

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 10/31/2012

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 08/27/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201208-0648-005
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Progress Reports
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0472

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: 10/31/2015

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	500	4,145	0
New	500	4,145	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
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
NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Progress Reports - Semi-annual report	NA	Grantees progress report	
NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Progress Reports - Annual report	NA	Grantees progress report	

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
NOAA RESTORATION CENTER PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0472**

A. JUSTIFICATION

This request is for extension of this information collection.

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

This information collection assists the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the administration and evaluation of coastal and marine habitat restoration projects. It helps inform policy and practitioner decisions on restoration cost-effectiveness and relative 'success' through evaluation of short and long-term outcomes, building evidence of the program's effectiveness as a tool for fisheries management.

NOAA notifies the public periodically through www.grants.gov regarding financial and technical assistance available for coastal and marine habitat restoration projects. Examples of previously funded restoration actions that improve habitat for recreational, commercial and managed fish species include:

- Projects that seek to restore coastal and marine habitat to recover threatened or endangered species or benefit species of concern;
- Diadromous fish habitat, particularly projects that remove in-stream migration barriers or create/restore habitats limiting productivity;
- Shellfish habitat restoration/creation, for the broad ecological benefits and ecosystem services it provides;
- Coral reefs, through projects that address land-based sources of pollution, recovery from disturbance or disease, or that promote coral recruitment and/or recovery;
- Coastal wetlands, through shoreline restoration or hydrological reconnection;
- Projects that provide protection for communities and infrastructure through habitat restoration to improve coastal resiliency to storms and flooding;
- Projects that improve the potential for coastal habitat to respond to climate change through restoration or protection of transition zones that provide room for habitat migration with sea level rise;
- Projects that seek to address the problem of marine debris accumulation in coastal and marine habitats;
- Projects that support conservation corps type activities to provide employment, education and training through restoration of coastal and marine habitat; and
- Restoration of Great Lakes habitats within Areas of Concern (AOC) addressing beneficial use impairments to loss of fish and wildlife habitat and/or degradation of benthos.

Federal Funding Opportunities (FFO) posted on grants.gov describe eligible habitat restoration activities and applicant groups, specific program priorities and the standard, NOAA-wide evaluation criteria against which applications are reviewed. They also describe the necessity for

pre-and post-restoration monitoring to detect short- and long-term ecological and socioeconomic outcomes, as well as describe the technical assistance available from restoration specialists located in field offices around the coastal United States. To evaluate a basic level of ecological success, NOAA expects a minimum level of short-term evaluation parameters to include one or more of the following: acres restored; stream miles opened for fish passage; tonnage of marine debris removed; or another, similar measure that describes the significance of the proposed actions. NOAA further encourages outcome-based performance measures that focus on numerical increases in target species. Examples of long-term performance evaluation include, but are not limited to: improved fish habitat quality; increased abundance of target species; impact on status of listed species and species of concern; changes in recreational angling and similar parameters. Restoration specialists work with successful applicants to incorporate long-term monitoring parameters into select projects to facilitate outcome level analysis of specific project types (fish passage, hydrological reconnection, coral reef and shellfish habitat) over time.

Awards are made as grants or cooperative agreements under the authority of the [Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act](#), 16 U.S.C. 661, as amended by the [Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970](#), the [Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006](#) (Title 1, Sec. 117), the [Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act](#) (MDRPR Act, 33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.), the [Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000](#) (Title I, Public Law 106-457) and other authorities. Applications for federal financial assistance are submitted via the grants.gov website using the required OMB-approved federal application forms. Funding recommendations are typically determined through a competitive process involving technical merit review and ranking of the applications.

Successful applicants are required by the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) to submit periodic performance reports and a final report for each award. This information collection stipulates what is to be provided in these reports and will assist grantees in fulfilling their responsibilities in meeting semi-annual and final progress report requirements. Local, state and regional NOAA partners use this information collection to report to NOAA in aggregate the results of sub-awarded projects supported with NOAA restoration funding.

Over 2000 restoration projects have received NOAA funds since 1996. Requests for individual project funding has increased, and projects have become more complex in scope and scale. It is critical to accurately track the status and success of funded projects to provide accountability for the expenditure of these federal restoration funds. Collection of this information allows NOAA to respond quickly to inquiries from management, members of Congress and constituents, and directly supports NOAA performance measure reporting under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) “acres restored” measure.

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.

This information collection will continue to be used by NOAA Restoration Center (RC) staff to populate a project tracking database (Restoration Center Database, or RCDB) on an ongoing basis. Results of staff queries to the database are currently used by upper level NOAA management to respond to congressional and constituent inquiries, provide an accurate

accounting of ‘acres restored’ under the GPRA measure, and enable the NOAA Restoration Center to distinguish between acres of wetlands restored, enhanced and protected. The database tracks sources and amounts of funding, volunteer numbers and hours contributed toward projects, provides a quality controlled subset of project data to the public through live links from the World Wide Web, and promotes planning through a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping function. Project data is reported to the public only once projects have been completed and verified by field staff.

This information collection requirement applies only to those parties receiving NOAA restoration funds under specific competitions (Community-based Restoration Program, Open Rivers Initiative, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects, Marine Debris Removal grants, Estuary Restoration grants, National and Regional Restoration Partnership grants, and Great Lakes Habitat Restoration grants), and will focus on specific project sites where NOAA funds were used to implement habitat restoration and monitoring activities.

Grantees are required to provide information in a two-part process consisting of a Progress Report Narrative and form-fillable fields for specific project data, both parts of which are included in a single Project Data Form (attached). Stakeholder feedback was most recently collected informally from ARRA grantees and partners that will receive FY12 funding, as well as through the Federal Register Notice of the renewal of this information collection (77 FR 14347) on March 9, 2012 regarding the practical utility of the data.

Comments and suggestions for improvement were solicited, but there were no improvements or modifications recommended for the currently approved collection. Feedback on progress reporting using the currently approved collection amongst ARRA recipients and current project partners was overwhelmingly positive. Grantees understood the utility of the information they provided, felt that it helped improve their own program’s internal operating procedures, and that the form helped them work collaboratively with NOAA staff to set appropriate targets and milestones as well as consistently report performance on NOAA-funded projects.

- a. The general information to be collected in the Performance Progress Report includes:
 - (1) Name of federal agency and organization to which report is submitted.
 - (2) Grant number as assigned by NOAA’s Grants Online electronic grants management system.
 - (3a) Recipient organization’s Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS) number.
 - (3b) Federal tax identification number (Employer Identification Number, or EIN).
 - (4) Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including ZIP code).
 - (5) Recipient designated identification or account number for organization’s internal purposes.
 - (6) Project/grant start date and end date (MM/DD/YY).
 - (7) Reporting period end date (MM/DD/YY).
 - (8) Final Report (check the box ‘yes’ or ‘no’).
 - (9) Report Frequency (check the box ‘annual’, ‘semi-annual’, ‘quarterly’ or ‘other’).
 - (10) Performance Narrative. For interim progress reports, the narrative includes overall goals for the project, details on progress achieved during the reporting period, challenges or potential roadblocks to future progress, and an updated

timeline of remaining tasks. For the final progress report, also included is the relevance of the project to enhancing habitat, the problems the project has addressed, the methodology used to undertake restoration activities, including materials used and specific monitoring techniques, and lessons learned.

- (11) Other Attachments. Grantees list other documents they upload into NOAA Grants Online as part of the report including things such as monitoring reports, articles/news clippings, project photographs, etc.
- (12a) Typed name and title of authorized certifying official for the award.
- (12b) Signature of authorized certifying official, submitted electronically.
- (12c) Telephone number of authorized certifying official.
- (12d) Email address of authorized certifying official.
- (12e) Date (MM/DD/YY) report submitted (electronically via NOAA Grants Online).

b. Project-specific information to be collected in the Performance Progress Report includes:

- (2-01) Project title.
- (2-02) Federal program officer's name.
- (2-03 to 2-06) Details on the project's main contact person (name, title, email address and phone number).
- (2-07) The organization's website URL (if they have one).
- (2-08 to 2-10) The location of the project (city, county and state).
- (2-11) Land ownership (check the box 'public', 'private' or 'both').
- (2-12) Geographic coordinates of the project site (longitude and latitude in decimal degrees) so it can be mapped using GIS; for projects with multiple locations, the grantee is instructed to choose a location where most of the grant resources are used).
- (2-13) A check box denoting whether there is one project site for the award or multiple locations.
- (2-14) The names and organization affiliation of any partners contributing to or otherwise involved in the project.
- (2-15) A list of the target species that will directly benefit from the restoration project.

Section A. Program Indicators.

In this section, grantees work with NOAA Federal Program Officers and technical monitors to number (column 1) and describe (column 2) distinct restoration activities outlined in the final proposal narrative agreed to by the grantee and NOAA, indicate whether the activity is completed, ongoing/in progress, or not started during the reporting period (column 3), and provide a brief description of the grantees progress toward completing the activity (column 4).

Section B. Performance Measures

In this section, grantees work with NOAA Federal Program Officers and technical monitors to number (column 1) and describe (column 2) specific performance goals and objectives for the project as specified in the approved work plan relative to the type of habitat to be restored, identify the unit of measure (column 3), identify a baseline for that measure (column 4), enter the year the grantee expects to accomplish the target measure specified in the work plan (column 5), the overall amount to be achieved (column 6), the actual, cumulative amount achieved by the end of the reporting period (column 7) and a brief explanation (column 8) that describes monitoring or verification activities related to the specific measure and whether the target was met, and if not, why it was not.

Section C. Table of Activities and Funding

In this section, grantees work with NOAA Federal Program Officers and technical monitors to number (column 1) and describe (column 2) major project activities or categories of funds spent from NOAA and match sources. Grantees itemize (columns 3.1 to 3.5) the total NOAA award amount, as well as the matching funds, the cumulative amount of NOAA and matching funding used by the end of the current reporting period, as well as the source and nature of matching funds (cash, goods, services, etc) for the current reporting period. Section C.4. provides a text box where grantees can explain any discrepancies between the approved budget and the actual or planned expenditures, particularly those that do not require prior approval of the NOAA Grants Management division.

Section D. Program/Project Management

This section is required only for those recipients who provide sub-awards for multiple projects under a single grant or that receive awards of \$500,000 or greater. The objective of collecting information in this section is to ensure partners offering restoration sub-awards and those grantees who are implementing large-scale restoration projects consider the performance management systems they use to evaluate and manage their federal restoration funding, identify and correct any project management deficiencies, remain focused on meeting proposed performance targets and achieving long-term performance goals, and properly managing the sub-award process.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy and electronic information. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. The information is subjected to quality control measures prior to project records being approved for the production mode of the database, and specific products produced from the data undergo 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.

The progress reports are form-fillable PDF files that are populated, saved, and updated using Adobe software and a personal computer. Grantees can access the report form at <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov> and it is also provided to grantees by their Federal Program Officer; grantees can save the information in the first progress report and use the same file to produce and print subsequent reports, eliminating duplication, and simplifying the effort needed to produce a comprehensive final report. Electronic submission of the information collected is required and all grantees provide this information electronically by uploading it to NOAA's Grants Online system. Reports are then viewable by select technical monitors in field locations for review and verification before being accepted by Federal Program Officers. Most grantees have the technology available to collect project location information and verify using a hand-held Geographic Positioning System unit (GPS). This is not required however, as the RCDB has a web-based GIS mapping function that can identify specific project sites for grantees that don't have access to GPS. The RCDB has the capability to look up and map geographic coordinates, and confirmation of geographic coordinates is part of the quality assurance/quality control plan associated with the RCDB. No other type of information technology is necessary to collect the majority of information that will be requested. A subset of the information that is collected is made available to the public over the internet once a database record is populated and approved for production, which ensures the data meets NOAA Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines. The restoration database that stores this information, first established in 2001, is in the midst of being upgraded, a process that will be completed in early FY13 to increase its functionality and utility.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Based on discussions with staff from other federal programs that undertake similar types of granting activities related to habitat and fisheries and that collect project-specific data, no evidence of duplication of information collection could be found. NOAA and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat programs have worked to better align their respective databases (NOAA's RCDB and FWS HaBITS) to standardize data fields and definitions to enable meaningful comparison of habitat data. Grantees that receive project funding from more than one agency indicated that this information collection did not duplicate information collected by other agencies, as funds tend to go toward different project components; in fact, grantees found that NOAA's information collection was often useful in helping them report on project status to their other funding sources. The information provided to NOAA by grantees is unique to each project and progress report, and is typically used by grantees to report on project status to interested parties outside NOAA.

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

Only successful applicants are required to submit semi-annual and final progress reports. Specific instructions are provided to guide the preparation of semi-annual and final reports to prevent submission of unnecessary information and to minimize the burden on grantees. The

information to be collected is very basic in its nature and should not be a hardship or burden for small entities (approximately 4% of grantees) that receive NOAA community-based project funds to produce.

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

If the information collection is discontinued, NOAA's ability to precisely account for the expenditure of federal funds for voluntary restoration activities, and provide accurate data to support GPRA 'acres restored' and other performance measures, will be compromised. If this information is not conducted or conducted less frequently, it will compromise the agency's ability to use and build evidence of effectiveness for its restoration grant programs. There will be no means to respond to Congressional inquiries in a rapid, accurate, efficient and cost-effective manner. Conducting this information collection less frequently will not meet the standards of the NOAA Grants Management Division for semi-annual reporting, and would make it more difficult to determine and correct poor grantee performance, since less frequent collection provides insufficient information to monitor awards to ensure Federal monies are properly used. Altering collection frequency will also inhibit timely responses to Freedom of Information Act requests that may be submitted.

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

Not Applicable.

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 published on March 9, 2012 (77 FR 14347) solicited public comment on this information collection renewal request. No comments were received.

Consultations with interested and affected persons are an integral part of this information collection, and are accomplished by discussions with a representative cross section of current grantees to explain and clarify the information needed and solicit suggestions for improvement, typically on a one-on-one basis. The information collection was most recently discussed with grantees conducting large-scale habitat restoration under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and with current national and regional habitat restoration partners. These discussions took place periodically from 2010 through 2012, and were between NOAA Federal Program Officers and grantee partners (e.g. FishAmerica Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, among others). This timeframe covers the period of performance for most ARRA awards and NOAA's existing national and regional restoration partnership grants.

There was overwhelming support for the continued collection of this information and the electronic format in which it is collected; frequency of reporting and data elements were deemed appropriate, and data was readily available. As a result of these discussions, the form helped two of NOAA's partners (FishAmerica Foundation and the Hawaii Community Foundation) align their own reporting processes with those of NOAA. This made it easier for them to aggregate project accomplishments and streamline overall partnership accomplishment reporting. Grantees recognized that this collection not only provides NOAA with data critical for the purposes discussed above, but that it will, over time, reveal status and trends within categories of projects to help grantees strengthen the technical aspects of similar project types proposed for funding consideration and improve NOAA decision making. Consultations will continue with current and future grantees as necessary to ensure they understand the information collection requirements and to solicit suggestions for improvements.

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

No payments or gifts will be provided to respondents of this information collection other than remuneration of contractors or grantees implementing projects supported through the NOAA Restoration Center.

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

The information collection does not request any proprietary or confidential information. No confidentiality is provided.

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 collected.

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

Estimated burden hours and costs during one year for this renewed information collection will be 4,145 hours and \$145,625 respectively, as shown below. Costs are based on an average of \$35 per hour for professional labor. However, it should be noted that the cost for the semi-annual and final reports are included as personnel costs by grantees (either federal or matching funds), and are therefore not costs incurred by the public for this information collection*. This amounts to less than 2% of programmatic funds that are used for record keeping and reporting purposes that are part of routine project management for grants recipients.

The Restoration Center annually provides 125 new awards on average, with an award period of 24 months. Three semi-annual reports and one final report are required for each award over a 24-month period totaling 500 reports over the life of these projects. Each year 2 semi-annual reports from 125 new grantees and 1 semi-annual and 1 final report from the previous year's 125

grantees will be submitted. Approximately 25 of these semi-annual and 75 of these final reports also require recipients to fill out Section D, adding a slight increase to annualized burden hours.

Annual Burden Hour Estimates for NOAA Performance Progress Reports

Instrument Components	Type of Report	Number of Respondents*	Total No. of Responses	Response Time (hrs)	Total Burden (hrs)
Performance Progress Report - Cover Page	semi-annual	125	3	3	1125
	final	125	1	5	625
Cover Page Continuation	semi-annual	125	1	0.5	62.5 (63)
	final	125	1	0.5	62.5 (63)
A. Program Indicators	semi-annual	125	3	1	375
	final	125	1	2	250
B. Performance measures	semi-annual	125	3	0.75	281.25 (281)
	final	125	1	1	125
C. Table of Activities and Funding	semi-annual	125	3	2	750
	final	125	1	3	375
D. Program/Project/Sub-award Management	semi-annual	25	3	0.5	37.5 (38)
	final	75	1	1	75
Total Hours Requested					4,145

<p>* Assumptions: 125 new recipients annually whose awards run for 24 months. 125 new recipients turn in 2 semi-annual reports annually. 125 recipients from prior year awards turn in 1 semi-annual and 1 final report annually. Semi-annual reports take less time to research and prepare than final reports. Final reports are cumulative. Cover Page Continuation is needed at the 1st semi-annual reporting period and final report only. **Section D - used by a subset of recipients that make sub-awards and/or receive awards over \$500,000. Accountant Level III work at \$35/hour is required for bookkeeping and report writing.</p>

Interim report costs: \$254 to \$271** per respondent (slightly higher cost is for recipients that fill out Section D)

Final report costs: \$403 to \$438** per respondent

375 semi-annual reports/year X \$254 = \$95,250

125 final reports/year X \$403 = \$50,375

TOTAL charge to CRP grants required for reporting* = \$145,625

Collection totals are 250 respondents, 500 responses, and 4,145 hours. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, and gathering and maintaining project information (photos, press releases, partner contributions, volunteer hours, tracking of multiple project sites, etc) needed to answer survey questions based on information that awardees should have readily available. Respondents are limited to those organizations that have received funding through select NOAA Restoration Center programs. These estimates were determined from a representative sample provided by recipients that have been using the existing approved information collection to report grants progress to the NOAA Restoration Center through NOAA's Grants Online grants management system.

The estimated total annual burden hours for information collected from NOAA recipients under the currently approved form are unchanged from the prior approval.

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).

No capital or start-up costs are expected to result from this collection by the respondents. Any need for the purchase of a computer, software, or supplies required for project implementation, or for monitoring and data entry, are included as part of the grant request. Operations and maintenance costs are limited to writing reports and maintaining financial records; these too are included as part of the grant request. There are no costs for submission of reports, as they are submitted through grants.gov.

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

It is anticipated that twenty restoration specialists (full-time employees, or FTE) will devote no more than 5% of their time annually to input the information collected into a database, one computer specialist FTE will devote no more than 15% of their time annually to update quality controlled data and maintain GIS maps and webpage links, and supervise and task a contractor, and that one contractor will provide 10% of their time to maintain the database, work on change requests and subsequent enhancements and version releases. Assumptions are as follows:

20 restoration FTEs X (\$85,000 annual average salary) X (5% of their time) = \$85,000
1 computer engineer FTE X (\$102,000 annual average salary) X (15% of their time) = \$15,300
1 IT contractor X (\$102,000 annual average salary) X (10% of their time) = \$10,200

The annualized cost to the Federal government to conduct this information collection is estimated to be \$110,500. No equipment, overhead, printing or other costs should be involved with the processing of this information collection. The Restoration Center Database (RCDC) has been upgraded and a new version in a new programming language was released in July 2012. This recent enhancement will enable more powerful queries and faster responses to answer specific questions, and subsequent releases will incorporate key monitoring and evaluation data to allow evidence-based evaluation of program effectiveness.

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

There are no changes or adjustments from the currently approved information collection.

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

The results of this collection will not be published. A subset of the information is however made available to the public on the Restoration Center's home page at www.nmfs.gov/habitat/restoration, under the "Programs and Projects" link, where the public can view projects by location or habitat type, see the project location on a map, and review an abstract of the project including funding information, project partners, and a contact for more information.

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.

Performance Progress Report (PPR) Instructions

The following instructions provide guidance on reporting and explain the requirements for awards funded by the NOAA Restoration Center.

Performance Progress Report		
Item	Data Elements	Line Item Instructions for the NOAA Restoration Center's Performance Progress Report
1	Awarding Federal agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted	Enter the name of the awarding Federal agency and organizational element identified in the award document or otherwise instructed by the agency. The organizational element is a sub-agency within an awarding Federal agency.
2	Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by the awarding Federal agency	Enter the grant/award number contained in the award document.
3a	DUNS Number	Enter the recipient organization's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number or Central Contract Registry extended DUNS number.
3b	EIN	Enter the recipient organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service.
4	Recipient Organization	Enter the name of recipient organization and address, including zip code.
5	Recipient Identifying Number or Account Number	Enter the account number or any other identifying number assigned by the recipient to the award. This number is strictly for the recipient's use only and is not required by the awarding Federal agency.
6	Project/Grant Period	Indicate the grant period established in the award document during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.
7	Reporting Period End Date	Enter the ending date of the reporting period. The reporting period is established in the award document, is usually semi-annual, and ends 30 days prior to the report due date. For final PPRs, the reporting period end date shall be the end date of the grant period, 90 days prior to the report due date.
8	Final Report	Mark appropriate box. Check "yes" only if this is the final report for the grant period specified in Box 6.
9	Report Frequency	Select the appropriate term corresponding to the requirements contained in the award document. "Other" may be used when more frequent reporting is required for high-risk grantees, as specified in OMB Circular A-110.
10	Performance Narrative	For interim progress reports, the narrative should include overall goals for the project, details on progress achieved during the reporting period, challenges or potential roadblocks to future progress, and an updated timeline of remaining tasks. For the final progress report, also include the relevance of the project to enhancing habitat, the problems the project has addressed, the methodology used to undertake restoration activities, including materials used and specific monitoring techniques, and lessons learned.
11	Other Attachments	List other required or optional documents such as monitoring reports, articles/news clippings, project photographs (high resolution before, during and after images on CD-ROM), project maps or geographic/spatial data files, and/or evidence of NOAA support (e.g. photographs of signs at project site, funding credit in outreach materials, press releases, etc.) that you will provide to NOAA with your report.
12a	Certifying Representative and Title of Authorized Typed or Printed Name	Authorized certifying official of the recipient.
12b	Certifying Official Signature of Authorized	Original signature of the recipient's authorizing official.
12c	Telephone (area code, number and extension)	Enter authorized official's telephone number.
12d	Email Address	Enter authorized official's email address.
12e	(Month, Day, Year) Date Report Submitted	Enter date submitted to the awarding Federal agency. Interim reports must be received by the awarding Federal agency no later than 30 days after the end of the reporting period, while final reports are due 90 days after the end of the award.

Continuation of Performance Progress Report Cover Page		
Item	Data Elements	Line Item Instructions for SF-PPR for NOAA Restoration Center
2-01	Project Title	Enter the name of the project as listed in the application.
2-02	Federal Program Officer	Enter the name of the Federal Program Officer with responsibility for monitoring this award.
2-03	Project Contact - Name	Enter the name of the person who is the main point of contact for this project. This is not necessarily the same person as that listed as the Authorizing Official.
2-04	Project Contact - Title	Enter the title of the person who is the main point of contact for this project.
2-05	Project Contact – email address	Enter the email address of the person who is the main point of contact for this project.
2-06	Project Contact – Phone No.	Enter the phone number of the person who is the main point of contact for this project.
2-07	Organization website	Enter the URL for the website of the grantee organization.
2-08	Project Location: City	Enter the name of the City where the project is located.
2-09	Project Location: County	Enter the name of the County where the project is located.
2-10	Project Location: State	Enter the name of the State where the project is located.
2-11	Land Ownership	Check the appropriate box corresponding with the landownership of the project site.
2-12	Geographic Coordinates	Enter the geographic coordinates in decimal degrees for the project location. (For projects with multiple locations, choose a location with a major expenditure of project resources.)
2-13	Multiple project sites	Check the appropriate box to indicate if there is one project site for this award or multiple locations.
2-14	List of Project Partners	Enter the names and organizational affiliation of any partners also contributing to or involved with this project.
2-15	List of Target Species	List the target species that will directly benefit from this project (e.g., coho salmon, blue crab, striped bass, Olympia oyster, etc.)

Program Indicators		
A.(1)	Activity Number or Label	Enter the Number or label used to track a particular award.
A.(2)	Activity Description	These activities are outlined in the final proposal narrative agreed to by the grantee and NOAA. If overall activities change, please communicate with your Federal Program Officer to discuss if a change in scope request is appropriate.
A.(3)	Indicator or Status	State if the activity/project is completed, ongoing/in progress, or not started.
A.(4)	Explanation	Include a brief description of your progress towards completing the activity, such as roadblocks, challenges and revised timelines for specific activities.
Performance Measures		
B.(1)	Measure Number or Label	Enter number or label used to identify a particular performance.
B.(2)	Objective/Goal Description	For each measure, list the corresponding project/award goal(s) and objective(s) as specified in the approved work plan, and/or through discussions with the awarding agency. These should include the habitat type to be restored. Examples are provided for the main type of performance measure data typically collected by the NOAA Restoration Center.
B.(3)	Measure	Enter the unit of measure. This can be quantitative or qualitative.
B.(4)	Baseline	Enter the initial starting point or average amount or condition related to each measure.
B.(5)	Target Year	Enter the year you expect to accomplish the targets specified in the approved work plan.
B.(6)	Project Target	Enter the expected amount to be achieved as specified in the approved work plan.

B.(7)	Actual to Date	State the actual cumulative amount, condition or status achieved as of the end of the reporting period.
B.(8)	Explanation	If you did not meet or do not expect to meet your target, please explain why not. Also, provide a brief description of monitoring/verification activities completed to date that relate to this measure (i.e., monitoring technique, frequency).
Table of Activities and Funding		
C.(1)	Expenditure Number or Label	Enter a number or label.
C.(2)	Expenditure Description	List the major expenditures, activities, or categories of funds spent from NOAA and match sources (e.g. salaries, contractual dam removal, native vegetation purchased, vegetation planted by contractors, vegetation planted by volunteers, etc.)
C.(3.1)	Total Approved NOAA Funds	Enter the amount of NOAA funds budgeted for the entire award period for each expenditure listed, as stated in the original grant application or most recently approved budget revision.
C.(3.2)	Total Approved Match Funds	Enter the amount of matching funds budgeted for the entire award period for each expenditure listed, as stated in the original grant application or most recently approved budget revision.
C.(3.3)	NOAA Funding Expended	Enter the cumulative amount of NOAA funds used by the end of the current reporting period (this reporting period plus all previous periods) for each expenditure listed.
C.(3.4)	Match Funding Expended	Enter the cumulative amount of matching funds used by the end of the current reporting period (this reporting period plus all previous periods) for each expenditure listed.
C.(3.5)	Match Source	List the source of match contributions (entity providing cash, goods, or services) for the current reporting period in each expenditure line.
C. (4)	Budget Deviations	Explain any differences between the approved budget and actual or planned expenditures. Note that some budget changes require prior approval, as described in the award document.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0648-0472. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average seven hours for a semi-annual report, and eleven hours and fifteen minutes for a final report, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. Any questions or comments regarding this form should be sent to: Chief, NOAA Restoration Center, F/HC3, NOAA Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Instructions Part D, Program/Project Management

Item	Data Elements	Instructions
1	Awarding Federal agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted	Enter the name of the awarding Federal agency and organizational element as "NOAA Fisheries Service."
2	Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by the awarding Federal agency	Enter the grant/award number contained in the award document.
3a	DUNS Number	Enter the recipient organization's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number or Central Contract Registry extended DUNS number.
3b	EIN	Enter the recipient organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service.
4	Reporting Period End Date	Enter the ending date of the reporting period. The reporting period is established in the award document, is usually semi-annual, and ends 30 days prior to the report due date. For final PPRs, the reporting period end date shall be the end date of the grant period, 90 days prior to the report due date.
D-1 Program/Project Management		
Questions		
D-1a	Do you collect credible performance information, including information from key program partners or sub-awardees, and use it to manage the program/project and improve performance?	<p>Credible performance information is information that is collected through a systematic process with quality controls to confirm its validity.</p> <p>Explanation Section--Please describe how you use credible information to adjust program priorities, allocate resources, or take other appropriate management actions. You may also include a description of your management systems, and examples of recent management actions based on performance information or steps taken to enact necessary improvements cited by a specific evaluation.</p>
D-1b	Are the award funds obligated in a timely manner and for the intended purposes?	<p>A yes answer would require that funds are obligated consistently with the overall project/award plan, and in a timely manner.</p> <p>Explanation Section--Please describe your schedule and if applicable, your partners' schedules for obligations that correspond to the resource needs of the program/project plan. Please also describe procedures for reporting actual expenditures.</p>
D-1c	Do you link your budgets to program/project activities and make adjustments to achieve cost-efficiencies?	<p>A yes answer would require that you have procedures to measure and achieve effectiveness and cost efficiencies in your program/project, such as per-unit cost of outputs and outcomes, timing targets, etc.</p> <p>Explanation Section--If the answer is yes, please describe what efficiencies are achieved. If the answer is no, explain and provide a plan to put in place or improve cost effectiveness and efficiency. Indicate N/A if this does not apply.</p>

D-1d	Do you collaborate and coordinate effectively with related programs/projects (if applicable)?	A yes answer would require that you collaborate, to the extent appropriate or possible, with related State, local and private programs. Explanation Section --Describe collaborations leading to meaningful actions in management and resource allocation. This can include planning documents, performance goals, or information and referral systems. Indicate N/A if this does not apply.
D-1e	Have you identified any management deficiencies? If so, provide an explanation of the deficiencies identified.	Deficiencies include but are not limited to, financial management or other identified deficiencies, such as known internal control weaknesses concerning data quality. A yes answer would require that deficiencies have been identified. Explanation Section --Include a description of how the deficiencies were identified and corrected including a description of the steps taken to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and completeness of the data. Indicate N/A if this does not apply.
D-1f	Did you achieve all your performance targets?	A yes answer would require that: (1) an assessment occur comparing actual accomplishments with performance targets established for the reporting period; and (2) if partner performance is critical to the program/project achieving its overall targets, and whether the recipient's partners are meeting their performance targets. The project/award goals are specified in the work plan approved by the awarding Federal agency. Explanation Section -- If any performance targets are not met, explain and discuss any adjustments that will be made to achieve the performance targets in the future. If additional clarification of the Performance Measures Section is needed, you may provide additional comments here. Indicate N/A if this does not apply.
D-1g	Are you on target to achieve your long-term performance goals?	A yes answer would require that the program/project is meeting or making measurable progress toward meeting the long-term performance goals specified in the approved work plan. Explanation Section --The explanation should justify the answer in qualitative and quantitative terms. If the answer is no, explain and discuss adjustments that will be made to put the program/project on track. Indicate N/A if this does not apply.
D-2 Sub-Award Management		
D-2a	Are the award partners (including sub-awardees and contractors) held accountable for cost, schedule, and performance results (if applicable)?	A yes answer would require that you have established performance standards for your partners and have evaluated whether they met these standards during the reporting period. It would also indicate that you require your partners to achieve specific performance standards. Explanation Section --Describe evidence of your partners' accountability. If the answer is no, explain how you plan to improve accountability. Indicate N/A if this does not apply.
D-2b	Are sub-awards and contracts awarded based on a clear competitive process that includes a qualified assessment of merit?	Explanation Section --Describe your selection processes, whether or not they were competitive or sole sourced. Indicate N/A if this does not apply.

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: March 5, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-5729 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Reporting of Sea Turtle Incidental Take in Virginia Chesapeake Bay Pound Net 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 May 8, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Carrie Upite, (978) 282-8475 or carrie.upite@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a current information collection. This action would continue the reporting measure requiring all Virginia Chesapeake Bay pound net fishermen to report interactions with endangered and threatened sea turtles, found both live and dead, in their pound net operations. When a live or dead sea turtle is discovered during a pound net trip, the Virginia pound net fisherman is

required to report the incidental take to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and, if necessary, the appropriate rehabilitation and stranding network. This information will be used to monitor the level of incidental take in the state-managed Virginia pound net fishery and ensure that the seasonal pound net leader restrictions (50 CFR 223.206(d)(10)) are adequately protecting listed sea turtles. Based on the number of sea turtle takes anticipated in the Virginia pound net fishery and the available number of Virginia pound net fishermen and pound nets, the number of responses anticipated on an annual basis is 483.

II. Method of Collection

Reports may be made either by telephone or fax.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0470.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 27.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 81.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$1,208.

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: March 6, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-5773 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; NOAA Restoration Center Performance Progress Report

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 May 8, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Robin Bruckner, (301) 427-8657 or Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection.

NOAA funds habitat restoration projects including grass-roots, community-based habitat restoration; debris prevention and removal; removal of barriers to migrating fish; and large-scale, targeted restoration through individual projects and restoration partnerships. Awards are made as grants or cooperative agreements under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661, as amended by the Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970.

NOAA requires specific information on habitat restoration projects that we fund, as part of routine progress reporting. Recipients of NOAA funds submit information such as project location, restoration techniques used, species benefited, acres restored, stream miles opened to access for diadromous fish, volunteer participation, and other parameters.

The required information enables NOAA to track, evaluate and report on coastal and marine habitat restoration and demonstrate accountability for federal funds. This information is used to populate a database of NOAA-funded habitat restoration, debris prevention and removal, and barrier removal projects. The database, with its robust querying capabilities, is instrumental to provide accurate and timely responses to NOAA, Department of Commerce, Congressional and Constituent inquiries. It also facilitates reporting by NOAA on the Government Performance and Results Act "acres restored" performance measure. Grant recipients are required by the NOAA Grants Management Division to submit periodic performance reports and a final report for each award; this collection stipulates the information to be provided in these reports.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents have a choice of either electronic fillable forms or paper forms. Methods of submittal include email of electronic forms, or mailing of paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0472.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; state, local, or tribal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250.

Estimated Time per Response: Semi-annual reports, 7 hours, 45 minutes; final reports, 12 hours, 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,145.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 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: March 6, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-5774 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Marine Recreational Information Program

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 May 8, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Rob Andrews, (301) 482-1805 or Rob.Andrews@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for revision of a current information collection.

Marine recreational anglers are surveyed to collect catch and effort data, fish biology data, and angler socioeconomic characteristics. These data are required to carry out provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as amended, regarding conservation and management of fishery resources.

Marine recreational fishing catch and effort data are collected through a combination of mail surveys, telephone surveys and on-site intercept surveys with recreational anglers. Amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) require the development of an improved data collection program for recreational fisheries. To meet these requirements, NOAA Fisheries has designed and tested new approaches for sampling and surveying recreational anglers. Revision: A mail survey that samples from a residential address frame will be implemented to collect data on the number of marine recreational anglers and the number of recreational fishing trips. This survey will replace the Coastal Household Telephone Survey, which has traditionally been used to collect recreational fishing effort data. In addition, the sampling and estimation procedures for the access-point angler intercept survey have been revised to ensure better coverage and representation of recreational fishing activity.

This revision also eliminates several data collections that were implemented to test revised sampling procedures. The following data collections will be eliminated: Longitudinal Sampling for Coastal Household Telephone Survey, a Directory Frame Telephone Survey of Licensed Marine Recreational Anglers, the Angler Diary Recruitment Screening Questionnaire, and Biological Data Collection.

II. Method of Collection

Information will be collected through mail surveys and on-site intercept interviews.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0052.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 611,282.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes for mail surveys of anglers, and 5 minutes for intercepted anglers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 66,239 (12,745 new).

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