

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 08/08/2014

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman

FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 07/08/2014

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201406-0648-007

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: Reporting of Sea Turtle Entanglement in Fishing Gear or Marine Debris

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0496

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: 08/31/2017

DISCONTINUE DATE:

| BURDEN: | RESPONSES | HOURS | COSTS |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Previous | 107 | 99 | 675 |
| New | 243 | 163 | 100 |
| Difference | | | |
| Change due to New Statute | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change due to Agency Discretion | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change due to Agency Adjustment | 136 | 64 | -575 |
| Change due to PRA Violation | 0 | 0 | 0 |

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Dominic J. Mancini
Acting Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

| IC Title | Form No. | Form Name | CFR Citation |
|---|----------|---|--------------|
| Reporting of Sea Turtle Entanglement in Fishing Gear or Marine Debris - written reports | NA, NA | Sea Turtle Entanglement Report Form (nonfillable), Sea Turtle Entanglement Report Form (fillable) | |
| Reporting of Sea Turtle Entanglement in Fishing Gear or Marine Debris - initial telephone calls | | | |
| Reporting of Sea Turtle Entanglement in Fishing Gear and Marine Debris - fishermen interviews | | | |

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
REPORTING OF SEA TURTLE ENTANGLEMENT IN FISHING GEAR
AND MARINE DEBRIS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0496**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This request is for extension of a current information collection. Also, the title of the collection has been changed from “Reporting of Sea Turtle Entanglements in Pot Gear Fisheries” to “Reporting of Sea Turtle Entanglement in Fishing Gear and Marine Debris”.

Four sea turtle species migrate northward along the east coast of the United States (U.S.) to forage in nearshore habitats of the Greater Atlantic Region (Virginia through Maine) during the spring, summer, and fall. These species include juvenile and sub-adult loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp’s ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles, and sub-adult and adult leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The prevalence of vertical line from fixed gear fisheries (pot traps and gill nets) in these nearshore habitats makes the potential for interaction between turtles and fisheries high. From 2002 through 2013, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) received 402 reports of entangled sea turtles, the majority of which were leatherbacks (327 reports).

GARFO is working to reduce sea turtle mortality and serious injury associated with fixed fishing gear interactions, as well as to increase our understanding of these events through the facilitation of the Sea Turtle Disentanglement Network (STDN). The objectives of this program include: (1) to promote reporting and increase successful disentanglement; (2) to develop and disseminate disentanglement guidelines for the STDN; (3) to disseminate disentanglement tools specific to sea turtles; and (4) to establish a trained and equipped network to respond to reported entanglement incidents. The Sea Turtle Disentanglement Guidelines and the Sea Turtle Entanglement Report Form (STERF) (and associated instructions) have been distributed to members of the STDN for the documentation of all entanglement and disentanglement events.

The STDN is made up of federal and state agencies, as well as members of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN). The STSSN includes non-profit organizations, state and municipal agencies that are trained and experienced in sea turtle stranding response on land. Their skills and geographic distribution throughout the region make them ideal members of the STDN. Federal and state agencies involved in the STDN include the United States Coast Guard (USCG), state environmental police, state marine patrols, and other agencies whose primary function involves the marine environment. These agencies have line handling and on-water expertise, as well as the accessibility to the marine environment to facilitate a safe and timely response to entangled sea turtles.

Detailed information, including frequency, geographic distribution, configuration, and gear description, regarding sea turtle entanglement in fixed gear fisheries, is necessary for NOAA

Fisheries to potentially be able to mitigate this threat. Mitigating threats and conserving these species is mandated by the [Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended](#) (ESA). This information will help to assess the impact of fixed fishing gear entanglement on sea turtle populations in the Greater Atlantic Region and determine if regulatory actions or management measures are necessary. Lack of observer coverage for the majority of pot fisheries makes this information collection especially critical.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The Sea Turtle Disentanglement Guidelines and STERF were disseminated to the STDN in July of 2004 after OMB emergency clearance, effective June 25, 2004. Full OMB clearance occurred in December of 2004.

Since then, members of the public have been requested to report any entangled sea turtles to NOAA Fisheries (since 2002, approximately 62.2% of telephone reports came from private citizens (including fishermen), 6.7% from businesses (including charter vessels and ferries), 10.9% from federal agencies, 6.7% from state and local agencies, and 6.0% from non-profit institutions or researchers (7.4% came from unknown sources). Information provided in these phone calls, usually private recreational boaters, includes: reporting party name and contact information, date and time of observation, location (including latitude and longitude), description of turtle for species identification, condition of turtle— alive or dead, description of entangling gear (rope, line, buoys, colors, ID numbers), location of entangling gear on turtle (head, flippers, single wrap, multiple wraps), description of any visible injuries, and if photo documentation can be obtained. Upon receiving a report of an entangled sea turtle, the appropriate STDN member is deployed to respond, for further documentation, disentanglement, and/or treatment of the animal. The STDN member uses the information from the initial report, plus details obtained during response, to fill out the STERF. The STERF is submitted to NOAA Fisheries via fax, postal mail or email.

These report forms are archived by NOAA Fisheries GARFO Protected Resources Division. During the past ten years, this information has been used to monitor the level of incidental take of sea turtles in fixed gear fisheries in the region. The information is distributed to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the Office of Protected Resources at NOAA Headquarters, as needed and as requested. It is also used within GARFO for management actions such as ESA section 7 consultations.

From 2004 to 2013, the STDN received 366 sea turtle entanglement reports, and documentation has been of much higher quality than prior to 2004. The STDN has been able to obtain more high quality images and video, increasing the number of “confirmed” reports and expanding our understanding of sea turtle entanglements. The amount of gear collected from sea turtle entanglement events and sent to NOAA Fisheries GARFO Protected Resources’ Gear Team for analysis has also increased in this period. We have specifically used the information collected in the “Gear Type” and “Gear Details” sections of the STERF to positively identify the target fishery involved in many entanglements, which allows for better monitoring of the number of

takes per fishery. The “Buoy ID Numbers” field on the STERF has proven especially valuable in allowing us to trace entangling gear back to its owner, and conduct a follow-up interview with that fisherman. The Gear Team conducts these interviews, which gather the following information:

- 1) Gear type and target species;
- 2) Gear configuration and construction;
- 3) Date and location gear was last set;
- 4) Bottom type and current influence;
- 5) Location of turtle in the gear configuration; and
- 6) Whether the fisherman witnessed the entanglement and, if so, a description of the chain of events.

This information is not available through any other means or collected on any other form. It is extremely valuable to better understand entangling gear configuration and the manner in which it is set.

The “Entanglement /Wound Description,” “Entanglement/ Wound Diagram,” and “Event Summary and Additional Remarks” sections have provided vital information on the nature of entanglements, including the location of the gear on the turtle and any associated wounds. The check boxes in the first of these sections were created in an effort to have consistency in wound and gear configuration descriptions to better evaluate the severity of entanglements. Information is also collected on the sea turtle’s size and sex in order to define the age and sex classes that are most impacted by entanglement.

Summary of the three steps:

1. The initial report comes in from (usually) a private boater. Some of the info that will later be put on the entanglement form will come in during that initial report. The reporting party will often also stand by the turtle to wait for responders to arrive.
2. The STDN responds and while they are on scene, they collect the rest of the information to fill out the form.
3. If there is gear identification information (buoy numbers, etc.) that allows identification of the gear's owner, our gear specialists can contact the owner to interview him about the gear's configuration and target catch.

Detailed information on the type and configuration of fishing gear, location of gear on the turtle, severity of injuries, location and date of the event, and demographics of entangled turtles create a base of knowledge of sea turtle entanglement in fixed fishing gear. This information will help direct future gear modification research and potential mitigation measures. In addition, it will help us identify the safest and most efficient methods and tools for disentangling sea turtles, with the direct result of decreasing sea turtle serious injury and mortality in these entanglements. The use of these data is consistent with the general actions stated in the sea turtle recovery plans (i.e., minimize mortality from commercial fisheries).

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. See response to Question10 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.

Members of the general public are requested to report all sea turtle entanglements via telephone to the STDN or to NOAA Fisheries directly, by the information at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/stranding/reportstranding.html. The STDN members that complete the STERF will do so either electronically using the fillable PDF (71% in the last three years) or in hard copy that is later scanned (29%). Either way, in the last three years, nearly 100% of submissions to NOAA Fisheries were done via electronic mail. As only trained STDN responders are authorized to disentangle sea turtles, we only post the disentanglement guidelines and STERF on a private website with limited access.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Historically, NOAA Fisheries did not collect this information directly but occasionally received reports from a variety of agencies and the public. The establishment of the STDN developed consistent disentanglement guidelines and reporting protocols to standardize the collection of this information. These documents ensure that takes are reported and vital information on sea turtle entanglements are recorded on a real-time basis. The data requested in the Sea Turtle Disentanglement Guidelines and STERF were not required or requested prior to the first PRA submission in 2004 and they are not collected elsewhere.

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

This information collection will not have a significant impact on small entities. Small entities, including STDN members (typically non-profit institutions) and fishermen, are involved in this information collection but the impacts are minimized by the relatively infrequent nature of the reporting. Sea turtles are typically present in the Greater Atlantic Region from May to November; therefore, reporting and information collection occurs only during these months. All information collection is opportunistic and, therefore, is only collected as frequently as entangled turtles are encountered. The number of reports varies annually, but the most reports per year to date were 76, which occurred in 2013. The STERF is available in a fillable form, which allows STDN members to send it to NOAA Fisheries using electronic mail. This method saves the cost of postage and requires less time for submission. The cost of documentation involving photographs is minimized through the use of digital cameras supplied to the STDN by NOAA Fisheries. Digital photographs can also be sent via electronic mail, meaning there is no cost to developing or sending these images. NOAA Fisheries also covers the cost associated with shipping forms, photos, video and any removed gear, as necessary. There would be no financial

burden to fishermen because calls would be made by NOAA Fisheries staff and all information would be gathered during that call.

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

NOAA Fisheries believes that sea turtle entanglement in fixed fishing gear is a significant source of mortality for leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles based on anecdotal reports and information collected to-date by the STDN and the STSSN. There is little or no observer coverage in most pot gear fisheries, which means that data collection using the STERF is the only way of assessing sea turtle take in these fisheries. If NOAA Fisheries does not continue to disseminate disentanglement guidelines and STERFs, information on sea turtle entanglement in fixed gear fisheries would likely become inconsistent, slow, and potentially lacking important data. The disentanglement guidelines also provide the STDN with standard methodology for disentanglement that will ensure consistent and appropriate actions to maximize positive outcomes in these events.

In addition, if reports are not received in a timely manner, turtles that are injured by entanglement in fixed fishing gear would not receive appropriate medical treatment. Dead entangled turtles would not be documented through thorough data collection and, if appropriate, necropsy by the STDN. GARFO has dedicated a significant amount of funding and staff time to establishing the STDN and collecting information that is essential to understanding sea turtle entanglement in fixed fishing gear and mitigating the negative impact of these interactions. Acquiring this information to fulfill the aforementioned objectives is an important aspect of the GARFO sea turtle program.

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

The collection of this information may be inconsistent with the OMB guidelines, Item #1. Item #1 states that the information collection should not require respondents to report information more often than quarterly. Real-time reporting of entangled sea turtles is critical to facilitating trained and authorized responders being able to relocate and disentangle turtles, thereby increasing their chance of survival. Reporting and documentation of entanglement would thus need to be collected more frequently than on a quarterly basis. Sea turtles are generally present in the Greater Atlantic Region from May to November and there could be reports of entangled sea turtles at any time during that period. For example, multiple entangled sea turtles may be encountered in one day or one entangled sea turtle may be encountered in a month. Given the necessity for real-time reporting, there is the potential for members of the STDN, though likely not any specific member of the public, to report sea turtle entanglements more often than quarterly.

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 12, 2014 (79 FR 8433) solicited public comment. No comments were received as a result of this notice.

The Sea Turtle Disentanglement Guidelines and STERF were originally compiled with input from the following organizations external to GARFO STDN, state agencies, Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Dalhousie University, USCG, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sea Grant, and fishermen. Draft changes to the document were distributed to members of the STDN and feedback was solicited prior to finalization of both documents. NOAA Fisheries consistently works with the STDN and interacts regarding the submission of data, including the use of the STERF. NOAA Fisheries has not received any negative feedback that would result in changes to be made to the STERF or the Disentanglement Guidelines.

NOAA Fisheries solicited comments about this data collection from STDN members during this renewal process in 2014. The Center for Coastal Studies stated that they had no comments.

The Virginia Aquarium (VAQS) submitted the following, “The STSSN Stranding Report form adequately summarizes basic stranding information, but the NOAA Sea Turtle Entanglement Report Form provides a consistent standard for accurately documenting the various entanglements. The time burden for completing and reporting the extra information seldom exceeds more than an hour per entanglement case. VAQS frequently reports entanglement data and the provided entanglement report form provides a relatively straightforward platform for reporting accurate data, particularly for recording the intricacies in various gear types. The burden for the caller is likely to be 1-2 hours, depending on their location and the time needed for VAQS to respond. Documenting and reporting the nature of entanglements in a timely fashion, as well as potentially identifying the source of entanglements, provides crucial data for continued sea turtle conservation and fisheries management.”

The last organization that responded was the Mystic Aquarium, which asked a question regarding reporting the time burden of multiple phone calls during response coordination. I responded to them specifying that the time burden documented in this PRA package was specifically for collecting the data that is requested in the STERF and not for response coordination, per se. Response is a part of the normal operations of STDN organizations and would continue whether or not NOAA Fisheries requested these data to be collected. Therefore, the time burden of calls to identify boat resources, coordinate responders, etc. was not included here.

NOAA Fisheries received no further questions or comments.

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.

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

As stated on the form, personal identifiers and any commercial information will be kept confidential to the extent permitted under the [Freedom of Information Act](#) (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), the [Department of Commerce FOIA regulations](#) (15 CFR Subpart A, Part 4), the [Trade Secrets Act](#) (18 U.S.C. 1905), and [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#).

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

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

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

The total hour estimate for the reporting requirement was determined from the following information:

The number of reports was determined by the anticipated number of entangled sea turtles to be encountered annually in the waters of the Greater Atlantic Region. Since OMB's initial clearance of the Sea Turtle Disentanglement Guidelines and STERF in 2004, NOAA Fisheries has received 366 reports of entangled sea turtles in the region. Those reports ranged from a low of 12 in 2006 to a high of 76 in 2013, with an average of 36.6 reports per year. We used the highest number of annual reports (rounded to the nearest five), 75, in this calculation as we expect an overall trend of increasing reports over time with increased awareness due to outreach, but recognizing that 2013 was likely an outlier and the next five years would not exceed that number.

Each of these 75 reports begins with a telephone call to the STDN or to NOAA Fisheries. The hourly burden for these calls was calculated by assuming a phone report will last for a maximum of one hour. The time of one hour per report is based on reports where the reporting party provides information and also stands by the turtle while a disentanglement responder is dispatched to the scene. Such scenarios encompass the majority of sea turtle entanglement reports. Therefore, with 75 reports lasting one hour per report, the hourly burden would be 75 hours.

The STDN responder in closest proximity to the entangled turtle will typically mount a response, during which they will collect further information about the event and provide photo-documentation. The STDN member then takes this information, as well as the information from the reporting party, and completes the STERF. They submit the photographs, STERF, and any entangling gear collected during the response to NOAA Fisheries. We estimate that completing

the form and data submission will take approximately one hour, requiring approximately an additional 75 hours' time commitment annually.

Interviews with fishermen can only be conducted if buoy or trap numbers are collected from entangling gear and transferred to the NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Gear Team in a timely manner. Since 2004, identification numbers were collected from entangling gear in approximately 33% of, or 25, sea turtle entanglements. Although interviews were not conducted in all of these cases, this represents an estimated maximum percentage of cases where interviews may be conducted. We estimate that a fisherman interview will take approximately 30 minutes, requiring a total annual time commitment of approximately 12.5 (13) hours.

- 75 reports x one hour for telephone report= 75 hours
- 75 x one hour for completing STERF and submitting STERF, photos and gear= 75 hours. This includes the time for STDN members to take telephone reports.
- 25 x 30 minutes for fishermen interviews= 13 hours

Total annual time commitment= 163 hours.

There are currently 12 (11 non-profit organizations and 1 state agency) STDN network members that have the potential to complete and submit the STERF, photos and gear. There are 75 initial reporting parties (most often general public) and an additional 25 fishermen that will receive interviews. **Therefore, the total number of respondents would be 112. Total responses would be the initial 75 reports, plus 68 responses by STDN members if taking the call = 143. (approximately 90% of the calls are taken by them rather than NMFS), plus the 75 associated STERF forms, and 25 interviews for a total of 243.**

This burden is larger than what was previously approved by OMB due to an increase in reported sea turtle entanglements.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

The cost burden was obtained by using the information on anticipated numbers of reports as presented in Question 12, and the following information:

An estimated 75 reports are anticipated annually. The cost of a one hour phone call, assuming all were made on a land line, was estimated to be \$6 per call. However, the vast majority of calls are made on cell phones, which typically have unlimited talk time; **therefore we have reduced the estimated cost to \$100.** The STERF is most often sent via electronic mail. Any shipping costs for STERFs, photos and/or video, and gear are covered by NOAA Fisheries. Finally, fishermen that participate in interviews will receive the telephone call from the NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Gear Team staff and, therefore, would not incur a cost.

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

The estimated cost to the Federal government will be only in terms of staff hours and supplies. An anticipated 75 reports will be called in to NOAA Fisheries, and each call is expected to last a maximum of one hour. As such, the hourly burden of initial reports to NOAA Fisheries would

be 75 hours. In addition, NOAA Fisheries staff would receive and compile the STERFs and input the data into a database. Each report is expected to take a maximum of 30 minutes to enter including obtaining follow-up information if any fields are left blank. This would require an additional 40 hours of staff time for a total hourly burden on NOAA Fisheries of 115 hours. Most, if not all of the time, these tasks would be completed by the Sea Turtle Stranding and Disentanglement Coordinator. Therefore, the financial burden to NOAA Fisheries would be 115 hours at approximately \$29 per hour, or \$3,335.

NOAA Fisheries supplies the STDN with disentanglement kits and digital cameras on an as-needed basis. Disentanglement kits include disentanglement tools and equipment, documentation supplies, and safety gear. Replacing an entire kit costs approximately \$500.00 or individual items in a kit may be replaced. Digital cameras are used to document the majority of disentanglement events; the approximate cost of a digital camera is \$170.00. The cost of these pieces of equipment would vary on an annual basis depending on whether or not previous equipment needs to be replaced. NOAA Fisheries would also cover shipping of report forms, photographs, video, and any removed gear from the STDN. The cost of this would vary depending on weight of gear shipped (with or without pot, multiple pots, etc.).

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

As explained in Questions 12 and 13, there are adjustments to reflect the burden and cost more completely and accurately. Due to increased reporting, there are 68 more responses and 64 more hours than previously estimated. In addition, initial telephone calls taken by STDN members rather than NMFS, add 68 responses – not previously accounted for, but burden is covered by the one hour for written reporting. Costs have decreased to \$100, based on almost all calls being made via cell phone.

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

It is not anticipated that the results of this collection will be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

Not Applicable.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This information collection request does not employ statistical methods.



SEA TURTLE ENTANGLEMENT REPORT FORM

OMB Control No. 0648-0496; Expiration Date: 07/31/2014

FIELD #: _____

Shaded area for NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS) use only

NMFS #: _____ EVENT CONFIRMATION: Confirmed Probable Not confirmed Reasoning: _____

INITIAL OBSERVATION: Observer name: _____ Phone: _____

Observer address / affiliation: _____

Observation date: _____ (mm / dd / yyyy) Time: _____ am pm

Turtle condition: Alive Fresh dead Moderately decomposed Severely decomposed Dried carcass Skeleton Unknown

EXAMINATION / RESPONSE: Responder name: _____ Phone: _____

Responder address / affiliation: _____

Response date: _____ (mm / dd / yyyy) Time responder arrived on scene: _____ am pm

Turtle condition: Alive Fresh dead Moderately decomposed Severely decomposed Dried carcass Skeleton Unknown

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION: Photos / video taken: Yes No If Yes, disposition: Initial observer STDN member NMFS

Documentation of: Turtle in gear Injuries / entanglement site Buoy colors, numbers and any other identifiable feature(s)

LOCATION: State: _____ County: _____ Nearest port / town: _____

Locality details: _____ Stranded ashore: Yes No

Latitude: _____ N Longitude: _____ W

TURTLE DATA: Species or description: _____

Straight carapace length:** _____ cm in actual est. Sex: Male Female Not examined CBD

Curved carapace length:** _____ cm in actual est. Does tail extend beyond carapace? Yes No

**Carapace length is measured from nuchal notch to posterior tip (see diagram on back) If Yes, how far? _____ cm in actual est.

Weight: _____ kg lb actual est. Sex determined by: Necropsy Tail length (adults only) N/A

Was turtle: Anchored Free-swimming Unknown

Describe behavior in gear: _____

GEAR TYPE: Indicate the primary (in contact with turtle) entangling gear with a "P" and secondary gear with an "S". Fill out all applicable details.

Vertical Line with Surface Buoy

Gear anchored / weighted: Yes No If Yes, anchored by: Pot(s) Net Unknown Other: _____

Length of line between turtle and surface buoy: _____ cm in actual est.

Line Only (no buoy)

Type: Monofilament Multifilament (e.g. nylon or poly rope) Unknown

Hook(s) present: Yes No If Yes, where attached to turtle: Not attached Mouth Ingested (past mouth) Soft tissue (not mouth)

Gear anchored / weighted: Yes No If Yes, anchored by: Pot(s) Net Unknown Other: _____

Net

Type: Monofilament Multifilament (e.g. nylon) Unknown

Estimated stretched mesh size: _____ cm in Net ID number(s): _____

Fish Trap (pound net / weir)

Location: Free-swimming in trap Entangled in leader Entangled in trap Other (describe in Additional Remarks)

Other Describe: _____

GEAR DETAILS:

Number of pots: _____ Pot ID Number(s): _____

Number of buoys: _____

Buoy ID number(s): Buoy 1: _____ Buoy 2: _____ Buoy 3: _____

Buoy color(s): Buoy 1: _____ Buoy 2: _____ Buoy 3: _____

Line color(s): Line 1: _____ Line 2: _____ Line 3: _____

Biofouling present on gear: Yes No If Yes, % of visible gear covered by biofouling: _____ % (describe type of biofouling in Additional Remarks)

Gear retrieved: Yes- all Yes- partially No If Yes, disposition: Initial observer STDN member State agency NMFS Gear Team

DISENTANGLEMENT OUTCOME: (Check one)

Disentangled and released Entangled / no action taken Relocated to: _____

Partially disentangled and released Entangled / not relocated Euthanized

Release behavior: _____ Lost during disentanglement Other: _____

Collected for treatment at: _____ Died during disentanglement

CARCASS / SAMPLE DISPOSITION: (Check all that apply)

TAG / MARK DATA: Checked for flipper tags: Yes No Scanned for PIT tags: Yes No

| Tag / mark type | Number | Location on animal | Applied | Present |
|-----------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Left at site
- Towed ashore
- Buried off beach
- Buried on beach
- Necropsied
- Scientific collection
- Educational collection
- Biopsied
- Other: _____
- Unknown

Northeast Region Sea Turtle Disentanglement Network

Instructions for Completing the Sea Turtle Entanglement Report Form

FIELD #: Indicate the field number given to the animal / event by the response organization. This number should be a unique identifier. It is possible for more than one agency to respond to an individual animal, in which case a single event may have more than one field number.

Shaded area is for NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS) use only

NMFS #: NMFS will assign a regional number to each entanglement event. *Please leave this section blank.*

EVENT CONFIRMATION: NMFS will determine if an event was confirmed, probable, or not confirmed and describe how that decision was made. *Please leave this section blank.*

INITIAL OBSERVATION: The initial observation is the first time the entangled turtle was sighted. The observer is the individual who encountered the entangled turtle first-hand and reported it to the Sea Turtle Disentanglement Network (STDN) or NMFS either directly or through another individual or agency.

- **Observer name and phone number:** Record the full name and contact phone number for the initial observer. If the report was relayed to the STDN by an intermediate source, do not put the intermediate source as the initial observer. If name and/or phone number is not available or was not collected, please indicate a general description of the initial observer (e.g., recreational boater, commercial fisherman).
- **Observer address / affiliation:** Record the address and affiliation for the initial observer.
- **Observation date and time:** Record the full date and time of the initial observation, i.e., the time the animal was actually sighted. This is *not* the date and time of the report, i.e., when the initial observer contacted the STDN or NMFS.
- **Turtle condition:** Check the box for the condition code that best describes the turtle during the initial observation. If the turtle was dead and seemed intermediate between two codes, choose the most appropriate option. If the turtle had a foul odor, it was not fresh dead. If uncertain about the condition check unknown and provide a description of the turtle's condition (the look and feel of the skin, smell, and amount of bloating) in Event Summary and Additional Remarks (herein Additional Remarks) on back.

EXAMINATION / RESPONSE: The responder is the person who examined, handled, disentangled and/or collected data on the turtle in the field or attempted to do so.

- **Responder name and phone number:** Record the full name and contact phone number for the responder. The responder may be the initial observer if the initial observer also disentangled the turtle, either on their own or with direction from the STDN.
- **Responder address / affiliation:** Record the address and affiliation of the responder.
- **Response date and time responder arrived on scene:** Please record the full date and time when the response team arrived on scene, i.e., the disentanglement or examination was initiated.
- **Turtle condition:** Check the box for the condition code that best describes the turtle when the response team arrived on scene. See Turtle Condition above for more details.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION:

- **Photos / video taken:** Please indicate if photos or video were taken. All photos and video should be sent to NMFS, ideally at the same time as submission of the STERF. Please check the appropriate boxes to indicate where photos are housed / have been sent at the time of this form being submitted to NMFS.
- **Documentation:** The following list indicates the photos that should be taken during each entanglement event. Please check the appropriate boxes to indicate that these photos were taken.
 - The sea turtle in the entangling gear, showing overall gear configuration and confirming species;
 - Close-ups of the entanglement site(s), showing any injuries and detailed gear configuration; and
 - Any identifiable features of the gear, e.g., buoy color, tags and/or numbers.

LOCATION: Fill in all fields in this section.

- **State:** Provide the two letter abbreviation for the state where the entanglement occurred. If the entanglement occurred in the EEZ, outside the three-mile boundary of state waters, indicate the closest state to the entanglement location.
- **County:** Indicate the county where the entanglement occurred. If the entanglement occurred in the EEZ, indicate EEZ waters.
- **Nearest port / town:** Indicate the nearest port or town.

- **Locality details:** Include a general description of the event location, including proximity to land. Please only reference places that can be readily found on maps; do not use “local” names.
- **Stranded ashore:** Please check “yes” if the animal stranded on land naturally. Please check “no” if the animal was in the water and was not brought to shore or if the animal was collected from the water and brought to a rehab or necropsy facility. If this was the case, make sure you indicate that the animal was collected for treatment or necropsy under Disentanglement Outcome or Carcass Disposition.
- **Latitude and longitude:** Make every effort to collect the GPS location for all entanglement events. Provide latitude / longitude in decimal degrees (e.g., 42.5321°N). If you are given Loran units by the initial observer, please convert it to latitude / longitude, but also provide the original Loran numbers.

TURTLE DATA:

- **Species or description:** Record the turtle species only if *definitively* identified by a trained responder or photo documented. If species is unknown or not confirmed by one of the two above methods, please provide a description of the turtle (including features such as coloration and number of vertebral and/or costal scutes). Every effort should be made to take photos of the turtle for species verification. Photos of the carapace and head are most useful. If you are unsure about the species ID, take several photos from different angles. Do not guess. Please contact NMFS if you need sea turtle identification materials.
- **Straight carapace length:** Straight carapace length is measured using calipers from the nuchal notch to the posterior tip (see drawing on the back of the STERF). Indicate whether measurement is in inches or centimeters and whether it is actual or estimated. Please indicate that length is an estimate if the reporting party provides a total length rather than a carapace length.
- **Curved carapace length:** Curved carapace length is measured using a soft tape measure from the nuchal notch to the posterior tip, following the curvature of the dorsal centerline.
- **Weight:** Indicate the turtle’s weight, as well as whether weight is in kilograms or pounds and whether it is actual or estimated. Please leave blank if unsure.
- **Behavior:** Indicate whether the turtle was anchored or free-swimming, i.e., carrying / dragging the entangling gear. If you are unsure, check unknown. Please describe the turtle’s behavior in the gear (e.g., active, swimming, diving, lethargic, etc.) during response- if possible, before handling the animal *and* during disentanglement.
- **Sex:** Check whether the turtle was male or female; check unknown if you are unsure. Immature sea turtles cannot be sexed externally, so please check unknown if dealing with a live immature turtle. Adult male turtles have a tail that extends well beyond the posterior tip of the carapace. Check whether the tail extends beyond the carapace. If you document a turtle with a long tail, please measure the length of the tail beyond the carapace and record the measurement. Please be aware that juvenile males may not show this characteristic; therefore, if unsure about the age class of the animal, do not use tail length for sex determination. Indicate how sex was determined; if sex was marked unknown, check N/A in this field.

GEAR TYPE: Please indicate the primary entangling gear by putting a “P” in the space next to the appropriate gear type. Primary entangling gear is that which was *in direct contact with* the turtle. There can be more than one set and/or type of primary gear. Please indicate any secondary gear by putting an “S” in the space next to the appropriate gear type. Secondary gear is any gear that was present, but *not* in direct contact with the turtle. For example, if a turtle was entangled in vertical line, which itself was tangled with monofilament, you would put a “P” next to Vertical Line with Surface Buoy and an “S” next to Line Only and check Monofilament.

- **Vertical Line with Surface Buoy:** Indicate this gear type if the entangling gear included line and a surface buoy. Check whether or not the gear was anchored / weighted, meaning that the line was attached to something heavy below the surface. If yes, indicate whether it was weighted by a pot, net, other item (please describe), or it is unknown. Indicate the length of line between the turtle (i.e., the entanglement site) and the surface buoy, as well as whether this length is in centimeters or inches and whether it is actual or estimated.
- **Line Only (no buoy):** Indicate this option if the entangling gear was only an expanse of line with no buoys attached. Check whether the line was monofilament, multifilament (such as nylon or polypropylene rope), or unknown. Check whether there was a hook(s) associated with the entangling line and, if so, if and where it was attached to the turtle. As above, check whether or not the gear was weighted, meaning that the line was attached to something heavy below the surface. If yes, indicate whether it was weighted by a pot, net, other item (please describe), or it is unknown.
- **Net:** Indicate this option if the entangling gear was netting or mesh. Check whether the net was monofilament (e.g., gillnet) or multifilament (e.g., nylon or poly mesh as in a trawl net). Indicate the *estimated* stretched mesh size (the length between opposite corners / knots of the mesh when pulled

taut), as well as whether this measurement is in centimeters or inches. Record any net ID numbers.

NOTE: If turtle was entangled in the vertical line of a gill net, you should check Vertical Line with Surface Buoy and then indicate that the gear was weighted with a net.

- **Fish Trap (pound net / weir):** Indicate this gear type if the turtle was caught in any part of a fish trap. Check whether the turtle was free-swimming in the trap, entangled in the trap leader, entangled in the trap, or other. If other, please describe nature of the interaction in Additional Remarks.
- **Other:** Indicate this option if the entangling gear did not fit into any of the above categories. Describe the gear as much as possible; continue in Additional Remarks, if necessary.

GEAR DETAILS: Record any of the applicable gear details.

- **Number of pots:** Record the number of pots involved with the entanglement. Provide as specific information as possible; if there was a pot trawl, but the exact number of pots is unknown, write ">1" or "trawl". **Pot ID Number(s):** Document any pot numbers that were present.
- **Number of buoys:** Record the number of buoys associated with the entanglement. Space is available to provide the **Buoy ID number(s)** and **Buoy colors** for up to three buoys. Provide any further information in Additional Remarks.
- **Line color(s):** Space is available to provide the line color(s) for up to three lines. Provide any further information in Additional Remarks.
- **Biofouling present on gear:** Check whether there was biofouling (e.g., sponges, tunicates, bivalves, algae, etc.) visible on the entangling gear. If so, estimate the **percentage** of the visible gear that was covered by biofouling. Please describe the type of biofouling present in Additional Remarks.
- **Gear retrieved:** Check if all, some, or none of the gear was collected. If gear was collected, indicate its disposition, i.e., where the gear is located at the time this form is submitted to NMFS. If the location of the gear changes after the form is submitted, please contact NMFS with the updated gear location or update this information on the STERF and resubmit.
 - Gear collected from endangered or threatened sea turtles requires a Chain of Custody form.
 - Every effort should be made to send gear *immediately* with the chain-of-custody form to the NMFS Gear Team. Although earlier is preferred, gear and data should be sent no later than 30 days following the entanglement event.

Unless otherwise authorized, gear should only be collected if it is not actively fishing (i.e., only collect derelict, incomplete or displaced gear). Do not create derelict gear by collecting surface buoys, thereby leaving bottom gear unmarked.

DISENTANGLEMENT OUTCOME: This section pertains to LIVE animals only; if the event involved a dead sea turtle, leave this section blank and go to Carcass Disposition. Please check one of the listed options to describe the disposition of the live animal at the time of this report being submitted to NMFS. If the turtle was disentangled by the reporting party and it is not clear whether it was completely freed of gear, check unknown and describe in Additional Remarks. If applicable, describe the turtle's behavior at release. If the turtle was collected for treatment, please provide the name of the rehabilitation facility. If the turtle was relocated, please provide the latitude and longitude and/or locality details of the release site.

CARCASS DISPOSITION: This section pertains to DEAD animals only; if the event involves a live sea turtle, leave this section blank and go to Disentanglement Outcome. Please choose one *or more* of the listed options to describe the disposition of the carcass and/or samples at the time of this report being submitted to NMFS. In the marine environment, biopsy samples are only authorized to be collected from dead turtles.

TAG / MARK DATA: Space is provided for three tags / marks; if necessary continue in Additional Remarks.

- **Checked for flipper tags:** Please indicate whether or not all four flippers of the turtle were examined for the presence of flipper tags.
- **Scanned for PIT tags:** Please indicate whether or not the turtle was scanned, using a PIT tag scanner, for the presence of PIT tags.
- **Tag / mark type:** In this column, please indicate the type of any tags or marks that were either applied during response or discovered upon examination. Examples include, but are not limited to: inconel tag, PIT tag, paint mark, living tag, or satellite tag.
- **Number:** In this column, please indicate any numbers associated with tags or marks that were either applied during response or discovered upon examination.
- **Location on animal:** Use this column to indicate the location on the animal of tags or marks that were either applied during response or discovered upon examination.

- **Applied or Present:** Check whether the tag or mark referred to in that row was applied during response or present at the time of examination.

ENTANGLEMENT / WOUND DESCRIPTION:

Use the table to describe the entanglement configuration and any wounds associated with the entanglement site.

- **Body area involved:** In this column, please check the box(es) corresponding to the areas of the body directly involved with the entanglement.
- **Description:** In this column, describe the exact location of wraps in that body area, the number of wraps, whether they were complete or partial circumference, whether they were tight (i.e., no space between tissue and gear) or loose (some space between tissue and gear), and any other details that describe the entanglement. Continue in Additional Remarks if necessary.
- **Wound description at entanglement site:** In this section, check all boxes that apply to any wounds associated with the entanglement site in that body area. Description of wounds may be continued in Additional Remarks.
 - **Indentation:** there was a depression in the tissue at the entanglement site; skin was not missing or broken.
 - **Abrasion:** there was a wearing away / erosion of the upper layer of skin as a result of friction from the gear; an abrasion involves only the skin and not the underlying tissue.
 - **Laceration:** the skin was broken, in either a clean or jagged cut, exposing underlying tissue.
 - **Swelling:** the tissue was swollen around area of entanglement.
 - **Bleeding:** the tissue was either actively bleeding or showed evidence of previous bleeding; if subdermal bleeding (i.e., bruising) was evident, check this option and describe in Additional Remarks.
 - **None:** there was no evidence of injury at the entanglement site.

ENTANGLEMENT / WOUND DIAGRAM: Please provide a diagram of the entangling gear, new or healed wounds, abnormalities and/or tag locations.

EVENT SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL REMARKS: *Do not leave this section blank!* Please provide a summary of the disentanglement event, including progression of events, overall behavior of the animal and amount of time spent on scene. Detail any other unusual circumstances, entanglement configuration, gear description, tag information or wounds not yet accounted for. Include any other information or remarks on the case.

NMFS CONTACT INFORMATION:

Electronic submission of photos, video and STERFs (preferred means of submission**):**

Kate.Sampson@noaa.gov

Mailing address for submission of gear with chain of custody forms:

John Kenney
 Re: Sea Turtles
 30 Macintosh Lane
 Saunderstown, RI 02874

Non-electronic submission of photos, video, STERFs, and/or biopsy samples:

Kate Sampson, Sea Turtle Disentanglement Coordinator
 NOAA Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
 Fax: 978-281-9394

Please address any questions to:

Ph: 978-282-8470, Kate.Sampson@noaa.gov

The collection of information on sea turtle entanglement is necessary to ensure sea turtles are being conserved and protected, as mandated by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Your voluntary collection and submission of this information will help achieve this objective. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour 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. Notwithstanding any other provision 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. Personal identifiers and any commercial information will be kept confidential to the extent permitted under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), the Department of Commerce FOIA regulations (15 CFR Part 4, Subpart A), the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905), and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to (NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Protected Resources Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930)

Greater Atlantic Region Sea Turtle Disentanglement Network (STDN) Sea Turtle Disentanglement Guidelines

Initial Observation and Report

- 1) When the initial observer reports an entangled sea turtle, collect the following information:
 - a. Observer name and phone number*
 - b. Name of observing vessel
 - c. Type of vessel, e.g., fishing, private, ferry, etc.
 - d. Observing vessel cell phone number and/or radio call channel
 - e. Date and time of initial observation
 - f. Date and time of report, if different
 - g. Location, including latitude / longitude and locality details
 - h. Description of turtle for species identification
 - i. Condition of turtle- alive or dead
 - j. Description of entangling gear (rope, line, buoys, colors)
 - k. Entangling gear configuration on turtle (head, flippers, single wrap, multiple wraps)
 - l. Description of any visible injuries
 - m. Weather/sea conditions at the scene

* NOTE: if the initial observer is not the reporting party (i.e., the observer relayed information through the reporting party), please collect name and contact information for the reporting party, as well.

- 2) Ask the reporting party the following questions:
 - a. Are you still on scene with the turtle? If not, when was it last seen?
 - b. How long can you stand by?
 - c. Can you stand by until an authorized disentanglement responder arrives? Provide caller with an estimate for how long it will take for a responder to arrive on scene.
 - d. Are there other vessels nearby that could help stand by if needed?
 - e. Does the turtle appear to be anchored or making way? If making way, can you estimate its swimming speed and direction?
 - f. Can you take photographs or video of the turtle and the gear?

NOTE: NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducted ESA Section 7 consultations and issued biological opinions for the following fisheries: American lobster; monkfish; Northeast multispecies; spiny dogfish; Northeast skate complex; mackerel/squid/butterfish; summer flounder/scup/black sea bass; Atlantic bluefish, and Atlantic sea scallop. The opinions authorized these Federally-permitted fishermen to free sea turtles from entangling gear. Fishermen must still comply with all applicable regulations, including the sea turtle handling and resuscitation requirements. No other Federally-permitted fishermen are authorized to disentangle sea turtles. It is the recommendation of NMFS that a trained and authorized member of the STDN respond to entangled sea turtles. However, if a STDN member is unable to respond in a timely manner, the authorized fishermen listed above may respond. Every sea turtle entanglement event must be reported to NMFS and must receive a Sea Turtle Entanglement Report Form.

Reporting to NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO)

Please report entanglement events to the GARFO stranding and entanglement hotline at **866-755-6622** or to the U.S. Coast Guard on **VHF Channel 16**. GARFO must be notified prior to on-water disentanglement response.

Response

- 1) Approach
 - a. Avoid any moving or unusually clumped buoys and lines near the turtle.

- b. Approach turtle slowly and carefully until the vessel is alongside, then stop the vessel, putting the engine in neutral.
 - c. Record the latitude / longitude and time when you arrive at the turtle's location.
- 2) Assessment
- Note the following information in order to devise an appropriate plan of action for close approach and disentanglement.
- a. Is the turtle moving, attempting to swim away from the vessel, or diving?
 - b. Does the turtle appear to be anchored or dragging the gear?
 - c. How often does the turtle surface?
 - d. How is the turtle entangled: flippers (front right, front left, etc.), head, or shell?
 - e. Are there single or multiple wraps of line on the turtle?
 - f. Are the wraps restricting the turtle's movement?
 - g. Are there any wounds associated with the entanglement? How serious are these injuries?
- 3) Disentanglement
- a. The goal is to release the turtle free of *all* gear.
 - b. Do not get into the water with the turtle. Work from the vessel with the turtle in the water.**
 - c. Leave the engine in neutral throughout disentanglement efforts.
 - d. Determine which line is under strain from anchoring or heavy gear.
 - e. Grapple the anchoring line and maintain a firm hold or cleat the line to the vessel in order to keep the turtle in close proximity without lifting it above the water. To avoid losing the turtle before completely being disentangled, do not release or cut this line before trying to remove *all* other gear.
 - f. Try to unravel the gear from the turtle without cutting. Be careful around powerful flippers, jaws, and claws.
 - g. If the gear cannot be removed by unraveling and the turtle is at risk of strangulation, drowning, or further injury, try to cut the line.
 - h. Avoid cutting the turtle by pulling line away from the turtle with a boat hook before cutting.
 - i. If active gear must be cut to free a turtle, attempt to reattach the cut ends so as to leave the gear intact on site. If this is not possible, collect all of the gear. Do not leave partial gear or bottom gear without a surface buoy. Avoid creating derelict gear. Save all cut / removed gear for analysis (see Documentation).
 - j. If you cannot free the turtle of *all* gear, report the last known location, including latitude / longitude and locality details, wind and current speed and direction, and any identifying characteristics about the turtle or gear. Report this information to the GARFO stranding and disentanglement hotline at **866-755-6622** or to the U.S. Coast Guard on **VHF Channel 16**.
- 4) Release
- a. Leave engine in neutral and release the turtle from the last line (the anchoring line).
 - b. Record the latitude / longitude and time of release.
 - c. Ensure that the turtle is safely away from the vessel before putting the engine in gear.
 - d. Observe the turtle's behavior after release. Did it dive and/or swim away or did it remain relatively immobile at the surface?
- 5) Documentation
- a. The Sea Turtle Entanglement Report Form (STERF) must be filled out for every reported entanglement event. Every effort should be made to *immediately* submit the STERF to NMFS. Although earlier is preferred, the STERF should be submitted no later than 30 days following the event.
 - b. Gear Collection
 - o Unless otherwise authorized, gear should only be collected if it is not actively fishing (i.e., only collect derelict, incomplete or displaced gear).

- Do not create derelict gear by collecting surface buoys, thereby leaving bottom gear unmarked.
 - Gear collected from endangered or threatened sea turtles requires a Chain of Custody form.
 - Every effort should be made to send gear *immediately* with the chain-of-custody form to the NMFS Gear Team. Although earlier is preferred, gear should be sent no later than 30 days following the entanglement event.
 - If gear is not collected, please document all identifiable features (e.g., buoy colors, line colors, traps / pots, ID numbers) with photos.
- c. Photo or Video Documentation
- Photos and/or video should be sent to NMFS, ideally at the same time as submission of the STERF.
 - The following list indicates the photos that should be taken during each entanglement event
 - The sea turtle in the entangling gear, showing overall gear configuration and confirming species;
 - Close-ups of the entanglement site(s), showing any injuries and detailed gear configuration; and
 - Any identifiable features of the gear, e.g., buoy color, tags and/or numbers.

NMFS Contact Information:

Electronic submission of photos, video and STERFs (preferred means of submission**):**

Kate.Sampson@noaa.gov

Mailing address for submission of gear with chain of custody forms:

John Kenney
 Re: Sea Turtles
 30 Macintosh Lane
 Saunderstown, RI 02874

Non-electronic submission of photos, video, and/or STERFs:

Kate Sampson, Sea Turtle Disentanglement Coordinator
 NOAA Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
 Fax: 978-281-9394

Please address any questions to:

Ph: 978-282-8470, Kate.Sampson@noaa.gov

The collection of information on sea turtle entanglement is necessary to ensure sea turtles are being conserved and protected, as mandated by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Your voluntary collection and submission of this information will help achieve this objective. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour 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. Notwithstanding any other provision 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. Personal identifiers and any commercial information will be kept confidential to the extent permitted under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), the Department of Commerce FOIA regulations (15 CFR Part 4, Subpart A), the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905), and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to (NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Protected Resources Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930).

OMB Control No: 0648-0496; Expiration Date: 07/31/2014

decommissioning will range from abandonment, removing culverts or total recontouring of road prism. Twenty miles of decommissioning opportunities have been identified and will be analyzed as part of the proposal.

Watershed/Fisheries improvement projects vary from culvert replacements, RHCA planting to constructing exclosures. Culvert replacement (12 identified) is proposed to create aquatic organism passage and/or help facilitate 100 year flows and reduce sedimentation into the stream channel. The majority of culvert replacement opportunities are in the tributaries of Mill Creek (southern portion of analysis area).

Recreation/trail improvements are proposed to decrease impacts to fisheries resources and improve usability. Trail conversion; stream crossing treatments (Buck meadows area) and access improvements (American Creek drainage) are a few of the opportunities identified.

Wildlife—Restoration of forest structure and reintroduction of fire on the landscape will create winter range for Elk and Deer, as well as, provide improved habitat for many wildlife species, including Flammulated Owl and white-headed woodpeckers.

Weed Treatments are proposed to continue treatment of known populations within the analysis area, as well as, minimizing the spread of existing and potential weed populations.

Possible Alternatives

The Forest Service will consider a no-action alternative, which will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. The proposed action will be considered along with additional alternatives that will be developed to meet the purpose and need for action, and to address significant issues identified during scoping.

Responsible Official

Rick Brazell, Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor's Office, 903 3rd St., Kamiah, ID 83536.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The deciding official will adopt the proposed action, in whole or in part, or another alternative; and what mitigation measures and management requirements will be implemented.

Preliminary Issues

Reallocation of some MA20 (Forest Plan Old Growth) from existing locations, to other stands within the project area. Field reconnaissance has

determined inconsistencies with MA20 allocations and what is actually present within the stands. Alternative locations for MA20, better suited to Old forest structure and definition have been identified.

Mechanical treatment is proposed within existing MA20 (Forest Plan Old Growth) stands. Treatments are designed to result in a less fire, insect and disease-prone stand(s), that will persist into the future. Large trees will be left on the landscape.

Road construction is proposed to economically achieve desired conditions within the project area.

A Forest Plan amendment for soils is proposed to move some forested stands to desired future condition and fulfill the purpose and need of the project and improve soil conditions.

Restoration activities will occur in the Deer Creek prescription watershed, to improve water quality values.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The scoping process identifies issues to be analyzed in detail and leads to the development of alternatives to the proposal. The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from other Federal, State and local agencies; Tribal Governments; and organizations and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Comments received in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be a part of the project record and available for public review.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared for comment. The next major opportunity for public input will be when the DEIS is published. The comment period for the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in July of 2014.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Dated: February 4, 2014.

Rick Brazell,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2014-03032 Filed 2-11-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Reporting of Sea Turtle Entanglement in Fishing Gear or Marine Debris

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 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 14, 2014.

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 Kate Sampson, (978) 282-8470 or kate.sampson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a currently approved collection.

Sea turtles can become accidentally entangled in active or discarded fishing gear, marine debris, or other lines in the marine environment. These entanglements may prevent the recovery of endangered and threatened sea turtle populations. NOAA's Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) established the Sea Turtle Disentanglement Network in response to the threat of entanglement, in particular in the vertical line of fixed gear fisheries. The Network's goals are to increase reporting and to reduce sea turtle serious injury and mortality associated with these events. As there is limited to no observer coverage of pot gear fisheries, NMFS relies on the

Network, the United States Coast Guard, the fishing industry, Federal, state, and local authorities, and the public for this information, which helps NMFS understand the threats to sea turtle populations in the Northeast Region (Maine to Virginia).

II. Method of Collection

Reports will be submitted on paper (faxed or mailed), by telephone, or, most frequently, electronically.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0496.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households, not-for-profit institutions, Federal government, and state, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 88.

Estimated Time Per Response: Two hours to two hours and 30 minutes per case (75 cases).

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 164.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$450 (recordkeeping/reporting).

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 6, 2014.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2014-03011 Filed 2-11-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-12-2014]

Foreign-Trade Zone 57—Charlotte, North Carolina; Application for Reorganization/Expansion Under Alternative Site Framework

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board by the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Inc., grantee of FTZ 57, requesting authority to reorganize and expand the zone under the alternative site framework (ASF) adopted by the FTZ Board (15 CFR Sec. 400.2(c)). The ASF is an option for grantees for the establishment or reorganization of zones and can permit significantly greater flexibility in the designation of new subzones or "usage-driven" FTZ sites for operators/users located within a grantee's "service area" in the context of the FTZ Board's standard 2,000-acre activation limit for a zone. The application was submitted pursuant to the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on February 7, 2014.

FTZ 57 was approved by the Board on April 28, 1980 (Board Order 156, 45 FR 30466, 5/8/80) and expanded on September 23, 1982 (Board Order 199, 47 FR 43103, 9/30/82), on July 29, 2002 (Board Order 1240, 67 FR 51535, 8/8/02), on February 9, 2005 (Board Order 1369, 70 FR 9613, 2/28/05), and on August 5, 2009 (Board Order 1641, 74 FR 41374, 8/17/09). On April 24, 2009, the grant of authority was reassigned to the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Inc. (Board Order 1613, 74 FR 21622-21623, 5/8/09).

The current zone includes the following sites: *Site 1* (2.3 acres)—distribution facility, 11425 Granite Street, Charlotte; *Site 1a* (23.186 acres)—distribution facility, 1411 & 1701 Continental Blvd., Charlotte; *Site 2* (3.15 acres)—distribution facility, 14620 Carowinds Blvd., Charlotte; *Site 3* (26 acres)—International Airport Center, 3401 International Blvd., Charlotte; *Site 7* (2 parcels, 619 acres)—Parcel 1 (576 acres)—Hickory Regional Airport, Clement Blvd., Hickory; and, Parcel 2 (43 acres)—distribution facility, 543 12th Street Drive NW., Hickory; and, *Site 16* (351 acres, sunset 8/31/2014)—Monroe Corporate Center, Airport Road & Goldmine Road, Monroe. (**Note:** Sites 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 have expired.)

The grantee's proposed service area under the ASF would include the Counties of Alexander, Anson,

Caldwell, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly and Union, as described in the application. If approved, the grantee would be able to serve sites throughout the service area based on companies' needs for FTZ designation. The proposed service area is within and adjacent to the Charlotte Customs and Border Protection port of entry.

The applicant is requesting authority to reorganize and expand its existing zone under the ASF as follows: (1) Combine existing Sites 1 and 1a to become Site 1 and expand the site to include an additional 2.769 acres (new site total—28.255 acres); (2) Remove existing Site 2 and Site 3 due to changed circumstances; and, (3) Modify Site 7 by removing Parcel 1 (576 acres) (new site total—43 acres). Site 16 would become a magnet site and modified Sites 1 and 7 would become usage-driven sites. The applicant is also requesting a new magnet site: Proposed Site 17 (3,900 acres) at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, 5501 Josh Birmingham Parkway, Charlotte. The ASF allows for the possible exemption of one magnet site from the "sunset" time limits that generally apply to sites under the ASF, and the applicant proposes that Site 17 be so exempted. The application would have no impact on FTZ 57's previously authorized subzones.

In accordance with the FTZ Board's regulations, Kathleen Boyce of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to evaluate and analyze the facts and information presented in the application and case record and to report findings and recommendations to the FTZ Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is April 14, 2014. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to April 28, 2014.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 21013, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230-0002, and in the "Reading Room" section of the FTZ Board's Web site, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz. For further information, contact Kathleen Boyce at Kathleen.Boyce@trade.gov or (202) 482-1346.