

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 09/28/2012

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 08/06/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection  
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular  
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201207-0648-001  
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:  
TITLE: Pacific Islands Region Coral Reef Ecosystems Permit Form  
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change  
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0463

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: 09/30/2015

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	14	30	0
New	17	31	35
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	3	1	4
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	31
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
Pacific Islands Region Coral Reef Ecosystems Permit Application and Appeals	NA	Special coral reef ecosystem fishing permit application form	
Transshipment Permit Application	NA	Western Pacific Coral Reef Ecosystem Transshipment Permit Application Form	

# PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

**Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.**

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	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  
PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM PERMITS  
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0463**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

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

This request is for a revision and extension of OMB Control No. 0648-0463.

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 ecosystem plans (FEPs) for fisheries in the United States (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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), in cooperation with State agencies to the extent possible. The fishery ecosystem plans of the western Pacific region for the American Samoa, Hawaii, Mariana, and Pacific Remote Island Areas Archipelagos 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 regulations at [50 CFR Part 665](#) require that any person fishing for, or operators of vessels used to fish for, coral reef ecosystem management unit species (CREMUS) in low-use Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), fishing for Potentially Harvested Coral Reef Taxa (PHCRT), fishing with any gear not specifically allowed, or transshipping or landing PHCRT in the exclusive economic zones around the American Samoa, Hawaii, or Mariana Archipelagos, or around the Pacific Remote Island Areas, must possess a Coral Reef Ecosystem Special Permit.

Revision: Vessels receiving PHCRT or CREMUS harvested in a low-use MPA in federal waters must be registered to a Transshipment Permit. This requirement was not included in the last submission. One permit was issued, without a separate permit request.

**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.**

Information is collected via a permit application process. Permits are valid for one calendar year and may be renewed annually.

The information from the permit application form will allow the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), in consultation with the Council, to determine whether the permit applicant qualifies for a special permit. Vessel-related information such as vessel size, registration, vessel's insurer, radio call sign, etc., may be used by NMFS to determine whether the applicant is an operator of a U.S. documented/registered vessel. The information, which profiles the current fishery, may also be used by NOAA Enforcement and

other offices of NMFS, USCG and the Council. Other information requested in the application form will be used to assess the impact of fishing activity on harvested stocks of coral reef biota and their habitat. The data include location of fishing grounds; types of fishing gear and method of collection used; fishing effort, target and incidental species; and disposition of the catch. The permit applicant also furnishes general information on the objectives of the harvesting operation and a description of possible impacts on protected species, habitat, and the ecosystem. This information enables NMFS and the Council to gain a broad perspective on the harvesting operation to evaluate the permit for approval.

As requested, summaries of permit application information are provided to the Council and interested parties to generally describe the fishery and give an overview of the nature and magnitude of the impacts of the FMP regulations on the permit holders.

This collection also includes information involving appeals of permit denials. The appellant must provide documentation to show why a special permit should have been granted. The information is used by the NMFS Regional Administrator in making a final determination on permit issuance under the FMP.

The information will not be disseminated to the public except in non-confidential or aggregate form in summary and analytical reports. Any 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.

NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with Federal law and regulations, and NOAA policies for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

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

This permit application is not collected in electronic form, although email or facsimile transmission may be used. Fillable Adobe forms are available at: [http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD\\_permits\\_index.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_permits_index.html).

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

During the course of developing the FEPs, NMFS and the Council worked with representatives of the State of Hawaii and U.S. Pacific Island government fisheries agencies to craft a permit application form with intent to minimize duplication with respective information collections. These agencies offered advice in the final specifications for the application form itself, as well as the information elements being recorded. However, in no instance was it possible to use state/territorial collections to replace the federal special coral reef fishing permit form.

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

All of the vessels in the Western Pacific fisheries under the management purview of NMFS and the Council, including fishers who harvest coral reef resources, are small business entities of similar size and are affected comparably. No special measures are needed to accommodate different sized businesses. Only a minimum amount of data needed for permit issuance and consistent with this collection is sought in the permit application process.

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

If the permit application data are not available or are collected less frequently, NMFS and the Council will not be able to properly evaluate an application for a special permit issued under the FEP. Also, it would be difficult to monitor the fishery and its participants, determine entry and exit patterns, and provide information needed to ensure full impact analysis for the coral reef ecosystems management program. Fisheries enforcement agents will not be assured of being able to identify the current participants in the fishery for purposes of compliance monitoring and enforcement of the regulations. Contact between NMFS and fishermen will be less frequent; NMFS will be unable to consult with permit holders on coral reef fishery-related issues or advise them of regulatory changes.

**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 February 29, 2012 (77 FR 12243) solicited public comments on this submission. No public comments were received.

Outreach to members of Hawaii State agencies and Pacific Fishery Council members yielded three comments:

From Reginald Kokubun, Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources:

Do these permit holders have a trip report requirement and if so, are they compliant in submitting them to NOAA? If these permit holders are also CML license holders from the State, do you

rely on the monthly fish report for PHCRT landings in the EEZ? Other than that, I don't have any further comments regarding the federal permit.

NOAA: There is a trip report requirement, and compliance is good.

From Paul Dalzel, Council member: I have reviewed the forms attached to your email and have no issues with the information being requested by permit applicants. Such information will be useful in managing activities associated with fishing on coral reefs in the Western Pacific Region. Regds

From Joshua DeMello, Council member:  
I agree with Paul's assessment.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Under Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended, and [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#), information submitted in accordance with regulatory requirements under the Act is confidential. This includes personal and proprietary information contained in the permit application.

**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 of a sensitive nature are asked.

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

	Annual Burden: (Hours)
a) 12 responses (special permit applicants) x 2 hr/response	= 24
b) 3 responses (transshipment permit) x 10 min/response	= 1 (rounded up)
c) 2 responses (appellants) x 3 hr/response	= 6
Total	= 31

The total annual cost to respondents for personnel time is estimated at \$775 per year. This was derived by multiplying the number of hours of burden each year (31 hours) times an hourly cost rate of \$25 (estimated rate of a vessel operator or designated agent of a vessel owner).

**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).**

There is no “start up” capital cost for complying with this requirement. The estimated cost to respondents to mail and make file copies of the application form, permit, appeal documents, etc. is \$36 per year:

1.45 per permit applications, totaling \$21.75

\$7.00 per appeal, totaling \$14

Total: \$35.75 (\$36) – rounded down to \$35 in ROCIS.

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

The estimated cost of this collection to the Federal government is an average of \$100 per permit or appeal action. This entails reviewing the application/appeal, determining sufficiency of respondents’ documents, awarding the permit, coordinating appeal actions, organizing application and appeal-related information, sending out permit renewal timing notices, responding to inquiries, etc. The total Federal cost is estimated at \$1,700 per year.

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

Program Changes:

In the previous renewal request, the supporting statement stated that the annual cost was \$100; it should have stated “less than \$100”. In fact, in ROCIS, no cost was counted. The previous cost should have been approximately \$27.90 (\$28).

The transshipment permit application form was added because it was found to be missing from the original collection. The additional burden of the transshipment permit is estimated to be 30 minutes, rounded up to 1 hour. Postage and copying costs for three applications was added: \$4.35.

Adjustment:

Postage costs for vessel permits and appeals were updated, adding \$3.50.

**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. However, the information contained in the permit application will be analyzed by NMFS and the Council to determine eligibility for permit issuance and the need for management changes to conserve coral reef stocks and protect endangered or threatened marine animals and their habitats.

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.**

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

This collection does not employ statistical methods.



**In which EEZ Management Subarea will fishing be conducted?** (check only one)

Main Hawaiian Islands \_\_\_\_\_ American Samoa \_\_\_\_\_ Guam \_\_\_\_\_ Guam's Southern Banks \_\_\_\_\_  
CNMI \_\_\_\_\_ PRIA (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fishing Gears To Be Used:**

1) \_\_\_\_\_ ; 2) \_\_\_\_\_ ; 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check any special exemption for which you qualify and would like to be eligible for under this permit application**

(attach description of conditions under which you apply):

Other FMP \_\_\_\_\_ Scientific Bioprospecting \_\_\_\_\_ General Indigenous \_\_\_\_\_  
Indigenous use of live rock/coral \_\_\_\_\_ Aquaculture seed stock of coral \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Documents:**

- 1) Attach statement describing objectives and details of proposed fishing operation, estimated ecosystem, habitat and protected species impacts, and any additional information to help support approval of this application.
- 2) Attach copy of current USCG vessel documentation or state/territory vessel registration.

**It is prohibited to file false information on any application for a fishing permit (50 CFR ' 665.15(b)).**

**Applicant Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Information**

Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 120 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Regional Administrator, NMFS Pacific Islands Region, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814-4700.

This information is being collected to provide the information needed by NMFS to regulate and monitor the coral reef fisheries and resources managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Coral Reef Ecosystems of the Western Pacific Region (FMP) and to evaluate the effectiveness of management by assessing the status of stocks and the status of the fisheries. The information provides a basis for determining whether changes in management are needed to sustain the productivity of the stocks or to respond to interactions between fishing vessels and protected species and to address economic problems in the fishery. The information is also used to provide a basis for evaluating the magnitude and distribution of impacts resulting from changes to the regulations. Responses to the collection are required under 50 CFR 665.13. Proprietary data provided concerning the vessel and/or business of the respondents are handled as confidential under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Sec.402(b)). Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

able to take advantage of U.S. Embassy rates for hotel rooms.

### Conditions For Participation

Targeted mission participants are U.S. companies providing smart grid equipment, technology and services that have an interest in learning more about the UK and European markets. Target sectors holding high potential for U.S. exporters include: Smart meters and advanced metering infrastructure; communication and data management software and services; grid optimization technologies; demand response and control systems; cyber security software and services; transmission and distribution equipment; automation technologies; and consumer engagement platforms and services.

### Selection Criteria for Participation

The following criteria will be evaluated in selecting participants:

- Relevance of the company's business to the mission goals;
- Market potential for business in the UK and European markets;
- Provision of adequate information on the company's products and/or services, and communication of the company's primary objectives; and
- Timeliness of the company's completed application and participation agreement signed by a company officer.

Diversity of company size and location may also be considered during the review process. Referrals from political organizations and any documents containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and not considered during the selection process.

### Selection Timeline

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the **Federal Register**, posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar (<http://export.gov/trademissions>) and other Internet Web sites, press releases to general and trade media, direct mail, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows. Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and conclude no later than August 17, 2012. The U.S. Department of Commerce will review applications and make selection decisions on a rolling basis beginning in February, 2012. Applications received after August 17, 2012 will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

### Contacts

Claudia Colombo (BSc Hons, MRes, Ph.D.), Energy Commercial Specialist, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Embassy, 24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE, UK, Tel: +44 (0)20 7894 0443, Fax: +44 (0)20 7894 0020, Email: [claudia.colombo@trade.gov](mailto:claudia.colombo@trade.gov).

### Elnora Moye,

*Trade Program Assistant.*

[FR Doc. 2012-4840 Filed 2-28-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-PP-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Pacific Islands Region Coral Reef Ecosystems Permit Form

**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 April 30, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [Jjessup@doc.gov](mailto:Jjessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Walter Ikehara, (808) 944-2275 or [Walter.Ikehara@noaa.gov](mailto:Walter.Ikehara@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a current information collection. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires, as codified under 50 CFR part 665, any person, (1) fishing for, taking, retaining, or using a vessel to fish for Western Pacific coral reef ecosystem management unit species in the designated low-use Marine Protected Areas; (2) fishing for any of these species using gear not specifically allowed in the regulations; or (3) fishing

for, taking, or retaining any Potentially Harvested Coral Reef Taxa in the coral reef ecosystem regulatory area, to obtain and carry a permit. A receiving vessel must also have a transshipment permit for at-sea transshipment of coral reef ecosystem management unit species. The permit application form provides basic information about the permit applicant, vessel, fishing gear and method, target species, projected fishing effort, etc., for use by NMFS and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council in determining eligibility for permit issuance. The information is important for understanding the nature of the fishery and provides a link to participants. It also aids in the enforcement of Fishery Ecosystem Plan measures.

#### II. Method of Collection

Information is submitted to NMFS, in the form of paper permit application forms.

#### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0463.

*Form Number:* None.

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

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 12.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 2 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 30.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$100 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

#### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 24, 2012.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

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

[FR Doc. 2012-4779 Filed 2-28-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Report of Whaling Operations**

**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 April 30, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [Jjessup@doc.gov](mailto:Jjessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Melissa Andersen (301) 427-8385 or [Melissa.Andersen@noaa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Andersen@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for extension of a current information collection.

Native Americans may conduct certain aboriginal subsistence whaling in accordance with the provisions of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). In order to respond to obligations under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, and the IWC, captains participating in these operations must submit certain information to the relevant Native American whaling organization about strikes on and catch of whales. Anyone retrieving a dead whale is also required to report. Captains must place a distinctive permanent identification mark on any harpoon, lance, or explosive dart used, and must also provide information on the mark and

self-identification information. The relevant Native American whaling organization receives the reports, compiles them, and submits the information to NOAA.

The information is used to monitor the hunt and to ensure that quotas are not exceeded. The information is also provided to the IWC, which uses it to monitor compliance with its requirements.

**II. Method of Collection**

Reports may be made by phone or fax. Information on equipment marks must be made in writing. No form is used.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0311.

*Form Number:* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 51.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 30 minutes for reports on whales struck or on recovery of dead whales; 5 minutes for providing the relevant Native American whaling organization with information on the mark and self-identification information; 5 minutes for marking gear; and 5 hours for the relevant Native American whaling organization to consolidate and submit reports.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 45.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$100 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 24, 2012.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

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

[FR Doc. 2012-4778 Filed 2-28-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XB042**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 16325**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Jooke Robbins, Ph.D., Center for Coastal Studies (CCS), 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA 02657, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), blue whales (*B. musculus*), sei whales (*B. borealis*), minke whales (*B. acutorostrata*), sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*).

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before March 30, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 16325 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376;

Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978) 281-9328; fax (978) 281-9394; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please