

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 02/20/2013

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 11/28/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201211-0648-005

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: Vessel Monitoring System Requirements under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0596

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: 02/29/2016

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	527	191	58,111
New	527	191	136,111
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	78,000
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
VMS activation reports			50 CFR 300.45
VMS on/off reports			50 CFR 300.45
VMS purchase and installation			50 CFR 300.45
VMS maintenance plus position reporting costs			50 CFR 300.45

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.

<p>1. Agency/Subagency originating request</p>	<p>2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____</p>
<p>3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired</p> <p>e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired</p> <p>f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number</p> <p>For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions</p>	<p>4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>6. Requested expiration date</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____</p>
<p>7. Title</p>	
<p>8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)</p>	
<p>9. Keywords</p>	
<p>10. Abstract</p>	
<p>11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government</p>	<p>12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</p>
<p>13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden</p> <p>a. Number of respondents _____</p> <p>b. Total annual responses _____</p> <p> 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____%</p> <p>c. Total annual hours requested _____</p> <p>d. Current OMB inventory _____</p> <p>e. Difference _____</p> <p>f. Explanation of difference</p> <p> 1. Program change _____</p> <p> 2. Adjustment _____</p>	<p>14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>)</p> <p>a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____</p> <p>b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____</p> <p>c. Total annualized cost requested _____</p> <p>d. Current OMB inventory _____</p> <p>e. Difference _____</p> <p>f. Explanation of difference</p> <p> 1. Program change _____</p> <p> 2. Adjustment _____</p>
<p>15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit</p>	<p>16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting</p> <p> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly</p> <p> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually</p> <p> 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____</p>
<p>17. Statistical methods</p> <p>Does this information collection employ statistical methods</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p>

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WESTERN AND
CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0596

A. JUSTIFICATION

This request is for extension of a current information collection

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

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (WCPFCIA), Title V of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorization Act](#), gives the Secretary of Commerce the authority to enact regulations to fulfill the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) requirement that all member States require their vessels that fish for highly migratory fish stocks (HMS) on the high seas in the Convention Area carry and use near real-time satellite-based position-fixing transmitters (“VMS units”) as part of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) operated by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Commission). The system will help ensure compliance with the Commission’s conservation and management measures.

As a Contracting Party to the WCPFC and a member of the Commission, the United States is obligated to comply with this Convention provision. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been delegated the responsibility for implementing this and other provisions of the Convention. Most of the United States (U.S.) vessels fishing for HMS on the high seas in the Convention Area already carry and operate VMS units under other laws and regulations. Hawaii and American Samoa longline vessels with limited access permits are required to do so under regulations promulgated under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and purse seine vessels are required to do so under the [South Pacific Tuna Act](#). This information collection requirement will impose a collection burden only on those vessels fishing for HMS in the subject area that are not already required to carry and operate VMS units in the area.

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 the applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

Any vessel for which a “WCPFC Area Endorsement” (the authorization currently required for any U.S. vessel used for commercial fishing for HMS on the high seas in the Convention Area) has been issued will be required to carry a VMS unit and operate it at all times, except that the VMS unit may be turned off while the vessel is at port, provided that the vessel owner or operator notifies NMFS in advance of each such shutdown and each time the VMS unit is subsequently turned back on (termed “on/off reports”).

In addition, “activation reports” will be a one-time occurrence per installed (or subsequently repaired and reinstalled) unit that will be made by the vessel owner or operator prior to the first use of the unit. Activation reports are used by NMFS to incorporate the location reports from the VMS unit into the VMS system. Written activation reports may be submitted via mail, facsimile or e-mail to the Special Agent in Charge (SAC), the point of contact for the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement, and must include: the vessel’s name; the vessel’s official number; the VMS unit manufacturer and identification number; and telephone, facsimile or email contact information for the vessel owner or operator. Instructions are included in the compliance guide for the Initial Implementation - available on our Web site (http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_2.html).

While the vessel is in operation, position reports are transferred automatically at a specified frequency and received via a satellite communication system by NMFS and the Commission. Since the position reports are automatically transmitted from the VMS unit, they will not impose any time burden on vessel owners or operators, but owners/operator will be responsible for the communication costs of the position reports to NMFS, which will be a function of their duration and frequency (the transmissions to the Commission will entail additional communication costs, but those costs will be borne by the Commission through its budget, and passed on to the U.S. government as part of the annual contributions of the United States to the Commission). The position reports provide authorized users (primarily NMFS, including its Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), U.S. Coast Guard, and, only while a given vessel is on the high seas in the Convention Area, the Commission) with near real-time vessel location information. The frequency of these reports will be set by the Commission as high as one per hour, and that default frequency is used for the purpose of the burden estimates. These reports are used to monitor, and thus help ensure, compliance with the Commission’s conservation and management measures. They may also be used for scientific purposes, such as linking catch and effort information with vessel location.

When aware that transmission of automatic position reports from the VMS unit has been interrupted or when notified by NMFS that automatic position reports are not being received, the vessel owner or operator is required to contact NMFS and follow the instructions provided, which might include submitting position reports by other means, such as by email, phone, or fax.

The information collected will not be disseminated to the public, but it may support information that will be disseminated to the public. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) complies with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Information Quality Guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by federal agencies. VMS information is safeguarded from improper access, modification, or destruction to a degree commensurate with the risk and magnitude of harm that could result from the loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to or modification of such information. If the VMS data are used to support information disseminated to the public they will be synthesized or interpreted, and included in scientific and enforcement technical reports (*e.g.* regarding fishing patterns and compliance patterns). See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be

subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

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

The VMS information collection integrates current information technology in the fishery management and monitoring process. Once the VMS unit has been installed and activated, it automatically transmits reports of vessel location on a pre-programmed frequency, via satellite, to a ground station, and then to the ultimate users. The collection of information is automatic and invisible to the vessel operator.

Many vessel owners have taken advantage of this technology by linking personal computers to VMS units to improve communication with other vessels, or by using the VMS unit's data output capability to supply vessel location information to navigational plotters. Although not related directly to location reporting and not part of this collection of information, there is potential for the VMS units to be used by fishermen to transmit their catch and effort data on a near real-time basis.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

NMFS has identified the fleets that are already required to carry and operate VMS units as part of a NMFS-administered VMS. Owners/operators of vessels in these fleets are required to authorize the Commission to receive position reports via their VMS units, but they will not bear any additional time burden or cost burden as a result of the data transmissions to the Commission. These fleets are the purse seine fleet operating under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty (about 40 vessels) and the longline fleets based in Hawaii and American Samoa (about 135 vessels).

Aside from the use of a VMS, NMFS has not identified any comparable programs that collect near real-time vessel location information.

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

All fishing operations subject to this collection of information, with the possible exception of a few large-scale tuna purse seine, carrier, and bunker vessel operations, are small businesses.

As a member of the Commission, the United States has promoted the position that reporting rates should be frequent enough to fulfill the compliance function of the VMS but not so frequent as to be unduly costly. The default reporting period of one hour that has been adopted by the Commission appears to achieve that balance.

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

If the information is not collected, the U.S. government would not meet its obligations as a Contracting Party to the WCPFC and a member of the Commission, and would consequently fail

to fulfill the provisions of the WCPFCIA. The lack of VMS data from the U.S. HMS fleets operating in the Convention Area would provide a disincentive to the other fishing nations in the region to provide VMS data for their fleets. The effective management of the fishery resources under the WCPFC would be compromised.

VMS vessel position reports on the order of one per hour are necessary to ensure compliance with temporal, spatial, and other types of restrictions and to facilitate the cost-effective use of enforcement patrols. Less frequent reports would result in a higher likelihood of non-compliance.

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

The collection is consistent with OMB guidelines except that the hourly VMS reports would be more frequent than quarterly. This frequency is mandated as a default by the Commission, which has determined it to be necessary to ensure compliance with its conservation and management measures.

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 notice for the continuation of the information collection was published in the Federal Register on June 19, 2012 (77 FR 36487). Comments were invited from the public on (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden; (c) ways to enhance utility and clarity of information; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of collection. No comments were received in response to the solicitation.

NMFS has continued to communicate with affected stakeholders through their representation on the U.S. delegations to the WCPFC (the last such meeting took place during the week of October 22, 20102); none of the input received from stakeholders so far have warranted changes to the information collection.

More recently, PIRO has consulted with the individuals listed below to obtain their views on burdens associated with the information collection for 0648-0596 (VMS Requirements under the WCPFC). Individuals concurred over all with the majority of our estimates.

Individuals	Contact information
Larry DaRosa, Management of Effective Fishing Operations	ldarosal@cox.net
Ricardo DaRosa, Management of Effective Fishing Operations	RicardodaRosa@cox.net
Brian Hallman, Representative of Industry Association Comprised of Effective Fishing Operations	bhallmanata@gmail.com

One specific comment was made regarding the estimated time burden for VMS installation. We estimated 4 hours per unit installation (broken down to 1 hour per year assuming a 4 year life span of each unit) and respondent estimated it would be closer to 7 hours. This was based on the amount of time for actual unit installation, where our estimate was based on the number of hours required of the vessel owner. It was agreed among all parties that the vessel owner was not required to be on the vessel for the duration of the unit installation. It was also agreed that the life span of a VMS unit is often much longer than 4 years. As such we are confident that our estimated time burden is still accurate.

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

No payment or gifts to respondents have been provided.

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

All data are collected by NMFS and will also be available to the U.S. Coast Guard and, if a given vessel is on the high seas in the Convention Area, to the Commission, as well as other parties that receive authorization to receive and use the data pursuant to applicable policies and procedures (per NOAA Directive 06-101 *VMS Data Access and Dissemination Policy*, and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-100 *Protection of Confidential Fisheries Statistics*). Confidential data collected by NMFS are governed by regulations promulgated under the WCPFCIA and by [NAO 216-100](#). Any of the collected information used by NMFS in the preparation of publicly disseminated information would first be aggregated and /or summarized to maintain the confidentiality of the information pertaining to the individual vessels.

Under the Commission’s *Rules and Procedures for Protection of, Access to, and Dissemination of, Data Compiled by the Commission*, VMS data are defined as non-public domain data, and as such, the dissemination of these data to other parties will be authorized in accordance with the policies of confidentiality and security established in the [Commission’s Information Security Policy](#). The Commission's rules for access and dissemination of data are available on its web site - see <http://www.wcpfc.int/guidelines-procedures-and-regulations>.

This text will be added to the compliance guidance.

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

No questions are asked of a sensitive nature.

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

The time burden associated with this collection includes time needed for:

(a) activation reports, (b) on/off reports, (c) VMS unit purchase and installation, and (d) VMS unit maintenance.

(a) Activation reports:

If the VMS unit has been newly installed or reinstalled or the communications service provider has changed since the previous activation, the vessel owner or operator must submit by mail, facsimile or email an activation report to NMFS that includes: vessel name; Coast Guard vessel documentation number, or if not documented, state or tribal registration number; VMS unit manufacturer and identification number; and telephone, facsimile or email contact information for the vessel owner or operator. Prior to leaving port, the owner/operator must also receive verbal or written confirmation from NMFS or the U.S. Coast Guard that proper transmissions are being received from the VMS unit.

VMS activation reports are required for the projected 78 vessels that are subject to this collection. Such vessels are expected to include the following: (1) 69 troll vessels, which is the maximum number of West Coast-based albacore troll vessels that fished in the Convention Area in any of the last five years; (2) 4 longline vessels, including the 3 Western Pacific-based vessels that were active as of April 2008 and the 1 West Coast-based vessel that has been active within the last two years and (3) 5 support vessels (i.e., carrier vessels, bunker vessels and other vessels used to support the operations of HMS harvesting vessels), which is the number which is roughly the projected number to become active in the Convention Area in the next few years. Thus it is projected that the owners/operators of a total of 78 vessels will be required to respond to this new VMS collection of information.

For the purpose of the following calculations (which include the time burden of receiving the confirmation from NMFS after submitting the activation report), it is estimated that the average lifespan of VMS units is four years and that repairs, changes in communication service providers or other circumstances requiring activation reports will occur an average of once per VMS unit lifespan; that is, in addition to the activation report required upon installation of a new unit, one additional activation report would be required for that unit during its four-year lifespan. In summary, activation reports will be required once every two years, on average.

78 vessels x 0.5 responses/vessel-year x 0.083 hr (5 minutes)/response = 3.2 hr/yr

Total estimated burden per year = 3.2 hours (3)

Total estimated responses per year = 39

(b) On/off reports:

On/off reports must be sent to NMFS by mail, facsimile or email, and must include the following information: the intent to turn on or turn off the VMS unit; the vessel's name; the vessel's Coast Guard documentation number, or if not documented, state or tribal registration number; and telephone, facsimile or email contact information for the vessel owner or operator. In the case of turning a VMS unit on, the vessel owner/operator must also, prior to leaving port, receive verbal or written confirmation from NMFS that proper transmissions are being received from the VMS unit.

Vessel owners/operators are required to submit on/off reports only if they choose to turn off the VMS units while at port. Their decision of whether or not to do so will likely depend on the size of the vessel (owners/operators of smaller vessels are more likely to want or need to shut down the vessel's entire electrical systems while at port, which would necessitate shutdown of the VMS unit) and the duration of the stay at port (longer stays more likely to result in the VMS unit being shut down). The frequency of the on/off reports will depend on the frequency of port calls. It is roughly estimated that owners/operators of half of the 78 vessels subject to the collection will choose to shut down their VMS units at least once during a given year, and that for each of those 39 vessels, the VMS units will be shut down and subsequently turned back on five times per year, on average (thus requiring 10 on/off reports per year, on average). It is estimated that each on/off report will require 5 minutes, on average (including, in the case of turning a VMS unit on, the subsequent confirmation from NMFS).

39 vessels x 10 responses/vessel-year x 5 minutes/response = 32.49 (32) hr/yr
Total estimated burden per year = 32 hours
Total estimated responses per year = 390

(c) VMS unit purchase and installation:

VMS unit installation time will be required for the estimated 78 vessels that will be subject to the requirement. It is estimated that 4 hours per vessel will be required for each installation, for a total initial burden of 312 hours. For the purpose of deriving an annual burden, it is estimated that the average lifespan of VMS units is 4 years. With 1 installation per vessel every 4 years, the total estimated annual burden is 78 hours.

(d) VMS unit maintenance:

VMS unit maintenance may occasionally be required. It is estimated that each of the 78 vessels will bear an average annual maintenance burden of 1 hour (including time to contact NMFS and make the VMS unit available for maintenance), for a total annual burden of 78 hours.

Total: Based on the calculations in paragraphs (a)-(d), the estimated total new annual responses and burden associated with this collection are: 39 responses and 3.2 hours (activation reports) + 390 responses and 32 hours (on/off reports) + 20 responses and 78 hours (purchase and installation) + 78 responses and 78 hours (maintenance) = 527 responses and 191 hours.

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 associated with this collection includes cost for: (a) VMS unit purchase and installation, (b) VMS unit maintenance, and (c) position reports.

The costs of the activation reports and on/off reports are estimated to be nil: their preparation require nothing other than the respondent's time, it is expected that all the reports will be submitted by facsimile or email, and the costs of sending reports by such means is estimated to be virtually zero.

(a) VMS unit purchase and installation:

The cost of purchasing and installing a typical new VMS unit is estimated to be about \$4,000. With an estimated VMS unit lifetime of 4 years, the annualized cost per vessel is therefore about \$1,000.

$$78 \text{ vessels} \times \$1,000/\text{vessel-yr} = \$78,000/\text{yr}$$

(b) VMS unit maintenance:

It is estimated that each of the 78 vessels will bear VMS unit maintenance costs averaging \$250 per year.

$$78 \text{ vessels} \times \$250/\text{vessel-yr} = \$19,500/\text{yr}$$

(c) Position reports:

The communication costs of transmitting the position reports to NMFS are borne by the vessel owner or operator. The transmission of the reports, at a reporting frequency of 24 reports per day, is estimated to cost \$1.50 per vessel per day. As indicated in the response to Question 12, it is estimated that half of the 78 vessels subject to this collection will leave their VMS units turned on year-round, and half will choose to sometimes turn it off while in port. For those that choose to turn it off, it is estimated that they will do so five times per year on average, and that such off-periods will last 14 days on average. It is therefore estimated that 39 vessels will transmit position reports 365 days per year and 39 vessels will transmit position reports 295 days per year, and the total estimated cost burden will be \$38,610 per year:

$$39 \text{ vessels} \times 365 \text{ days/yr} \times \$1.50/\text{day} = \$21,353$$

$$39 \text{ vessels} \times 295 \text{ days/yr} \times \$1.50/\text{day} = \$17,258$$

$$\text{Total: } \$38,611$$

Total cost resulting from the collection: \$78,000 + \$19,500 + \$38,611= \$136,111.

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

The Commission will continue to bear the costs associated with the participation of U.S. vessels in the Commission VMS, including the communication costs of transmitting the position reports from the VMS units to the Commission. However, those costs will be passed on to the Federal government as part of the annual contributions of the United States to the Commission. For the United States, in addition to the 78 vessels that did not previously participate in a NMFS-administered VMS, approximately 175 longline vessels that were already participating NMFS-administered VMS are now required to participate in the Commission VMS, for a total of 253 U.S. vessels in the Commission VMS. The Commission has formulated a provisional budget that anticipates a cost of approximately \$400 per vessel in the VMS' first year of operation. Given the approximately 253 U.S. vessels that are expected to participate, the annual U.S. contribution for its vessels is therefore expected to be about \$101,000 (253 vessels at \$400 per vessel per year).

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

Adjustment: in the original submission, the annualized cost of the VMS purchase was not entered in ROCIS. It has now been added.

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

The information collected is not generally intended for publication. NMFS, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Commission, as well as subsequent recipients, might use the data in such forms as technical reports of compliance patterns and related activities, but they would be presented in aggregated, non-confidential form. The data collected over a series of years might be used in scientific papers and publications, but again, in aggregated, non-confidential form.

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. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

No statistical methods are employed.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Vessel Monitoring System Requirements Under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention**

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 August 20, 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 Tom Graham, (808) 944-2219 or Tom.Graham@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued regulations under authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (WCPFCIA; 16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*) to carry out the obligations of the United States under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention), including implementing the decisions of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Commission). The regulations include a requirement for the owners and operators of U.S. vessels that fish for highly migratory species on the high seas in the Convention Area to carry and operate near real-time satellite-based position-fixing transmitters ("Vessel Monitoring System-VMS-units") at all times except

when the vessel is in port. As part of this requirement, vessel owners and operators must transmit: (1) "On/off reports" to NMFS whenever the VMS unit is turned off while the vessel is in port, (2) "activation reports" to NMFS prior to the first use of a VMS unit, and (3) automatic "position reports" from the VMS unit to NOAA and the Commission as part of a VMS operated by the Commission (50 CFR 300.45). Under this information collection, it is expected that vessel owners and operators would also need to purchase, install, and occasionally maintain the VMS units.

The information collected from the vessel position reports is used by NOAA and the Commission to help ensure compliance with domestic laws and the Commission's conservation and management measures, and are necessary in order for the United States to satisfy its obligations under the Convention.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents may submit on/off reports by facsimile or email, and they may submit activation reports by mail, facsimile or email. Position reports are transmitted electronically and automatically from the VMS unit.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0596.

Form Number: None.

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

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 78.

Estimated Time per Response: VMS unit purchase and installation, 1 hr; Activation Reports, 5 min; on/off reports, 5 min; VMS unit maintenance, 1 hr.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 192.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$136,111 in capital costs and 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: June 14, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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

RIN 0648-XC067

Marine Mammals; File No. 17350

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 69, Barrow, AK 99723 [Taulik Hepa, Responsible Party; Dr. John C. George, Principal Investigator], has applied in due form for a permit to collect, import, export, and receive marine mammal parts for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before July 19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 17350 from the list of available applications.

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

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief,