NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 01/07/2013

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 11/14/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201210-0648-018
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Socioeconomics of Commercial Fishers and For Hire Diving and Fishing Operations in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0597
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: 01/31/2016 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	80	240	0
New	80	240	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change due to 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
Commercial Fishing Operations Questionnaire	NA	Commerical Fishing Operations Questionnaire	
For Hire Dive Operations Questionnaire	NA	For HIre Dive Operations Questionnaire	
For Hire Recreational Fishing Operations Questionnaire	NA	For Hire Charter and Party/Headboats Questionnaire	

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
DOC/NOAA/NOS/ONMS

2. OMB control number
a. 0648 - 0597
b. [ ] None

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [ ] New Collection
b. [ ] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [✔] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify: ____/____

7. Title
Socioeconomics of Commercial Fishers and For Hire Diving and Fishing Operations in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)
Not applicable

9. Keywords
coral reefs, national marine sanctuary, costs-and-earnings, spatial use, knowledge, attitudes and pereptions

10. Abstract

This is a survey of commercial fishing operations and for hire diving and fishing operations that operate in and around the current Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS). Information is obtained to assess the potential socioeconomic impacts of expanding the boundaries of the FGBNMS and potential research only areas. Use information is organized at spatial scales that will support assessments of alternative boundary configurations.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. ___ Individuals or households
b. x Business or other for-profit
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions
d. ___ Farms
e. ___ Federal Government
f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [✔] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents: 27
b. Total annual responses: 27
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically: 0 %
c. Total annual hours requested: 80
d. Current OMB inventory: 80
e. Difference: 0
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change: ____
2. Adjustment: ____

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs: 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M): 0
c. Total annualized cost requested: 0
d. Current OMB inventory: 0
e. Difference: 0
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change: ____
2. Adjustment: ____

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits
b. ___ Program evaluation
c. ___ General purpose statistics
d. ___ Audit
e. P Program planning or management
f. ___ Research
g. ___ Regulatory or compliance

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [ ] Recordkeeping
b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [✔] Reporting
1. [ ] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [ ] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [✔] Other (describe) One time

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[✔] Yes [ ] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy
Phone: (301) 713-7261

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 signed by Hugh Johnson	Date 11/01/2012
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature signed by Sarah Brabson	Date 11/01/2012

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

SOCIOECONOMICS OF COMMERCIAL FISHERS AND FOR HIRE DIVING AND FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OMB CONTROL No. 0648-0597

A. JUSTFICATION

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

This is an application for extension of the currently approved project with OMB Control Number 0648-0597, which expires 11/30/2012.

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431, et seq.) authorizes the use of research and monitoring within National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS). In 1996, the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) was added to the system of NMS via 15 CFR Part 922, subpart L. In 2001, Stetson Bank was added in a revision of 15 CFR Part 922.

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) specifies that each NMS should revise their management plans on a five-year cycle. The FGBNMS has begun the management plan review process. The NMSA also allows for the creation of Sanctuary Advisory Councils (SACs). SACs are comprised of representatives of all NMS stakeholders. Management Plan Review (MPR) is a public process and the SACs, along with a series of public meetings, are used to help scope out issues in revising the management plans and regulations. SAC Working Groups are often used to evaluate management or regulatory alternatives. In the current MPR for the FGBNMS, two major issues have emerged: boundary expansion and research-only areas. In addition, several new or modified regulations are being considered to meet specific needs for diver safety and resource protection (no anchoring/mooring buoy use requirement and a more stringent pollution discharge regulation).

To address each one these issues, the FGBNMS Management and SAC or SAC Working Group is provided a socioeconomic panel to develop information and tools to assess the socioeconomic impacts of management strategies and regulatory alternatives. Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, the ONMS Chief Economist, leads the socioeconomic panel, which can include other social scientists from other agencies or from universities. The information and tools developed in this process will also provide the necessary information for meeting agency requirements for socioeconomic impact analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Impact Review) and an Initial and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analyses (impacts on small businesses).

2. <u>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</u>.

How and Purpose

This information request involves compiling socioeconomic information for three key user groups: commercial fishers, for hire recreational dive operations and for hire recreational fishing operations (charter and party/head boat operations). Socioeconomic information includes socioeconomic/demographic profiles (e.g. age, race/ethnicity, income, and household/family size), costs-and-earnings of business operation, spatial use patterns, and knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions (KAP) of FGBNMS existing and proposed management strategies and regulations.

The purpose of the information collection is to obtain the necessary information to build tools to assist FGBNMS management and a stakeholder working group in assessing the socioeconomic impacts of management strategies and regulatory alternatives in the design of management strategies and/or regulatory alternatives, rather than simple agency after-the-fact evaluation of alternatives. In addition, the KAP module of questions will be used to establish baselines for future monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Overall, there are three basic populations to be surveyed who operate in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area (see maps posted as supplemental documents): 1) Commercial fishers, 2) For Hire Recreational Dive Operations, and 3) For Hire Recreational Fishing Operations (Charter and Party/Head boat operations).

In 2010 and 2011, a census of for hire fishing and diving operations was completed by Texas A&M volunteer students under the direction of their Professor Dr. William Heyman and ONMS economists Bob Leeworthy and Rod Ehler. Letters were sent out to all commercial fishers (known population of 76 operations identified by Vessel Monitoring System from NOAA Fisheries) known to fish in the study area. The commercial fisher's survey was never completed due to students graduating and need for funding.

The for hire recreational fishing and diving industry is dynamic with entry and exit of the industry due to both general economic conditions and poor management typical of many new small businesses. Although we think we had a census in 2011, given the dynamic nature of the business, we are planning for the potential of up to four new businesses.

COMMERCIAL FISHERS

For the commercial fishers, the survey is divided into two parts. Part 1 obtains basic socioeconomic/demographic information, costs-and-earnings, and spatial distribution of use. Part 2 obtains knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of existing and proposed management strategies and regulations.

Part 1: General Information, Economic Information and Fishery Specific Catch, Effort and Trip Costs.

General Information: This section obtains information to develop socioeconomic/demographic profiles and support analyses of socioeconomic impacts. The header contains a place to code date and location of the interview. Contact information is obtained in case follow-up efforts are required and for review of information by the respondent before finalizing data. Question 1 obtains information on the age of the owner/operator. Questions 2a and 2b obtain information on race/ethnicity of the owner/operator. Question 3 asks about the number of family members supported by the business. Question 4 asks about membership in organizations that might provide information and support to the business. Question 5 focuses on the association with fish houses. Belonging to a fish house can change the business decision process with fishermen only going out when receiving orders from fish houses. Questions 6 and 7 ask about ports used. Questions 5 through 7 establish the location of where economic impacts of the fishing activity take place. Questions 8 thru 10 address the experience of the commercial fisher in total, in the Gulf of Mexico and the FGBNMS. Questions 11 and 12 address the commercial fisher's dependency on commercial fishing as a source of income. Question 13 also addresses dependency on commercial fishing by classification of the fishing occupation.

Economic Information: This section addresses costs-and-earnings of the commercial fishing operation. This section was designed to conform to other studies being conducted on the economics of the Gulf of Mexico commercial fisheries (see answer to Question 4 below on Duplication of Effort). Each of the questions ask for information for the last year. Last year will be the year before we implement and will be filled in at the time we implement the information collection. Question 14 and 14a focus on the replacement value of current equipment and gear and the balance of any loans for vessels and equipment. This information will help assess the return on capital and equity. Question 15 focuses on other overhead expenses, while Question 16 addresses trip related expenses. Questions 15 and 16 ask for annual expenses for the past season. This is the recommendation of NOAA Fisheries economists doing similar work in other fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, so we are maintaining consistency of information collection across different efforts.

Questions 17 and 18 focus on total fishing revenues for the past year and the distribution by major spatial units related to areas being considered for boundary expansion of the FGBNMS. For Question 18, we will collect either the revenue for each area or the percent of the total revenue from Question 17 by area. This will establish dependency on the different areas for commercial fishing revenues. Boundary expansion or research only areas could result in displacement of some commercial fishing activities (non hook-and-line fishing in boundary expansion areas and all fishing in research only areas).

Fishery Specific Catch, Effort and Trip Costs: Questions 19 and 20 provide control totals for each major area, Question 19 for pounds and value of catch by species/species groups and Question 20 for days of fishing effort by species/species groups, for which more detailed spatial distributions are to be obtained via Question 22. In Questions 20 and 21, we combined snappers and groupers because they are usually caught with the same gears in the same places and there would be a problem in double-counting days and costs or in separating them out.

Question 21 provides detailed costs per day of fishing by species/species group. This information will provide the basis of estimating the economic impacts on a fishing operation from displacement by either boundary expansion or a research only area.
Also, for Question 21, we designed the format to be consistent with that used by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Stone Crab questionnaire (OMB Control Number 0648-0560, Expiration Date: 6/30/2010). Here we pick up information on the seasonality of different fisheries, since many fishermen engage in multiple fisheries over different seasons, and we get information on gear used. Gear used is important because current regulations in the FGBNMS allow only hook-and-line fishing, so boundary expansion would displace non hook-and-line fishing.

Question 22 takes a different approach in obtaining detailed spatial resolution of "expected catch". The purpose of this information is to assess the potential impacts of boundary expansion and research only area alternatives. This is by its nature forward looking, thus past spatial distribution of effort may not be good representation of future impact. Commercial fishers will be asked to provide the percent distribution of where they expect to make their future catches by species/species groups at spatial resolutions of 1-minute by 1-minute of one nautical square mile grid cells. Detailed maps will be provided with NOAA Nautical chart layers with latitude and longitude lines and key reference point such as different oil platforms/rigs and the key bottom bank structures and depth contours. The catch totals provided in Question 19 will provide the information to weight percentage distributions across commercial fishing operations when extrapolating to population totals by spatial unit.

Part 2: Knowledge, Attitudes & Perceptions of Sanctuary Management Strategies and Regulations. The questions are similar to those submitted under OMB Approval Number 0648-0534, Expiration Date: 7/31/2009, which is focused on a 10-year replication for three user groups; commercial fishermen, dive shop owners/operators, and members of local environmental groups in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). The questions have been modified to the issues in the FGBNMS, but follow the same general format.

This module contains 37 questions. Question 1 addresses sources where respondents get their information and the usefulness of each source of information. This is extremely important to FGBNMS education and outreach personnel for identifying effective means of communicating with commercial fishers.

Questions 2 thru 8 address commercial fisher's perceptions of the FGBNMS with respect to the processes and procedures followed in creating and enforcing management strategies and regulations. A 1 to 5 point scale is used, with 1 meaning Strongly Agree to 5 meaning Strongly Disagree.

Questions 9 thru 37 ask questions about the attitudes and perceptions of FGBNMS existing and proposed management strategies and regulations, and if commercial fishers support FGBNMS management. Questions 9 thru 33 and Question 35 use a 1 to 5 point scale, with 1 meaning Strongly Agree to 5 meaning Strongly Disagree. Question 34 asks about commercial fishers' perceptions of the resource conditions using a 1 to 5 point scale, with 1 meaning Better

Condition to 5 meaning a Worse Condition. Questions 36 and 37 are opened ended response questions asking for what areas commercial fisher's think FGBNMS has been most successful or least successful.

FOR HIRE RECREATIONAL DIVING OPERATIONS

As with the commercial fishers, the questionnaire for the for hire recreational diving operations is divided into two parts. Part 1 obtains basic socioeconomic/demographic information, costs-and-earnings, and spatial distribution of use. Part 2 obtains knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of existing and proposed management strategies and regulations. Past research and advice from members of the SAC representing the dive industry informed us that dive operations also take people out for recreational fishing and wildlife observation tours (e.g. whale watching, bird watching, etc.). The questionnaire was modified to account for this practice.

Part 1: General Information, Economic Information and Person-days and Trip Costs. The questions are similar to those submitted under OMB Approval Number 0648-0534, Expiration Date: 7/31/2009 for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). The questions have been slightly modified to fit the FGBNMS.

General Information: This section obtains information to develop socioeconomic/demographic profiles and support analyses of socioeconomic impacts. Information requested is the same as in the questionnaire for the commercial fishers with minor modifications for adapting to the dive operations.

Economic Information: This section addresses costs-and-earnings of the dive operation. This section was designed to conform to other studies being conducted on the economics of the Gulf of Mexico recreational for hire fishing operations, but modified to take into account the differences for diving and wildlife observation activities (see answer to Question 4 below on Duplication of Effort). Questions 14 thru 17 focus on the operations capacity for number of passengers on all their vessels, by type of activity. Question 18 asks for the number of employees by classification (e.g. full, part-time, or seasonal). Questions 19 and 20 focus on the replacement value of current equipment and gear and the balance of any loans for vessels and equipment. This information will help assess the return on capital and equity. Question 21 focuses on other overhead expenses, while Question 22 addresses trip related expenses. Questions 21 and 22 ask for annual expenses for the past year. This is the recommendation of NOAA Fisheries economists doing similar work on for hire recreational fishing operations in the Gulf of Mexico, so we are maintaining consistency of information collection across different efforts.

Questions 23 and 24 focus on total dive operation revenues for the past year and the distribution by major spatial units related to areas being considered for boundary expansion of the FGBNMS. This will establish dependency on the different areas for dive operation revenues. Boundary expansion or research only areas could result in displacement of some activities (non hook-and-line fishing in boundary expansion areas and all fishing in research only areas).

Person-days and Trip Costs: Questions 25 and 26 provide control totals for each major area, Question 25 for person-days of activity by type of activity and Question 26 for person-days of activity by type of activity for the three banks in the current FGBNMS. Person-days are the best measurement of use for recreational activities. A definition is provided which says a person-day is one person doing an activity for a whole day or any part of the day. This measurement corresponds generally to what the operations record in their log books as the number of passengers taken to a specific location on a specific day. There is some potential for double-counting across activities, so totals across activities is asked and it is not required that the sum by activity equal the total.

Question 27 provides detailed costs per day of operation by type of activity. This information will provide the basis of estimating the economic impacts on a dive operation from displacement by either boundary expansion or a research only area.

Question 28 takes a different approach in obtaining detailed spatial resolution of "expected person-days". The purpose of this information is to assess the potential impacts of boundary expansion and research only area alternatives. This is by its nature forward looking, thus past spatial distribution of effort may not be good representation of future impact. Dive owners/operators will be asked to provide the percent distribution of where they expect to undertake their future effort by type of activity at spatial resolutions of 1-minute by 1-minute of one nautical square mile grid cells. Detailed maps will be provided with NOAA Nautical chart layers with latitude and longitude lines and key reference point such as different oil platforms/rigs and the key bottom bank structures and depth contours. The person-day totals provided in Question 25 will provide the information to weight percentage distributions across dive operations when extrapolating to population totals by spatial unit.

Part 2: Knowledge, Attitudes & Perceptions of Sanctuary Management Strategies and Regulations. The questions are similar to those submitted under OMB Approval Number 0648-0534, Expiration Date: 7/31/2009, which is focused on a 10-year replication for three user groups; commercial fishermen, dive shop owners/operators, and members of local environmental groups in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). The questions have been modified to the issues in the FGBNMS, but follow the same general format.

This module contains 38 questions. The questions are the same as used in the commercial fishers questionnaire to allow for comparisons across user groups. Question 23 was modified to address dive operators and an additional question was added (Question 34) to address the requirement of using dive flag.

FOR HIRE RECREATIONAL FISHING OPERATIONS

As with the commercial fishers and for hire recreational diving operations, the questionnaire for the for hire recreational fishing operations is divided into two parts. Part 1 obtains basic socioeconomic/demographic information, costs-and-earnings, and spatial distribution of use. Part 2 obtains knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of existing and proposed management strategies and regulations.

Part 1: General Information, Economic Information, and Person-days and Trip Costs. The questions are similar to those submitted under OMB Approval Number 0648-0534, Expiration Date: 7/31/2009 for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). The questions have been slightly modified to fit the FGBNMS.

General Information: This section obtains information to develop socioeconomic/demographic profiles and support analyses of socioeconomic impacts. Information in this section is the same as in the for hire diving operations questionnaire with slight modifications for the for hire recreational fishing operations.

Economic Information: This section addresses costs-and-earnings of the fishing operation. Again, this section is similar to that for the for hire diving operations with only slight modifications.

Person-days and Trip Costs: Questions 23 and 24 provide control totals for each major area, and again this section is similar to that used for the for hire diving operations with slight modifications.

Part 2: Knowledge, Attitudes & Perceptions of Sanctuary Management Strategies and Regulations. The questions are similar to those submitted under OMB Approval Number 0648-0534, Expiration Date: 7/31/2009, which is focused on a 10-year replication for three user groups; commercial fishermen, dive shop owners/operators, and members of local environmental groups in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). The questions have been modified to the issues in the FGBNMS, but follow the same general format.

This module contains the same 38 questions used for the for hire diving operations. Question 23 was modified to focus on charter/party boat (for hire fishing) operators.

By Whom

The surveys will be implemented by researchers at Texas A & M University under the direction of Professor William Heyman. Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy is the Chief Economist for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and will lead the overall effort. Bob will be the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) on any contract to implement the survey. Bob and ONMS Senior Economist, Rod Ehler, will develop geographic information system (GIS) tools and socioeconomic models for estimating socioeconomic impacts of management strategies and regulatory alternatives.

How Frequently

This is a one-time application for the current submission. Some of the elements of this submission may be replicated to support socioeconomic monitoring. However, it is ONMS policy to work with NMS stakeholders in designing socioeconomic research and monitoring programs, which would determine whether and how often to replicate measurements.

How Collection Complies with NOAA Information Quality Guidelines

NOAA 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 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.

Utility: Completing this information collection will give FGBNMS stakeholders fair representation in the design of management strategies and regulations by providing information to support the assessment of socioeconomic impacts of management strategy and regulatory alternatives.

Education and outreach is an important management tool in the FGBNMS. The information provided in this project will be an overwhelming boon to the Education and Outreach Program of the FGBNMS. Knowledge of who are the users of the FGBNMS, their knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of Sanctuary management strategies and regulations and, how users get their information are all important in designing effective education and outreach efforts.

Integrity: Procedures have been established to protect the proprietary information provided by all respondents to all surveys. All personal identification information is removed from all databases to be sent to NOAA or distributed to the public. Each individual is assigned a database identification number in the database so the data from different portions of the survey can be linked for analysis. Release of proprietary information is further protected by the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 522 (b) (4)) concerning trade secrets or proprietary information, such as commercial business and financial records.

All project reports are converted to Read-Only in portable document format (pdf) before being placed on the NOAA Web site for public dissemination.

Objectivity: All analyses and reports developed in this project will be peer reviewed before release to the public. This is the NOAA standard for socioeconomic information under the Information Quality Act. All survey modules of questions included in this project have all been through peer review as well. In addition, all of the survey questions have been tested and analyzed in previous applications.

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.

No automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological or other forms of information technology are being used. All surveys are conducted face-to-face and recorded on paper forms.

4. <u>Describe efforts to identify duplication</u>.

In March 2009, an Economic Workshop, organized by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The purpose of the workshop was to assemble all researchers currently planning economic or socioeconomic studies on Gulf of Mexico commercial and recreational fisheries and share details of each proposed research design to avoid duplication of effort and consistency across applications. Bob Leeworthy attended and presented what is proposed in this submission. It was determined that the proposed work here is unique and a valuable addition. Further, efforts are made in this submission to achieve consistency in measurement of similar information (i.e. costs-and-earnings categories for commercial and recreational fishing operations). This will allow for direct comparisons across similar populations throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Bob Leeworthy has also conducted a literature review to determine if and to what extent existing information might meet the needs for the FGBNMS. The review indicated that any information was considered outdated. Bob presented what was known to the FGBNMS SAC and commercial fisher, recreational dive operation and recreational fishing operation representatives all thought that new information collection was needed to adequately represent their interests. Each user group was consulted on each component of the information collection to ensure we were not duplicating efforts and that user group members would comply with the information request.

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

All the business entities in this information collection request can be classified as small businesses. Our approach is not to send out questionnaires to be filled out by survey respondents. Instead, we send out an information collection team to the home or office of the business owner/operator (commercial fishers and for hire recreational fishing and diving operations) and the information collection team works with the respondent to complete the information collection. In arranging information collection interviews, our approach is to discuss the types of information we will be asking for in order for the respondent to prepare to make records available to the team. For cost-and-earnings, financial records will be needed. For spatial use information or catch information, access to log-books will be requested.

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

NOAA and the managers of the FGBNMS, with the advice and consent from the FGBNMS SAC, have agreed to build the necessary information and tools to allow for the assessment of socioeconomic impacts in the design of management strategies and regulations. The information collection proposed here is in response to the issues identified by the user groups as necessary elements of a socioeconomic impact analyses. The management plan review process is well underway in the FGBNMS and the information collection proposed here is critical to meeting the needs of FGBNMS stakeholders. In addition, many federal agencies that manage natural resources have been tasked by the National Academy of Sciences to adopt adaptive management

practices. Adaptive management requires research and monitoring, both ecological and socioeconomic, to be able to assess what is happening to both the natural resources and the humans that depend upon those resources. The FGBNMS has taken important steps along these lines and is living up to their compact with the stakeholders who are participating in the management plan revision process. Not completing these data collections would leave NOAA and the FGBNMS in violation of these agreements.

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

Data collection will be consistent with OMB guidelines.

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 August 10, 2012 (77 FR 47818) solicited public comment on this collection. None was received.

As described in the introduction to this request, ONMS has a SAC consisting of representatives of each stakeholder group. The SAC helps vet issues that will be considered in management plan review, which includes new management strategies and regulations. The SAC for the FGBNMS has approved the consideration of evaluations of alternatives for both boundary expansion and research only area(s). The Chief Economist of ONMS addressed the SAC on how to build the information and tools to provide socioeconomic evaluation of alternatives. Members of the SAC representing the commercial fishers and for hire recreational and diving were fully supportive of the planned surveys and said they would contact their members to ensure support for the information collection. This process worked for the 2010-2011 collection on the recreational for hire and diving operations, as we achieved a census.

Within the last couple of months, the SAC has begun their outreach again, as they know we now have funding and that Texas A&M professor William Heyman is working on a contract with our National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to get the work started. SAC members are already recontacting their constituents by whatever means they normally use to inform them that the survey work is going forward. We expect the same results for the commercial fishers and any new recreational for hire fishing and diving operations that have started new businesses since 2011.

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

No payments or gifts are 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 forms, any identifying information (name, name of business, address and telephone number) will be viewed only by the contractor compiling the data, and will be destroyed by the contractor collecting the information at the end of the information collection. In addition, the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 522(b)(4) authorizes non-disclosure by a federal agency of trade secrets or proprietary information, such as commercial business and financial records. All other information will be available for distribution.

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 sensitive questions will be asked.

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

We estimate that there are approximately 76 commercial fishing operations in the relevant portions of the Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area that would be potentially impacted by FGBNMS boundary expansion or research-only areas. This information was obtained through the use of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) which tracks commercial vessel locations. We expect it will, on average, require three (3) hours of interview/record compilation time for each commercial fishing operation. This time can be rougtly divided into one hour for record compilation/availability for our interviewers and two hours working with our interviewers in filling out and checking the forms completed by the interview team. We also assume we will obtain a 100% response rate or a census, but response rates could go as low as 85%, based on our past applications of the same methods of information collection used in the Florida Keys. In our most recent application in the Florida Keys, which included all of the same types of information, we achieved a 90% response rate.. At the 85% response rate, we would expect 65 completed interviews for 195 hours, but to allow for a 100% response, we are requesting 228 hours.

For the For Hire Recreational Diving Operations, we have identified a population of 10 operations. All of these were completed in 2011. However, this industry is dynamic and the number of firms that exit and enter change, so we expect possibly two (2) more operations could exist. We expect to get a 100% response rate or a census. The representative for the dive industry on the FGBNMS SAC has assured us that all of their members are highly supportive of the effort and we should expect full cooperation. Again, we expect that, on average, the interview and compilation of information time will be three (3) hours, for a total of six (6) hours.

For the For Hire Recreational Fishing Operations, we have identified a population of 20 operations. We completed all 20 interviews in 2011. However, this industry is dynamic and the number of firms that exit and enter change, so we expect possibly two (2) more operations could exist. Again, we expect to get a 100% response rate or a census. The representatives for the recreational fishing industry have assured us that their members are highly supportive of the

effort and we should expect full cooperation. Again, we expect that, on average, the interview and compilation of information time will be three (3) hours, for a total of six (6) hours.

The total one-time burden hour estimate across all three groups is estimated to be 240 hours.

Table 1. Estimate of Burden Hours

	Total
Estimated Number of Respondents	
Commercial fishermen	76
For Hire Recreational Diving Operations	2
For Hire Recreational Fishing Operations	2
Total	80
Estimated time per Respondent	
Commercial fishermen	3hrs
Dive Shop Owners/Operators	3hrs
Members of Local Environmental Groups	3hrs
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours	
Commercial fishermen	228
Dive Shop Owners/Operators	6
Members of Local Environmental Groups	6
Total	240

13. <u>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)</u>.

There will be no cost to respondents beyond burden hours.

14. <u>Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government</u>.

Data collection, GIS information and socioeconomic analysis tool development, and basic reports will take about nine months to complete.

Additional costs to the Federal government include the staff time of NOAA employees in developing survey questionnaire, sample designs and support items; developing and overseeing contracts to conduct surveys, do analyses and develop reports; develop data documentation on CD-ROM; post project reports on NOAA web site in pdf; and travel to support use of the GIS and socioeconomic impact analysis tools to evaluate management and regulatory alternatives

with stakeholder working groups. Total other costs to the Federal government are estimated at $30,000. So the total project costs to the Federal government are estimated at $96,600 over a three year period. When annualized, the costs are estimated to be $32,200.

Table 2. Total Project Cost to the Federal Government (Costs over three years):

Socioeconomics of Commercial Fishers and For Hire Recreational Diving and Fishing Operations in the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Contracts for Data Collectors…….$30,000

NOAA Staff time in developing questionnaires, maps, contracts and tools:

a. Development and oversight……$42,000
   1. ZP-04 Economist 300 hours * $80/hour……..... $24,000
   2. ZP-04 Economist 300 hours * $62/hour……..… $18,600

b. Travel…… $24,000

Total Cost to Federal Government…….$96,600

Annualized Cost to Federal Government (Total Project Costs to the Federal government divided by three years): $32,200.

15. <u>Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments</u>.

The commercial fishing component of this collection was not carried out in the first three years, due to lack of funding. Industry interviews of current businesses were completed, but new businesses will be surveyed. However, the current annualized burden estimate is the same as for the previous submission, with additional commercial fishing interviews balanced by fewer industry interviews.

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

All reports will be peer reviewed per the NOAA standard under the Information Quality Act and posted on the ONMS Socioeconomic Web site: http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic. A new page(s) will be set up on this Web site for the FGBNMS.

All data and documentation will be put on CD-ROM and will be made available to the general public, subject to any masking of the data required to protect privacy.

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

NA.

18. <u>Explain each exception to the certification statement</u>.

NA.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

SOCIOECONOMICS OF COMMERCIAL FISHERS AND FOR HIRE DIVING AND FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OMB CONTROL No. 0648-0597

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

Commercial Fishers**.** We estimate the population of commercial fishing operations that operate in the relevant portions of the Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area that would be potentially impacted by FGBNMS boundary expansion or research-only areas to number 76 operations. This information was obtained through the use of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) mandated by NOAA Fisheries, which tracks commercial vessel locations.

The actual determination was a two-step procedure. In Step 1, we asked NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center for the names and addresses for all commercial fishing vessels that operate in NOAA Fisheries Gulf of Mexico statistical areas 14, 15 and 16, which most closely overlay our Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area. However, this resulted in over 1,000 vessels. In Step 2, we narrowed the list down to 76 operations by asking NOAA Fisheries for the vessels that have operated over the past three years in more precise geographic locations corresponding to the areas where boundary expansion and research only areas will be considered. NOAA Fisheries has required that all commercial fishing vessels have Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). Use of this information allowed us to more precisely define the relevant commercial fishing population.

We expect to get between an 85% and 100% response rate, based on our past applications of the same methods of information collection used in the Florida Keys. In our most recent application in the Florida Keys, which included all of the same types of information, we achieved a 90% response rate. As in the Florida Keys application, we will not send questionnaires to commercial fishers to fill out. Instead, we send a team of data collectors into the home or office of the commercial fishers and the data collection team works with the commercial fishers to fill out our questionnaires and spatial catch information work sheets. Interviews are set up in advance and the commercial fishers are informed of the types of information that will be collected and what kinds of records (e.g. log books and financial records) are required for the information collection.

For the For Hire Recreational Diving Operations, in 2011we completed most of the population but are planning for the possibility of two new operations. We identified the initial population

by reviewing past research on all Texas Gulf of Mexico For Hire Dive Operations and updating from telephone Yellow book and web sites. We expected and got a 100% response rate or a census. The representative for the dive industry on the FGBNMS SAC has assured us that all of their members are highly supportive of the effort and we should expect full cooperation. If new operations have come into business, we expect they will respond.

For the For Hire Recreational Fishing Operations, we completed in 2011 the initial effort identified a population of 20 operations. We identified these operations through NOAA Fisheries, telephone yellow book, web sites and fishing magazines. We achieved a 100% response rate or a census. The representatives for the recreational fishing industry have assured us that their members are highly supportive of the effort and we should expect full cooperation. If new operations have come into being, we expect they will also respond.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

Generally, we expect to get a census for all three user groups. For commercial fishers, we expect, based on past experience, that the minimum response rate would be 85%. In past experiences, the 15% that don't respond accounted for less than 5% of total catch, so we think we will be as close to a census as practical.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

In January 2009, Bob Leeworthy attended the FGBNMS SAC Meeting and presented all that we currently know about the commercial fishers, for hire recreational diving industry and the for hire recreational fishing industry. The FGBNMS SAC representatives for each of these three user groups all agreed that the information currently available was inadequate to address the assessment of the potential socioeconomic impact of various boundary alternatives for FGBNMS boundary expansion alternatives or research only areas. Bob presented what information collection he thought would provide the necessary information to build a decision support tool to allow FGBNMS management and a working group of the SAC to evaluate regulatory alternatives in designing boundary expansion or research only areas. User group representatives each said they would contact their memberships and do their best to make sure we got maximum cooperation.

In 2011, Texas A&M students with oversight with their major Professor, William Heyman, completed the for hire diving and fishing industry operations. However, funding was not available to do the commercial fishing operations which are located in Texas, Louisiana, Florida,

Alabama and Mississippi. We have only now been successful in securing the necessary funding to complete the effort.

In past applications (most recent in Florida Keys—see OMB 0648-0534), we did achieve over 85% response rates for both commercial fishing operations and dive operations. So far with the for hire industry, we have achieved 100% response or a census. In addition, we had no item non response, even for income questions, as we experience when surveying households. So we do not expect non response bias to be a significant issue for the populations in this information collection request.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

All of the questionnaires and methods proposed here have been employed in past information collections and so are well tested. They all have been slightly modified for application to the FGBNMS. We have also worked through the FGBNMS SAC to make sure that the members of each user group will know why it is important to provide the information and how it will be used, in order to receive a high level of cooperation in providing the information requested.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

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References

Gulf States Fisheries Economics Workshop. 2009. New Orleans, Louisiana, March 19-20, 2009. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Alex L. Miller Workshop Coordinator.

Liese, Christopher, Carter, David, and Curtis, Rita. 2009. Surveying the For-Hire Sector: Economic Heterogeneity in the Southeastern U.S. Charter Boat Industry. Staff Paper, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Fishery Science Center, Miami, Florida, pp 20.

Shivlani, M., Leeworthy V.R., Murray, T.J., Suman, D.O., and F. Tonioli. 2008. Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of Management Strategies and Regulations of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary by Commercial Fishers, Dive Operators, and Environmental Group Members: A Baseline Characterization and 10-year Comparison. Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series ONMS-08-06. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Silver Spring, MD. 170 pp.

COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION

1. Authorizations to Collect the Information

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431, et seq.) authorizes the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary to establish regulations to protect sanctuary resources or resolve user conflicts. This act also authorizes the Sanctuary to do research and collect information necessary for evaluating new regulations.

2. How the Information Will Be Used

The Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary has developed a public process to evaluate and revise its current management plan and regulations. Through this public process and in consultation with the Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary is evaluating several alternatives for expanding its boundaries to cover other banks in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico, establishing a research only area to test the impacts of fishing, and revise other regulations on use of dive flags by dive vessels, minimum distance and speeds for other vessels operating near dive vessels, and vessel discharges. All current and revised regulations would apply to boundary expansion areas. The Sanctuary Advisory Council or a Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Group, with members representing different user groups, will help evaluate and make recommendations to the FGBNMS on boundary expansion and research only area alternatives and revisions of other regulations.

The information collected here will be used by the Sanctuary Advisory Council or its working group and management of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary in evaluating alternative boundaries for boundary expansion and research only areas alternatives. The objective will be to minimize the socioeconomic impacts of boundary expansion and research only area alternatives. The information will also be used by NOAA in completing socioeconomic impact analyses of any regulations resulting from any proposed boundary expansion, research only area or other new regulations.

3. Statement of Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average about three hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden, to Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, Chief Economist, National Ocean Service, office of National marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC 4, 11th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

4. Your Participation and Protections of Proprietary Information

Your participation is voluntary. 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 the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Any information that identifies you or your business (name, name of business, address and telephone number) will not be given to anyone, including the government agencies sponsoring this information collection. The information that identifies you or your business will be destroyed by the contractor collecting the information at the end of the information collection. All other information will be available for distribution.

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

Commercial Fishing in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico (Part 1)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____
_____
_____

1. Which of the following includes your age?

18-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 over 60

2a. Are you Hispanic or Latino YES __ NO __

2b. What is your race? (Mark one or more)

__ White __ Black or African American __ American Indian or Alaska Native

__ Asian __ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

3. How many family members do you support (including yourself)?

Myself only 2 3 4 5 6 7 Greater and 7

4. Are you a member of any of the following groups?

Chamber of Commerce	YES __	NO __
An Environmental Group	YES __	NO __
Commercial Fishing Organization	YES __	NO __
Other (specify) _____	YES __	NO __

5. Do you belong to a fish house? YES __ NO __
-if YES, then which one? _____
-if NO, to which fish houses do you usually sell your catch?
_____
_____
_____

6. What is your primary port? _____

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

7. Do you have a secondary port, from where you fish part of the year? YES __ NO __

- If YES, then which one? _____

8. How many years have you been a commercial fisher? ___ (number of years)

9. How many years have you been a commercial fisher in the Gulf of Mexico? ___ (number of years)

10. Have you ever commercially fished in the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? (Interviewer—Please show map) YES __ NO __

- If YES, how many years have you fished in the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? ___ (number of years)

11. What approximate percentage of your personal income is derived from commercial fishing? ____%

12. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL household income is derived from commercial fishing? ____ %

13. How would you describe your fishing occupation? (Mark one or more)

___ Full-time commercial fisher __ Part-time commercial fisher __ Charter Boat (sometimes sell catch)

ECONOMIC INFORMATION

14. Please provide your best estimate of the replacement value of the following items that you used for commercial fishing last year (_____ fill in-in year).

__ Vessel(s) and electronic equipment:		$ _____
Lobster traps:	Number: _____	$ _____
Crab traps:	Number: _____	$ _____
Nets:	Number: _____	$ _____
Longlines:	Number: _____	$ _____
Dive gear:		$ _____
Rods/reels		$ _____
Other gear (specify) _____		$ _____
_____		$ _____
_____		$ _____

14a. Outstanding balance on loan amounts for vessels and equipment. $ _____

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0000 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

15. Please provide your best estimate for the following expenses last year:

Snapper Quota fee (allocation lease fee):	$ _____
Fishing Permits/Licenses:	$ _____
Docking fees:	$ _____
Interest payments on vessel:	$ _____
P&I insurance on vessel, crew:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on vessel/electronic equipment:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on lobster traps:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on crab traps:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on nets:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on longlines:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on Dive gear:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on rods/reels:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on other gear:	$ _____
Office rent/mortgage:	$ _____
Office utilities (electric, water, telephone, Internet):	$ _____
Depreciation on vessel and equipment:	$ _____
Business taxes:	$ _____
Other: _____	$ _____
_____	$ _____
_____	$ _____

16. Please provide your best estimate for the following annual trip related expenses last year:

Fuel/oil:	$ _____
Ice:	$ _____
Bait:	$ _____
Food/Supplies:	$ _____
Captain wages & salaries (if not owner-captain):	$ _____
Crew wages & salaries Number: ____	$ _____
Other (specify) _____	$ _____
_____	$ _____
_____	$ _____

17. Please provide your best estimate of your total revenues from fishing last year:
$ _____

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

18. Please provide your best estimate of your total revenues and/or percentage of total revenues (from Question 17) from fishing last year by each geographic area: (See map for definitions of each area)

Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area	$ _____	% _____
Area 1	$ _____	% _____
Area 2	$ _____	% _____
Area 3	$ _____	% _____
Area 4	$ _____	% _____
Other Gulf of Mexico not included above	$ _____	% _____

FISHERY SPECIFIC CATCH, EFFORT AND TRIP COSTS

19. Please provide your best estimate of the number of pounds and value of catch by species/species group for last season and the percentage of total catch by species/species group and area. (Interviewer – show map of areas).

Fishery	**Total Pounds**	**Total $**	**NWGOM (%)**	**Area 1 (%)**	**Area 2 (%)**	**Area 3 (%)**	**Area 4 (%)**
Snappers							
Groupers							
Other Reef Fish							
Sharks							
Jacks/Mackerels/Tunas							
Menhaden							
Other Finfish							
Shrimp							
Lobster							
Crab							
Other invertebrates							

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

20. Please provide your best estimate of the number of days of fishing by species/species group for the last year and the percentage of days of fishing by species/species group and area.

Fishery	**Total Days**	**NWGOM (%)**	**Area 1 (%)**	**Area 2 (%)**	**Area 3 (%)**	**Area 4 (%)**
Snappers/Groupers						
Other Reef Fish						
Sharks						
Jacks/Mackerels/Tunas						
Menhaden						
Other Finfish						
Shrimp						
Lobster						
Crab						
Other invertebrates						

21. Please provide your best estimate for:
a. Months fished for each species/species group last year.
b. Primary gear used for each species/species group.
c. Cost per day for a typical day of fishing by species/species group.

	Snapper/ Groupers	Other Reef Fish	Sharks	Jacks/Mackerels/ Tunas	Menhaden
Months fished					
Primary Gear Used					
Fuel/Oil					
Ice					
Bait					
Food/Supplies					
Other					
Crew					
Captain (if not owner)					

	Other Finfish	Shrimp	Lobster	Crab	Other Invertebrates
Months fished					
Primary Gear Used					
Fuel/Oil					
Ice					
Bait					
Food/Supplies					
Other					
Crew					
Captain (if not owner)					

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

22. Please provide the percentage of your catch across each 1-minute by 1-minute grid cell for each species/species group. This is a forward looking rather than just your past catch patterns. We want to know where you expect you will make your catch in the future. This will be used to assess the possible impacts of expanding the boundaries of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary or assessing a possible research only area. All hook-an-line fishing will be allowed in boundary expansion areas as in the current FGBNMS. All fishing will be eliminated from a research only area. (refer to detailed maps with grid overlays and nautical chart reference points).

Coding sheet attached.

Commercial Fisheries in NWGOM Part 2.
SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND PERCEPTIONS

1. Please list the sources of information that you have received in the past on the FGBNMS and rank the sources in terms of their usefulness. In terms of ranking, please rank only those sources that you used, and where 1 is the most important source, 2 the second most important source, and so on.

SOURCE	Sources Used	RANK Sources
a. FGBNMS website	_____	_____
b. FGBNMS Staff	_____	_____
c. Sanctuary Advisory Council	_____	_____
d. FGBNMS brochures/literature	_____	_____
e. FGBNMS signage	_____	_____
f. Information in newspapers	_____	_____
g. Radio	_____	_____
h. TV	_____	_____
i. Word of mouth	_____	_____

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree,** 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

2. The process that NOAA has used to develop rules and regulations for the FGBNMS was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

3. The process has used by NOAA to develop boundaries and regulations for the FGBNMS zones was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

4. It has not mattered whether the average person participated in the workshops and meeting on the FGBNMS because the average person could not influence the final decisions.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

5. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of other federal and state governments in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

6. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of individual citizens in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

7. Once that the FGBNMS regulations have been in effect, there has been no way that the average person to voice his/her opinion on the usefulness of the regulations.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

8. The procedures that NOAA has established to deal with violations of FGBNMS regulations have been fair and just.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

NOTES

ATTITUDES ABOUT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND REGULATION

In this section, we want to know what you think about current and proposed management strategies in the FGBNMS, the effects of those management strategies and regulations, and how you think the FGBNMS management has performed.

In management plan review public scoping and Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings, FGBNMS is thinking about expanding its current boundaries and creating a research only area. For boundary expansion, there are a number of alternatives, but all would extend the current regulations in FGBNMS to the boundary expansion areas. Hook-and-line fishing is currently allowed in the FGBNMS. For the research only area, all activities would be prohibited. See map of areas proposed for potential boundary expansion.

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree,** 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

9. I support the FGBNMS as it is currently established.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

10. I support the establishment of a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

11. A research only area in the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

12. There should be more than one bank set aside as a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

13. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 1.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

14. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 2.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

15. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 3.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

16. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 4.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

17 I support establishment of a research only area on Stetson bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

18. I support establishment of a research only area on East Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

19. I support establishment of a research only area on West Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

20. Boundary expansion of the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

21. The Stetson, East & West Flower Garden Banks have benefited environmentally from management by the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

22. There has been a net economic benefit to the coastal Texas economy from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

23. Commercial fisheries have benefited from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

24. FGBNMS regulations have had no effect on my business.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

25. I support the no anchoring regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

26. I support the current no discharge regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

27. I support the current no harvest of bottom formations or taking of invertebrates inside the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

28. I support the hook-and-line only fishing regulation in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

29. I support the no taking of marine mammals and turtles in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

30. I support the requirement of using a mooring buoy instead of anchoring in the FGBNMS with the limit of vessel size for mooring use of 100 feet or less.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

31. I support stricter regulations on discharging of pollutants in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

32. I support regulations on minimum distance and speed from vessels flying a Blue and Alpha Dive Flag.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

33. I support the requirement that all Dive vessels fly a Blue and Alpha dive flag..

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

34. Please rate the status/condition of the following resources at the East & West Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank by their status/condition since the implementation of the FGBNMS (1996 for East & West Flower Garden Banks and 2001 for Stetson Bank), where 1 is much better and 5 is much worse.

	RESOURCE	Better ←--------→ Worse					
a.	Water quality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
b.	Sea-based pollution/marine debris	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
c.	Coral reefs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
d.	Other bottom habitat	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
e.	Fisheries	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
f.	Mooring buoys	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
g.	Fewer vessel groundings	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

35. The FGBNMS is mostly responsible for the status/condition of the resources that you rated in the previous question.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

36. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been most successful?

_____

37. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been least successful?

_____

FOR HIRE DIVE/SNORKEL OPERATIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION

1. Authorizations to Collect the Information

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431, et seq.) authorizes the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary to establish regulations to protect sanctuary resources or resolve user conflicts. This act also authorizes the Sanctuary to do research and collect information necessary for evaluating new regulations.

2. How the Information Will Be Used

The Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary has developed a public process to evaluate and revise its current management plan and regulations. Through this public process and in consultation with the Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary is evaluating several alternatives for expanding its boundaries to cover other banks in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico, establishing a research only area to test the impacts of fishing, and revise other regulations on use of dive flags by dive vessels, minimum distance and speeds for other vessels operating near dive vessels, and vessel discharges. All current and revised regulations would apply to boundary expansion areas. The Sanctuary Advisory Council or a Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Group, with members representing different user groups, will help evaluate and make recommendations to the FGBNMS on boundary expansion and research only area alternatives and revisions of other regulations.

The information collected here will be used by the Sanctuary Advisory Council or its working group and management of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary in evaluating alternative boundaries for boundary expansion and research only areas alternatives. The objective will be to minimize the socioeconomic impacts of boundary expansion and research only area alternatives. The information will also be used by NOAA in completing socioeconomic impact analyses of any regulations resulting from any proposed boundary expansion, research only area or other new regulations.

3. Statement of Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average about three hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden, to Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, Chief Economist, National Ocean Service, office of National marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC 4, 11th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

4. Your Participation and Protections of Proprietary Information

Your participation is voluntary. 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 the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Any information that identifies you or your business (name, name of business, address and telephone number) will not be given to anyone, including the government agencies sponsoring this information collection. The information that identifies you or your business will be destroyed by the contractor collecting the information at the end of the information collection. All other information will be available for distribution.

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

Recreational For Hire Dive Operations in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico (Part 1)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____
_____
_____

1. Which of the following includes your age?

18-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 over 60

2a. Are you Hispanic or Latino YES __ NO __

2b. What is your race? (Mark one or more)

__ White __ Black or African American __ American Indian or Alaska Native

__ Asian __ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

3. How many family members do you support (including yourself)?

Myself only 2 3 4 5 6 7 Greater and 7

4. Are you a member of any of the following groups?

a. NAUI	YES __ NO __
b. PADI	YES __ NO __
c. SSI	YES __ NO __
d. Chamber of Commerce	YES __ NO __
e. An Environmental Group	YES __ NO __
f. Other (specify) _____	YES __ NO __

5. What is your primary port/marina? _____

6. Do you have a secondary port/marina, from where you dive part of the year? YES __ NO __

- If YES, then which one? _____

7. How many years have you been a dive/snorkel operator? ___ (number of years)

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

8. How many years have you been a dive/snorkel operator in the Gulf of Mexico? ___ (number of years)

9. Have you ever taken dive/snorkelers to the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? (Interviewer—Please show map) YES __ NO __

- If YES, how many years have you taken dive/snorkelers to the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? ___ (number of years)

10. What approximate percentage of your total business income is derived from the dive/snorkel operation? ____%

11. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL personal income is derived from the dive/snorkel operation? ____ %

12. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL household income is derived from the dive/snorkel operation? ___ %

13. How would you describe your dive/snorkel operation? (Mark one or more)

___ Full-time dive/snorkel operation __ Part-time dive/snorkel operation
___ Seasonal dive/snorkel operation If seasonal, what months
_____
__ Full-time Combination dive/snorkel, fishing, and wildlife observation operation
__ Part-time Combination dive/snorkel, fishing, and wildlife observation
__ Seasonal Combination dive/snorkel, fishing, and wildlife observation If seasonal, what
Months for dive/snorkel _____
Months for fishing _____
Months for wildlife observation _____

ECONOMIC INFORMATION

14. Number of boats/vessels at the operation: ____ (number of vessels)

15. Capacity of dive/snorkelers per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ____divers/ ____snorkelers Vessel 2: ____divers/ ___snorkelers
Vessel 3: ____divers/ ____snorkelers Vessel 4: ____divers/ ___snorkelers

16. Capacity of fishers per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ____fishers Vessel 2: ____fishers
Vessel 3: ____fishers Vessel 4: ____fishers

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

17. Capacity of wildlife observes per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ____wildlife observers Vessel 2: ____wildlife observers
Vessel 3: ____wildlife observers Vessel 4: ____wildlife observers

18. Number of employees at the operation:
a. Full time ____ b. Part time ____ c. Seasonal _____

19. Please provide your best estimate of the replacement value of the following items that you used last year (fill in year ____).

a. Vessel(s) and electronic equipment: $ _____
b. Diving and snorkeling gear: $ _____
c. Compressors $ _____
d. Rods/Reels $ _____
e. Other gear (specify) _____ $ _____
_____ $ _____
_____ $ _____

20. Outstanding balance on loan amounts for vessels and equipment $ _____

21. Please provide your best estimate for the following expenses last year:

Permits/Licenses: $ _____
Docking fees: $ _____
Interest payments on vessel(s): $ _____
P&I insurance on vessel(s) $ _____
Maintenance/repair on vessel/electronic equipment: $ _____
Maintenance/repair on dive/snorkel gear: $ _____
Maintenance on rods/reels: $ _____
Maintenance/repair on compressors: $ _____
Maintenance/repair on other equipment: $ _____
Other Dive equipment costs: $ _____
Advertising: $ _____
Office rent/mortgage: $ _____
Office utilities (electric, water, telephone, Internet): $ _____
Depreciation of vessels and equipment: $ _____
Business Taxes: $ _____
Other: _____ $ _____
_____ $ _____
_____ $ _____

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

22. Please provide your best estimate for the following trip related expenses last year:

Dive equipment costs:	$ _____
Fuel/oil:	$ _____
Ice:	$ _____
Food/Supplies:	$ _____
Bait:	$ _____
Captain wages & salaries (if not owner-captain):	$ _____
Crew wages & salaries Number: ____	$ _____
Other (specify) _____	$ _____
_____	$ _____
_____	$ _____

23. Please provide your best estimate of your total business revenues last year:
$ _____

24. Please provide your best estimate of your total revenues and/or percent of total revenues (from Question 23) last year by each geographic area: (See map for definitions of each area)

Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area	$ _____	% _____
Area 1	$ _____	% _____
Area 2	$ _____	% _____
Area 3	$ _____	% _____
Area 4	$ _____	% _____
Other Gulf of Mexico not included above	$ _____	% _____

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0597 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

PERSON DAYS AND TRIP COSTS

25. Please provide your best estimate of the number person days by type of activity for last year and the percentage of person days by activity and area. (Interviewer – show map of areas). A person day is one person for a whole day or any part of a day. 10 people on-board for an overnight trip would be 20 person days.

Activity	**Total Person-days**	**NWGOM (%)**	**Area 1 (%)**	**Area 2 (%)**	**Area 3 (%)**	**Area 4 (%)**
SCUBA diving						
Snorkelers						
Fishing						
Wildlife Observation						
All Activities						

26. Please provide your best estimate of last years' number of person days by activity and bank for the three banks in the current Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Activity	**East Flower Gardens**	**West Flower Gardens**	**Stetson**
SCUBA diving			
Snorkelers			
Fishing			
Wildlife Observation			
All Activities			

27. Please provide your best estimate of the cost per day for a typical day of operation by activity.

Activity	Fuel/Oil	Ice	Bait	Food/ Supplies	Other	Crew	Captain (if not owner)
SCUBA diving							
Snorkeling							
Fishing							
Wildlife Observation							

28. Please provide the percentage of your person days of operation across each 1-minute by 1-minute grid cell for each activity. This is a forward looking rather than just your past activity patterns. We want to know where you expect you will conduct your activities in the future. This will be used to assess the possible impacts of expanding the boundaries of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary or assessing a possible research only area. All hook-an-line fishing will be allowed in boundary expansion areas as in the current FGBNMS. All activities will be eliminated from a research only area. (refer to detailed maps with grid overlays and nautical chart reference points).

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0000 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

Coding sheet attached.

For Hire Dive/Snorkel Operators in NWGOM Part 2.
SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND PERCEPTIONS

1. Please list the sources of information that you have received in the past on the FGBNMS and rank the sources in terms of their usefulness. In terms of ranking, please rank only those sources that you used, and where 1 is the most important source, 2 the second most important source, and so on.

SOURCE	Sources Used	RANK Sources
a. FGBNMS website	_____	_____
b. FGBNMS Staff	_____	_____
c. Sanctuary Advisory Council	_____	_____
d. FGBNMS brochures/literature	_____	_____
e. FGBNMS signage	_____	_____
f. Information in newspapers	_____	_____
g. Radio	_____	_____
h. TV	_____	_____
i. Word of mouth	_____	_____

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree,** 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

2. The process that NOAA has used to develop rules and regulations for the FGBNMS was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

3. The process has used by NOAA to develop boundaries and regulations for the FGBNMS zones was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

4. It has not mattered whether the average person participated in the workshops and meeting on the FGBNMS because the average person could not influence the final decisions.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

5. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of other federal and state governments in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

6. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of individual citizens in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

7. Once that the FGBNMS regulations have been in effect, there has been no way that the average person to voice his/her opinion on the usefulness of the regulations.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

8. The procedures that NOAA has established to deal with violations of FGBNMS regulations have been fair and just.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

NOTES

ATTITUDES ABOUT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND REGULATION

In this section, we want to know what you think about current and proposed management strategies in the FGBNMS, the effects of those management strategies and regulations, and how you think the FGBNMS management has performed.

In management plan review public scoping and Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings, FGBNMS is thinking about expanding its current boundaries and creating a research only area. For boundary expansion, there are a number of alternatives, but all would extend the current regulations in FGBNMS to the boundary expansion areas. Hook-and-line fishing is currently allowed in the FGBNMS. For the research only area, all activities would be prohibited. See map of areas proposed for potential boundary expansion.

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree,** 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

9. I support the FGBNMS as it is currently established.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

10. I support the establishment of a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

11. A research only area in the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

12. There should be more than one bank set aside as a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

13. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 1.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

14. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 2.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

15. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 3.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

16. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 4.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

17 I support establishment of a research only area on Stetson bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

18. I support establishment of a research only area on East Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

19. I support establishment of a research only area on West Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

20. Boundary expansion of the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

21. The Stetson, East & West Flower Garden Banks have benefited environmentally from management by the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

22. There has been a net economic benefit to the coastal Texas economy from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

23. Dive Operators have benefited from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

24. FGBNMS regulations have had no effect on my business.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

25. I support the no anchoring regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

26. I support the current no discharge regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

27. I support the current no harvest of bottom formations or taking of invertebrates inside the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

28. I support the hook-and-line only fishing regulation in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

29. I support the no taking of marine mammals and turtles in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

30. I support the requirement of using a mooring buoy instead of anchoring in the FGBNMS with the limit of vessel size for mooring use of 100 feet or less.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

31. I support stricter regulations on discharging of pollutants in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

32. I support regulations on minimum distance and speed from vessels flying a Blue and Alpha Dive Flag.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

33. I support the requirement that all Dive vessels fly a Blue and Alpha dive flag.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

34. How much do you estimate it will cost your business per year to comply with this Dive Flag regulation? $ _____

35. Please rate the status/condition of the following resources at the East & West Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank by their status/condition since the implementation of the FGBNMS (1996 for East & West flower Garden Banks and 2001 for Stetson Bank), where 1 is much better and 5 is much worse.

	RESOURCE	Better ←--------→ Worse					
a.	Water quality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
b.	Sea-based pollution/marine debris	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
c.	Coral reefs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
d.	Other bottom habitat	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
e.	Fisheries	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
f.	Mooring buoys	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
g.	Fewer vessel groundings	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

36. The FGBNMS is mostly responsible for the status/condition of the resources that you rated in the previous question.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

37. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been most successful?

_____

38. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been least successful?

_____

FOR HIRE CHARTER AND PARTY/HEAD BOATS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION

1. Authorizations to Collect the Information

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431, et seq.) authorizes the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary to establish regulations to protect sanctuary resources or resolve user conflicts. This act also authorizes the Sanctuary to do research and collect information necessary for evaluating new regulations.

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The Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary has developed a public process to evaluate and revise its current management plan and regulations. Through this public process and in consultation with the Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary is evaluating several alternatives for expanding its boundaries to cover other banks in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico, establishing a research only area to test the impacts of fishing, and revise other regulations on use of dive flags by dive vessels, minimum distance and speeds for other vessels operating near dive vessels, and vessel discharges. All current and revised regulations would apply to boundary expansion areas. The Sanctuary Advisory Council or a Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Group, with members representing different user groups, will help evaluate and make recommendations to the FGBNMS on boundary expansion and research only area alternatives and revisions of other regulations.

The information collected here will be used by the Sanctuary Advisory Council or its working group and management of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary in evaluating alternative boundaries for boundary expansion and research only areas alternatives. The objective will be to minimize the socioeconomic impacts of boundary expansion and research only area alternatives. The information will also be used by NOAA in completing socioeconomic impact analyses of any regulations resulting from any proposed boundary expansion, research only area or other new regulations.

3. Statement of Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average about three hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden, to Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, Chief Economist, National Ocean Service, office of National marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC 4, 11th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

4. Your Participation and Protections of Proprietary Information

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Any information that identifies you or your business (name, name of business, address and telephone number) will not be given to anyone, including the government agencies sponsoring this information collection. The information that identifies you or your business will be destroyed by the contractor collecting the information at the end of the information collection. All other information will be available for distribution.

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0000 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

Recreational For Hire Fishing Operations in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico (Part 1)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____
_____
_____

1. Which of the following includes your age?

18-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 over 60

2a. Are you Hispanic or Latino YES __ NO __

2b. What is your race? (Mark one or more)

__ White __ Black or African American __ American Indian or Alaska Native

__ Asian __ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

3. How many family members do you support (including yourself)?

Myself only 2 3 4 5 6 7 Greater and 7

4. Are you a member of any of the following groups?

a. Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) YES __ NO __
b. Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) YES __ NO __
c. American Sports Fishing Association (ASA) YES __ NO __
d. Chamber of Commerce YES __ NO __
e. An Environmental Group YES __ NO __
f. Other (specify) _____ YES __ NO __

5. What is your primary port/marina? _____

6. Do you have a secondary port/marina, from where you fish part of the year? YES __ NO __

- If YES, then which one? _____

7. How many years have you been a charter/party boat operator? ___ (number of years)

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0000 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

8. How many years have you been a charter/party operator in the Gulf of Mexico? ___ (number of years)

9. Have you ever taken fishermen to the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? (Interviewer—Please show map) YES __ NO __

- If YES, how many years have you taken fishermen to the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? ___ (number of years)

10. What approximate percentage of your total business income is derived from the charter/party boat operation? ____%

11. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL personal income is derived from the charter/party boat operation? ____ %

12. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL household income is derived from the charter/party boat operation? ___ %

13. How would you describe your fishing operation? (Mark one or more)

___ Full-time Charter Boat operation __ Part-time Charter Boat operation
___ Seasonal Charter Boat operation If seasonal, what months_____
__ Full-time Party/Head Boat operation __ Part-time Party/Head boat operation
__ Seasonal Party/Head boat operation If seasonal, what months _____

ECONOMIC INFORMATION

14. Number of boats/vessels at the operation: ____ (number of vessels)

15. Capacity of fishermen per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ____fishermen Vessel 2: ____fishermen
Vessel 3: ____fishermen Vessel 4: ____fishermen

16. Number of employees at the operation:
a. Full time ____ b. Part time ____ c. Seasonal _____

17. Please provide your best estimate of the replacement value of the following items that you used last year (fill in year ____).

a. Vessel(s) and electronic equipment: $ _____
b. Diving and snorkeling gear: $ _____
c. Compressors $ _____
d. Rods/Reels $ _____
e. Other gear (specify) _____ $ _____

_____ $ _____
_____ $ _____

18. Outstanding balance on loan amounts for vessels and equipment $ _____

19. Please provide your best estimate for the following expenses last year:

Permits/Licenses:	$ _____
Docking fees:	$ _____
Interest payments on vessel(s):	$ _____
P&I insurance on vessel(s)	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on vessel/electronic equipment:	$ _____
Maintenance on rods/reels:	$ _____
Maintenance/repair on other equipment:	$ _____
Advertising:	$ _____
Office rent/mortgage:	$ _____
Office utilities (electric, water, telephone, Internet):	$ _____
Depreciation on vessel and equipment:	$ _____
Business taxes:	$ _____
Other: _____	$ _____
_____	$ _____
_____	$ _____

20. Please provide your best estimate for the following trip related expenses last year:

Fuel/oil:	$ _____
Ice:	$ _____
Food/Supplies:	$ _____
Bait:	$ _____
Captain wages & salaries (if not owner-captain):	$ _____
Crew wages & salaries Number: ____	$ _____
Other (specify) _____	$ _____
_____	$ _____

21. Please provide your best estimate of your total business revenues last year:
$ _____

22. Please provide your best estimate of your total revenues and/or percent of total revenues (from Question 21) last year by each geographic area: (See map for definitions of each area)

Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area	$ _____	% ____
Area 1	$ _____	% ____
Area 2	$ _____	% ____
Area 3	$ _____	% ____
Area 4	$ _____	% ____
Other Gulf of Mexico not included above	$ _____	% ____

Date of Interview_____ OMB No. 0648-0000 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview:_____

PERSON DAYS AND TRIP COSTS

23. Please provide your best estimate of the number person days by type of activity for last year and the percentage of person days by activity and area. (Interviewer – show map of areas). A person day is one person for a whole day or any part of a day. 10 people on-board for an overnight trip would be 20 person days.

Activity	**Total Person-days**	**NWGOM (%)**	**Area 1 (%)**	**Area 2 (%)**	**Area 3 (%)**	**Area 4 (%)**
Hook-and-line fishing						
Spear fishing						
All Activities						

24. Please provide your best estimate of last years' number of person days by hook-and-line fishing and bank for the three banks in the current Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Activity	**East Flower Gardens**	**West Flower Gardens**	**Stetson**
Hook-and-line fishing			

25. Please provide your best estimate of the cost per day for a typical day of operation by activity.

Activity	Fuel/Oil	Ice	Bait	Food/ Supplies	Other	Crew	Captain (if not owner)
Hook-and-line fishing							
Spear fishing							

26. Please provide the percentage of your person days of operation across each 1-minute by 1-minute grid cell for each activity. This is a forward looking rather than just your past activity patterns. We want to know where you expect you will conduct your activities in the future. This will be used to assess the possible impacts of expanding the boundaries of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary or assessing a possible research only area. All hook-an-line fishing will be allowed in boundary expansion areas as in the current FGBNMS. All activities will be eliminated from a research only area. (refer to detailed maps with grid overlays and nautical chart reference points).

Coding sheet attached.

For Hire Fishing Operators in NWGOM Part 2.
SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND PERCEPTIONS

1. Please list the sources of information that you have received in the past on the FGBNMS and rank the sources in terms of their usefulness. In terms of ranking, please rank only those sources that you used, and where 1 is the most important source, 2 the second most important source, and so on.

SOURCE	Sources Used	RANK Sources
a. FGBNMS website	_____	_____
b. FGBNMS Staff	_____	_____
c. Sanctuary Advisory Council	_____	_____
d. FGBNMS brochures/literature	_____	_____
e. FGBNMS signage	_____	_____
f. Information in newspapers	_____	_____
g. Radio	_____	_____
h. TV	_____	_____
i. Word of mouth	_____	_____

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree,** 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

2. The process that NOAA has used to develop rules and regulations for the FGBNMS was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

3. The process has used by NOAA to develop boundaries and regulations for the FGBNMS zones was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

4. It has not mattered whether the average person participated in the workshops and meeting on the FGBNMS because the average person could not influence the final decisions.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

5. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of other federal and state governments in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

6. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of individual citizens in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

7. Once that the FGBNMS regulations have been in effect, there has been no way that the average person to voice his/her opinion on the usefulness of the regulations.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

8. The procedures that NOAA has established to deal with violations of FGBNMS regulations have been fair and just.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

NOTES

ATTITUDES ABOUT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND REGULATION

In this section, we want to know what you think about current and proposed management strategies in the FGBNMS, the effects of those management strategies and regulations, and how you think the FGBNMS management has performed.

In management plan review public scoping and Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings, FGBNMS is thinking about expanding its current boundaries and creating a research only area. For boundary expansion, there are a number of alternatives, but all would extend the current regulations in FGBNMS to the boundary expansion areas. Hook-and-line fishing is currently allowed in the FGBNMS. For the research only area, all activities would be prohibited. See map of areas proposed for potential boundary expansion.

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree,** 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

9. I support the FGBNMS as it is currently established.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

10. I support the establishment of a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

11. A research only area in the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

12. There should be more than one bank set aside as a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

13. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 1.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

14. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 2.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

15. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 3.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

16. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 4.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

17 I support establishment of a research only area on Stetson bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

18. I support establishment of a research only area on East Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

19. I support establishment of a research only area on West Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

20. Boundary expansion of the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

21. The Stetson, East & West Flower Garden Banks have benefited environmentally from management by the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

22. There has been a net economic benefit to the coastal Texas economy from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

23. Charter/Party boat fishing operations have benefited from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

24. FGBNMS regulations have had no effect on my business.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

25. I support the no anchoring regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

26. I support the current no discharge regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

27. I support the current no harvest of bottom formations or taking of invertebrates inside the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

28. I support the hook-and-line only fishing regulation in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

29. I support the no taking of marine mammals and turtles in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

30. I support the requirement of using a mooring buoy instead of anchoring in the FGBNMS with the limit of vessel size for mooring use of 100 feet or less.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

31. I support stricter regulations on discharging of pollutants in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

32. I support regulations on minimum distance and speed from vessels flying a Blue and Alpha Dive Flag.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

33. I support the requirement that all Dive vessels fly a Blue and Alpha dive flag..

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

34. How much do you estimate it will cost your business per year to comply with this Dive Flag regulation? $ _____

35. Please rate the status/condition of the following resources at East & West Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank by their status/condition since the implementation of the FGBNMS (1996 for East & West flower Gardens Bank and 2001 for Stetson Bank), where 1 is much better and 5 is much worse.

	RESOURCE	Better ←--------→ Worse					
a.	Water quality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
b.	Sea-based pollution/marine debris	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
c.	Coral reefs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
d.	Other bottom habitat	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
e.	Fisheries	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
f.	Mooring buoys	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
g.	Fewer vessel groundings	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

36. The FGBNMS is mostly responsible for the status/condition of the resources that you rated in the previous question.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

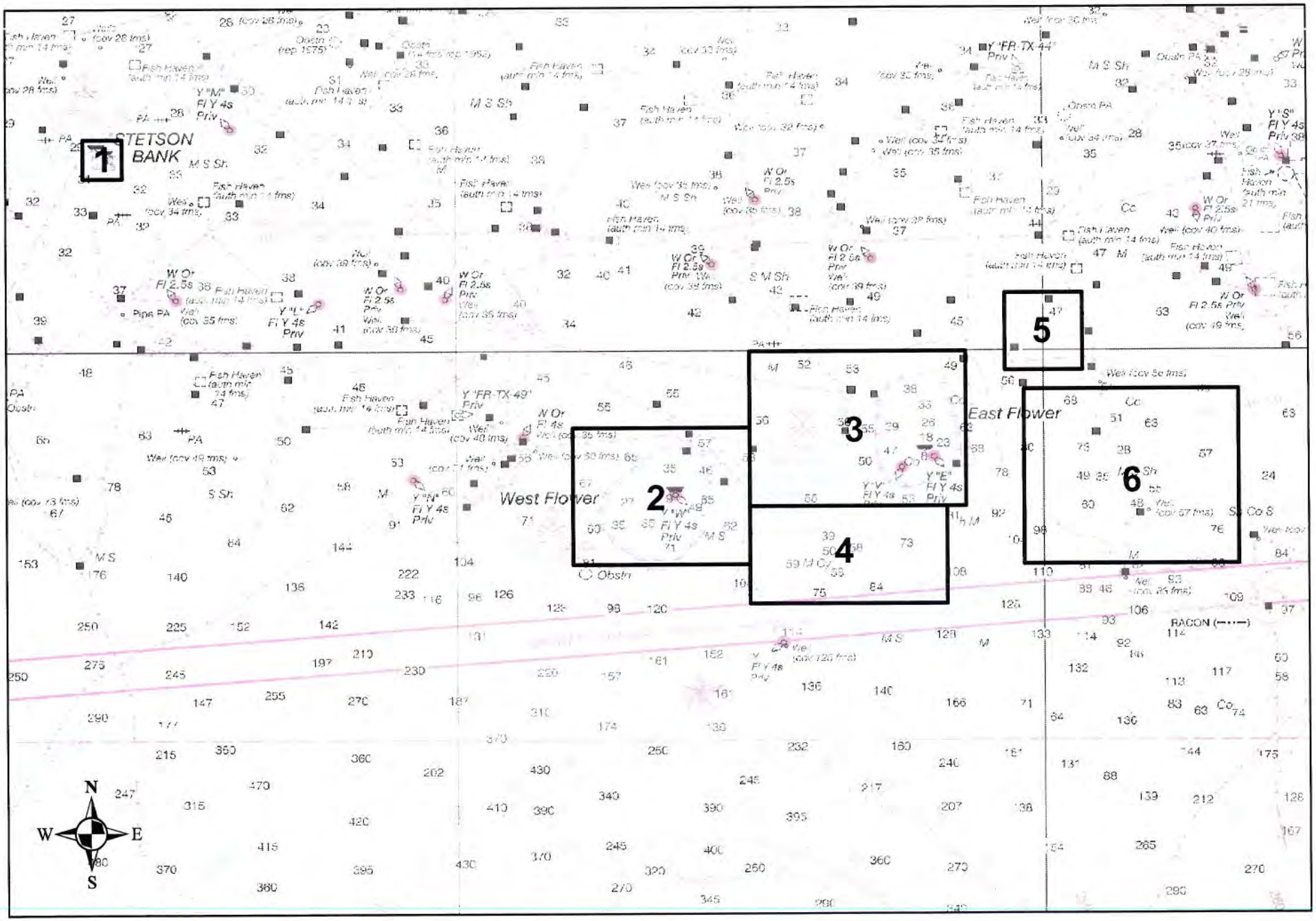
37. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been most successful?

_____

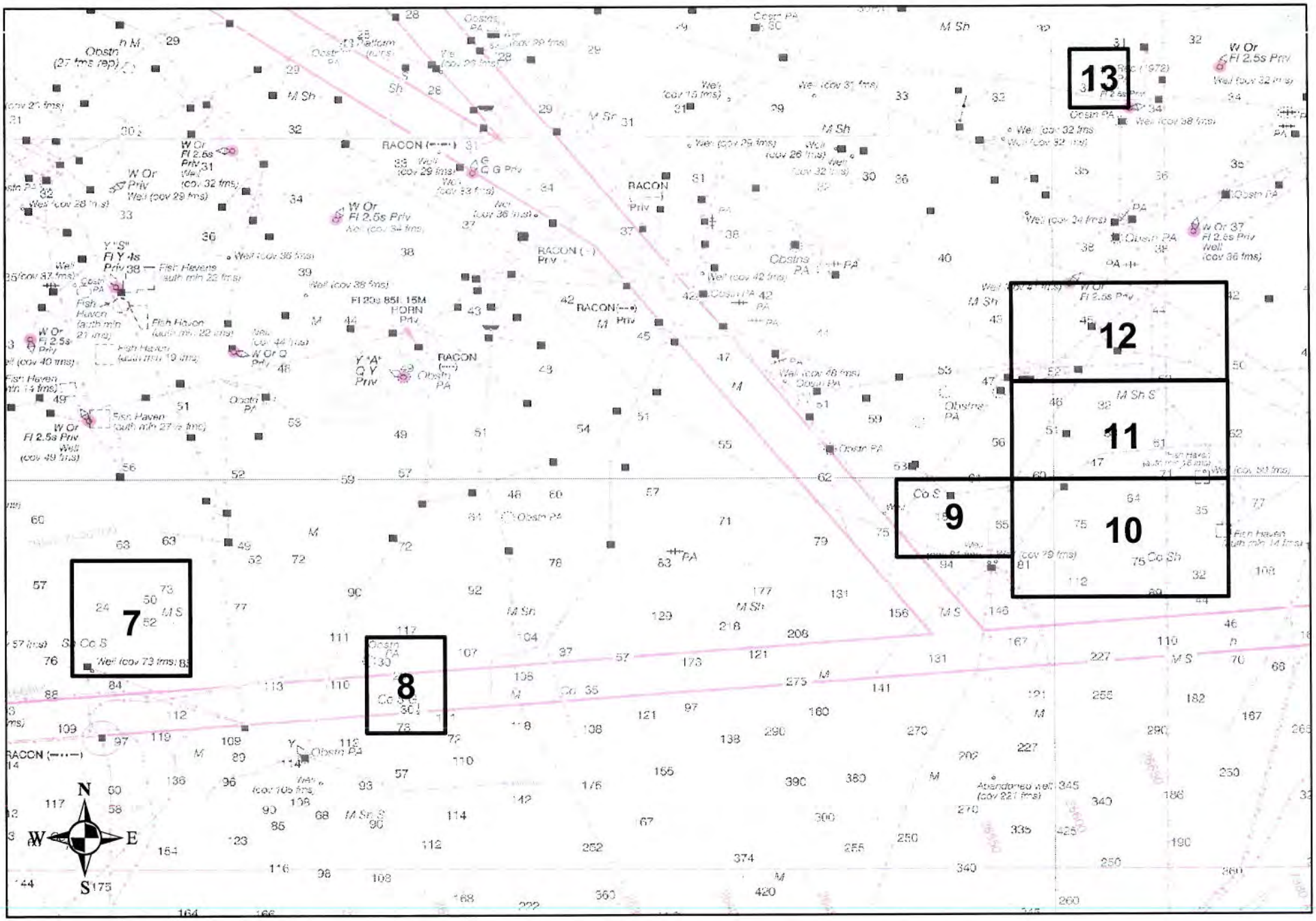
38. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been least successful?

_____

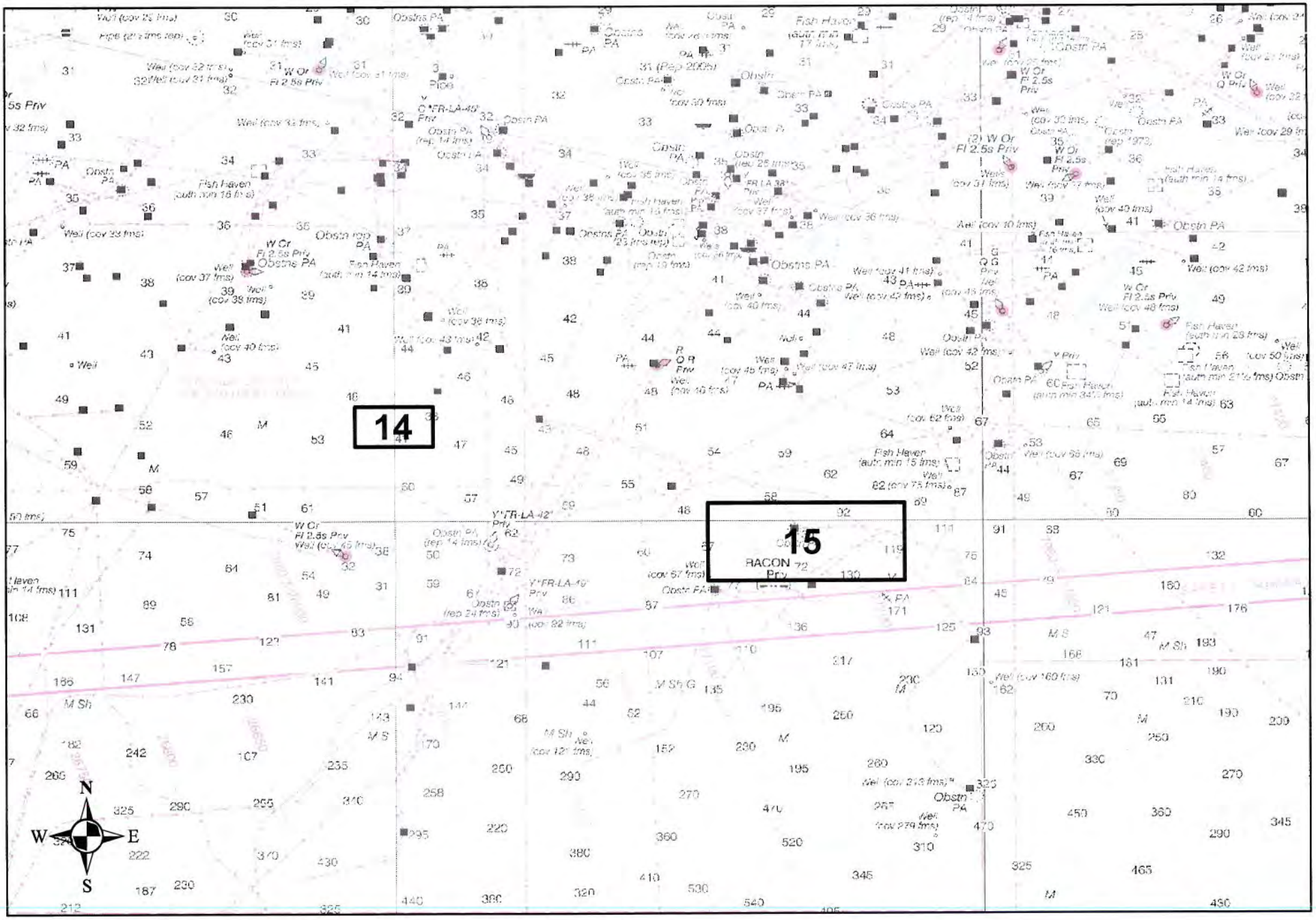
Gulf of Mexico Study Area - West



Gulf of Mexico Study Area - Middle



Gulf of Mexico Study Area - East



Latittude and Longitude Coordinates for the boxes (banks) in Northwest Gulf Of Mexico Study Area

Box #	W	E	N	S
AREA 1				
1	94º 19’ W	94º 17’ W	28º 11’ N	28º 09’ N
2	93º 54’ W	93º 45’ W	27º 56’ N	27º 49’ N
3	93º 45’ W	93º 34’ W	28º 00’ N	27º 52’ N
AREA 2				
7	93º 20’ W	93º 14’ W	27º 56’ N	27º 50’ N
8	93º 05’ W	93º 01’ W	27º 52’ N	27º 47’ N
9	92º 38’ W	92º 32’ W	28º 00’ N	27º 56’ N
13	92º 29’ W	92º 26’ W	28º 22’ N	28º 19’ N
14	92º 02’ W	91º 58’ W	28º 06’ N	28º 04’ N
AREA 3				
4	93º 45’ W	93º 35’ W	27º 52’ N	27º 47’ N
5	93º 32’ W	93º 28’ W	28º 03’ N	27º 59’ N
6	93º 31’ W	93º 20’ W	27º 58’ N	27º 49’ N
AREA 4				
10	92º 32’ W	92º 21’ W	28º 00’ N	27º 54’ N
11	92º 32’ W	92º 21’ W	28º 05’ N	28º 00’ N
12	92º 32’ W	92º 21’ W	28º 10’ N	28º 05’ N
15	91º 44’ W	91º 34’ W	28º 01’ N	27º 57’ N

aspects of ensuring safe and reliable evacuation for the occupants of tall buildings. In addition, the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association provide requirements for the use of elevators for both occupant evacuation and fire fighter access into the building. However, there still is little understanding of how occupants use elevator systems during fire emergencies.

The main focus of this research effort is to gain an understanding of how elevators are currently used by occupants of existing multi-story buildings in the United States during fire emergencies. This research aims to summarize emergency plans and procedures from buildings that make use of one or multiple elevators from the existing elevator system (used for normal building traffic) for the evacuation of building occupants during fire emergencies. Building managers and designated safety personnel from existing buildings in the United States, including federal buildings, will be contacted to fill out a questionnaire asking how the buildings' evacuation plans incorporate the use of the existing elevator system to evacuate occupants during fire emergencies, specifically individuals with disabilities, if at all.

II. Method of Collection

This data will be collected electronically. Questionnaires will be made available on a secured Web site and the link to this Web site will be distributed by NIST staff to building property managers and designated safety personnel.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693–0061.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (reinstatement with change of a previously approved information collection).

Affected Public: Selected individuals, such as building managers and designated safety personnel, who are familiar with or in charge of developing emergency procedures for multi-story buildings in the United States, including both federal and private sector buildings.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,500.

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 375.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0.

IV. Request for Comments

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

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

Dated: August 7, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–19624 Filed 8–9–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Socioeconomics of Commercial Fishers and for Hire Diving and Fishing Operations in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

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 October 9, 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 Dr. Vernon R. Leeworthy (301) 713–7261 or *Bob.Leeworthy@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

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

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431, et seq.) authorizes the use of research and monitoring within National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS). In 1996, the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) was added to the system of NMS via 15 CFR part 922, subpart L. In 2001, Stetson Bank was added in a revision of 15 CFR part 922.

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) specifies that each NMS should revise their management plans on a five-year cycle. The FGBNMS has begun the management plan review process. The NMSA also allows for the creation of Sanctuary Advisory Councils (SACs). SACs are comprised of representatives of all NMS stakeholders. Management Plan Review (MPR) is a public process and the SACs, along with a series of public meetings, are used to help scope out issues in revising the management plans and regulations. SAC Working Groups are often used to evaluate management or regulatory alternatives. In the current MPR for the FGBNMS, two major issues have emerged: Boundary expansion and research-only areas. In addition, several new or modified regulations are being considered to meet specific needs for diver safety and resource protection (no anchoring/mooring buoy use requirement and a more stringent pollution discharge regulation).

To address each one these issues, a socioeconomic panel composed of NOAA staff and social scientists from other agencies, or from universities, developed information and tools to assess the socioeconomic impacts of management strategies and regulatory alternatives. The information and tools developed in this process will also provide the necessary information for meeting agency requirements for socioeconomic impact analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Order 12086 (Regulatory Impact Review) and an Initial and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (impacts on small businesses). Our initial plan, as the first step in the assessment process, was to interview

three key sanctuary user groups—commercial fishers, for-hire recreational dive operations, and for-hire recreational fishing operations (charter and party/head boat operations)—with questions focusing on: (1) General information, economic information, and trip costs; and (2) knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of sanctuary management strategies and regulations.

In 2011–2012, the for-hire dive and fishing industry interviews were completed. The commercial fisheries interviews were not begun due to lack of funding; NMFS have the funding now and expect to complete these interviews. The for-hire dive and fishing industries are dynamic with entry and exit of businesses. We estimate the possibility of up to four new businesses over the next three years.

II. Method of Collection

Interviews will be conducted face-to-face and recorded on paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0597.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 27.

Estimated Time per Response: 3 hours per interview.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 81.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

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

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

Dated: August 7, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–19682 Filed 8–9–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–NK–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Advisory Committee (Committee) in Washington, DC.

DATES AND TIMES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday August 29, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursday August 30, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Refer to the Web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, 1201 New York Ave. NW., Washington, DC, 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessica Snowden, Alternate Designated Federal Official, U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee, U.S. IOOS Program, 1100 Wayne Ave. Suite 1225, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone 301–427–2453; Fax 301–427–2073; Email *Jessica.snowden@noaa.gov* or visit the U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee Web site at *http://www.ioos.gov/about/governance/ioos_advisory_committee.html*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established by the NOAA Administrator as directed by Section 12304 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act, part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–11). The Committee will advise the NOAA Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC) on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and other appropriate matters as the Under Secretary refers to the Committee for review and advice.

The Committee will provide advice on

(a) Administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the System;

(b) expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of the System;

(c) identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by the System, and the System's effectiveness in dissemination information to end-user communities and to the general public; and

(d) any other purpose identified by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere or the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.

The meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period on August 29, 2012, from 4:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on August 30, 2012, from 2:45 p.m. to 3 p.m. (check agenda on Web site to confirm time.) The Committee expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements.

In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three (3) minutes. Written comments should be received by the Designated Federal Official by August 17, 2012 to provide sufficient time for Committee review. Written comments received after August 17, 2012, will be distributed to the Committee, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Matters to Be Considered: This is the inaugural meeting of the Committee. As such, the meeting will focus on swearing in the new members and defining the vision and outcomes expected of the Committee, including agency insights on the U.S. IOOS enterprise from NOAA and IOOC leadership. The agenda is subject to change. The latest version will be posted at *http://www.ioos.gov/about/governance/ioos_advisory_committee.html*.

Special Accomodations: These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jessica Snowden, alternate Designated Federal Official at 301–427–2453 by August 15, 2012.