seaward of Hawaii bounded by straight lines connecting the following coordinates in the order listed:

(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;

16 U.S.C. 1853

(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

End of Certification

The following service is proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

Service

Service Type/Location: Document Processing, Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, McClellan AFB, California.

NPA: PRIDE Industries, Roseville, California.

Contract Activity: Department of the Air Force, McClellan AFB, California.

Patrick Rowe,

Deputy Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 03-31909 Filed 12-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

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

[I.D. 122203C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; South Pacific Tuna Act

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)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 27, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Raymond Clarke at 808-973-2935, ext. 205, or at Raymond.Clarke@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island

States and the Government of the United States, signed in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in 1987, and its annexes, schedules and implementing agreements, as amended (Treaty), authorize U.S. tuna vessels to fish within fishing zones of a large region of the Pacific Ocean. The South Pacific Tuna Act (16 U.S.C. 973g and 973f) and U.S. implementing regulations (50 CFR 282.3 and 282.5), authorize the collection of information from participants in the Treaty fishery. Vessel operators who wish to participate in the Treaty fishery must submit annual license and registration applications and periodic written reports of catch and unloading of fish from a licensed vessel. The information collected is submitted to the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), on forms generated by the FFA, through the U.S. government (National Marine Fisheries Service). License and registration application information is used by FFA to determine the operational capability and financial responsibility of a vessel operator interested in participating in the Treaty fishery. The information obtained from vessel catch and unloading reports is used by FFA to assess fishing effort and fishery resources in the region and to track the amount of fish caught within each Pacific island state's exclusive economic zone for fair disbursement of Treaty monies. If the information is not collected, the U.S. government will not meet its obligations under the Treaty, and the lack of fishing information will result in poor management of the fishery resources.

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected using forms required under the Treaty.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0218.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 32.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes for a license application form; 30 minutes for a registration application form; 15 minutes for a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) application form; 1 hour for a catch report; 30 minutes for an unloading logsheet; 4 hours to install a VMS; 2 hours per year to maintain a VMS; and 24 seconds per day for automated VMS position messages.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 430.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$53,000.

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: December 19, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-31896 Filed 12-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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

[I.D. 122203B]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Vessel Monitoring System Requirements in the Western Pacific Pelagic Longline Fishery

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)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 27, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Alvin Katekaru at 803-973-2935, ext. 207, or at Alvin.Katekaru@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

Commercial fishing vessels active in the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery must allow NOAA to install vessel monitoring system (VMS) units on their vessel when directed to do so by NOAA enforcement personnel. The VMS units automatically send periodic reports on the position of the vessel. NOAA uses the reports to monitor the vessel's location and activities while enforcing area closures. NOAA pays for the units and messaging.

II. Method of Collection

The only information collected is vessel position reports, which are automatically transmitted via the VMS.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0441.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 164.

Estimated Time Per Response: 4 hours to install a VMS unit; 2 hours per year to repair and maintain a VMS unit; and 24 seconds a day to transmit hourly automated position reports from a vessel.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 743.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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 19, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-31897 Filed 12-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS
Announcement of Request for Bilateral Textile Consultations with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Establishment of an Import Limit for Knit Fabric, Category 222, Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China

December 23, 2003.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (Committee).

ACTION: Notice

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 24, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection website at <http://www.customs.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota reopenings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel website at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

On December 24, 2003, as provided for under paragraph 242 of the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization (Accession Agreement), the United States requested consultations with the Government of the People's Republic of China with respect to imports of Chinese origin knit fabric in Category 222. In accordance with paragraph 242 of the Accession Agreement and the procedures set forth by the Committee on May 21, 2003 (68 FR 27787), as clarified on August 18, 2003 (68 FR 49440), the United States is establishing a twelve-month limit on knit fabric in Category 222 from China, beginning on December 24, 2003, and extending

through December 23, 2004 at a level of 9,664,477 kilograms.

Paragraph 2.B. of the U.S.-China Textile Visa Arrangement provides that if additional categories become subject to import quotas, those categories shall be automatically included in the coverage of the Visa Arrangement. This Visa Arrangement was notified to the World Trade Organization Textiles Monitoring Body as an agreed administrative arrangement on May 21, 2002. Consequently, the United States will require that shipments of Chinese origin knit fabric in Category 222 be accompanied by an export visa and Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) transmission issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China. In order to provide a period for adjustment, the United States will allow shipments of goods in this category that are not accompanied by an export visa and an ELVIS transmission to enter the United States if exported prior to January 23, 2004. However, shipments exported from China on or after January 23, 2004 must be accompanied by an export visa and ELVIS transmission issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and shipments without an export visa and ELVIS transmission will be denied entry.

Paragraph 242 of the Accession Agreement allows World Trade Organization Members that believe imports of Chinese origin textile and apparel products are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in these products to request consultations with the People's Republic of China with a view to easing or avoiding such market disruption. Upon receipt of the request, the People's Republic of China has agreed to hold its shipments to a level no greater than 7.5 percent (6 percent for wool product categories) above the amount entered during the first 12 months of the most recent 14 months preceding the request for consultations. The Member requesting consultations may implement such a limit. Consistent with paragraph 242, consultations with the People's Republic of China will be held within 30 days of receipt of the request for consultations, and every effort will be made to reach agreement on a mutually satisfactory solution within 90 days of receipt of the request for consultations. If agreement on a different limit is reached, the Committee will issue a **Federal Register** Notice containing a directive to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to implement the negotiated limit.

On July 24, 2003, the Committee received a request from the American