NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 01/23/2012

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 09/23/2011

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201108-0648-011
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Commercial Fishing Vessel Cost and Earnings Data Collection Survey in the Northeast Region
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0643
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: 01/31/2015 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	1,280	1,280	512
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	1,280	1,280	512
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
NE Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey	NA	Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey	

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/NMFS

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

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 Commercial Fishing Vessel Cost and Earnings Data Collection Survey in the Northeast Region

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)

9. Keywords Fishing, Fishery, Fishing vessel

10. Abstract

This survey seeks to collect data on vessel's fixed cost information. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) Social Sciences Branch (SSB) collected annual cost information from commercial fishing vessel owners in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Data was collected via a voluntary mail survey associated with the federal fishing permit renewal application. However, because of the continuing decreasing response rates, the NEFSC discontinued the surveys after year 2009. The proposed data collection approach will be more scientific and rigorous. Proper steps will also be taken to increase response rates as well as to validate the collected data. These cost data will enable SSB to conduct more comprehensive research and analysis about the economic and social impacts of proposed and final fishery management actions, consistent with applicable laws such as the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. ___ Individuals or households
b. P 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	1,280
b. Total annual responses	1,280
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically	35 %
c. Total annual hours requested	1,280
d. Current OMB inventory	0
e. Difference	1,280
f. Explanation of difference	
1. Program change	1,280
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	1
d. Current OMB inventory	0
e. Difference	1
f. Explanation of difference	
1. Program change	1
2. Adjustment	

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

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: Andrew Kitts
Phone: (508) 495-2231

OMB 83-I 10/95

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 Dr. Ned Cyr	Date 08/05/2011
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature signed by Sarah Brabson	Date 08/11/2011

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL COST AND EARNINGS DATA COLLECTION SURVEY IN THE NORTHEAST REGION

OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-XXXX

INTRODUCTION

This request for approval of a new information collection is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, in support of the cost and earning data collection effort from commercial fishing vessels in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Region. The proposed data gathering request is separate from the effort undertaken from 2007-2009 (under OMB Control No. 0648-0369), and will be carried out on an ongoing basis.

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

Economic data on the costs of operating commercial fishing businesses are needed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to meet the legislative requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Social Sciences Branch (SSB) of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center carries out the responsibilities of the NMFS in the Northeast Region, with the SSB primarily responsible for providing estimates of the economic and social impacts of proposed and final fishery management actions. The data are used in many of the frameworks and amendments to fishery management plans that require economic analyses. Without an accurate understanding of the financial costs faced by commercial fishing businesses, these analyses would suffer.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) Social Sciences Branch (SSB) collected annual cost information from commercial fishing vessel owners for Calendar Years 2006, 2007 and 2008. Data were collected via a voluntary mail survey associated with the federal fishing permit renewal application. Each year, approximately 2,700 surveys were sent to the universe of active vessels with a Northeast Region federal permit. The response rate for 2006 was around 22% and declined further in the subsequent years. The SSB has since discontinued the survey due to the low response rate.

There are several reasons that may have contributed to this low response rate. First, staff resources to conduct thorough follow-up contacts or send reminders to improve response rates were limited. Secondly, for three consecutive years, surveys were sent to all active vessels (a census of the population), which resulted in the same vessels receiving a survey multiple times.

Our analysis showed that when vessel owners received a survey multiple times, they responded the first year but did not respond in the following years. These multiple survey attempts likely lead to fatigue and annoyance, which may have led to low response. In addition to low response rates, this initial data collection effort also suffered from other short-comings, such as absence of data validation and non-response bias correction.

The proposed data collection approach will be much more scientific and rigorous. Proper steps will be taken to increase response rates, validate the collected data and correct for non-response biases. More detail is provided in Question 3 under Section B. These new data, in conjunction with trip-level cost information collected by at-sea observers, will enable SSB to provide a level of analysis that is considered sufficient to allow the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, to make informed decisions about the expected economic effects of proposed management alternatives. This information will allow the SSB to conduct more comprehensive economic analyses of proposed management alternatives and related research.

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

The information requested in the survey will be primarily used by the NMFS social scientists to measure the economic performance of Northeast commercial fisheries. The data will serve as input for a variety of analyses, such as: regulatory impact analyses, economic profitability profiles, fleet efficiency and productivity measures, and economic impacts of management regulations.

The survey form is organized to ease the collection of data by clearly identifying the types of data being collected, through the use of clearly defined sections. The survey will collect information about vessels and their annual fixed costs via five sections discussed below.

Vessel Information: This section collects vessel identification information, the fiscal year that the cost information corresponds to, ownership type, number of owners, and the value of the vessel. This identification information is necessary to gain important vessel and ownership characteristics and to link the survey data to other pertinent data, such as vessel logbook and dealer data.

Repair/Maintenance/Upgrade/Improvements Costs: This section collects cost incurred for the operation and keeping of the vessel; which are categorized into three broad groups, general maintenance/repair cost, major repair costs and upgrade/improvement costs.

Fishing Business Related Cost: This section collects business related costs that vessels generally incur annually. These costs are mainly consists of fees paid for mooring/dockage, vessel insurance, use of business vehicle, communication, travel, taxes, professional services, associations, non-crew labor services, permit or licenses, catch handling costs, principle and interest paid on loans, and office expenses.

Trip costs: This section asks information about the vessel's trip related costs, such as, amount spent on fuel, oil/lube, food/water, bait, ice, communication, catch handling and general supplies.

Typical Lays System: This section asks the respondents about their primary fishery, whether the captain was hired or the vessel was owner operated, the experience of the captain, crew size, and the crew payment system.

Other Annual Cost: This section asks the respondent to report any other annual costs incurred by the vessel but not reported anywhere else in the survey.

Reporting of Survey Results

Analyses and summarization of the cost data will be used by NMFS, regional councils, fishing industry, academics, Congressional staff and the public. Qualified researchers with data access and confidentiality agreements will have access to raw data for performing economic research and analyses.

A Web site managed by the NEFSC will be available for the general public to obtain summary results of survey responses. Summaries will include descriptive statistics (such as mean and standard deviation) of the various costs being collected. Users will be able to refine their queries to vessel size classes, gear types, and principal state of landing. No identification information will be revealed via this website.

Survey results will be reported over time through a series of studies prepared for fisheries management. It is anticipated that results will also be reported through academic publications, presentations at conferences, and technical guides. All reporting of survey results will conform to data confidentiality requirements.

Information Quality Guidelines and Confidentiality

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the previous paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NMFS 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 Question 10 for information on confidentiality. Data will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

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

A private company that specializes in survey implementation will be hired to administer the survey. The survey will be administered via mail and Web. The vessel owners included in the sample will receive a survey packet via mail, which will contain a password and a secured link to a Web version of the cost and earnings survey. Potential participants will be given the option of completing the survey online or via mail. The non-respondents will be followed up with a reminder post-card, then by sending another survey packet and finally by a telephone call.

A toll free 800 number will be set up by the SSB and provided in the survey packet. The purpose of the toll free number is to provide potential respondents with a way to ask general questions about the survey (e.g., purpose, need, confidentiality) or for specific questions about the mail or online survey.

Completed mail surveys will be scanned and the data will be entered manually in a database. Data entered online will be saved in real time. The survey will be pretested with nine vessel owners, randomly selected from the population. The data obtained from pretesting will not be saved. There will be no other means, electronic or otherwise, to submit data or information for the purposes of this study.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Several regional NMFS science centers collect cost and earning information from vessel owners. For example, the Northwest Fisheries Science Center is involved in collecting cost information from limited entry fixed gear and trawl vessels. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center has been collecting cost information about the shrimp fishery since 2006. The Alaska Fisheries Science Center collects cost information from the crab fishery and the small ground fish sector.

The cost information collection effort by the SSB of the NEFSC, will solely focus on the commercial vessels participating in Northeast fisheries. Currently, trip-related cost information is collected by at-sea observers in the Northeast. The survey effort proposed here will focus primarily on the collection of annual costs, with some trip related cost questions. Therefore some data will exist in both datasets. However, trips costs in this survey will be an aggregated annual amount whereas the costs collected by observers are at the trip level. Having trip information at both the trips and annual levels will help with question validation.

In addition, the Social Science Branch currently has a vessel owner and crew survey under OMB review for PRA clearance. Some overlap of questions exists between the fixed cost survey and the owner/crew survey. Both surveys ask about the cost sharing method used to pay crew. The questions in the fixed cost survey are more detailed than those in the owner/crew survey and are complementary to the other questions about cost. The purpose for including similar questions in the owner/crew survey is because that survey is stratified by fishery management plan and the SSB would like to see if there are changes in the crew payment methods by fishery. SSB would also like to detect differences between payment methods reported by owners versus those reported by crew members.

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

This request will collect information from vessel owners, and some of them may represent small businesses. The burden to vessel owners will be minimized by providing postage-paid envelopes to return completed surveys and by providing respondents with the option to complete and submit the survey online. Respondents can also print the survey form directly from the internet for their own records or can save an online version for later access. Most importantly, vessel owners will only be asked to participate in the survey once every other year, which should help reduce response burnout and increase response rates. Finally, participation in the survey will be strictly voluntary.

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

Lack of information on vessel operating costs severely limits the ability of social scientists to assess fishermens' behavioral responses to changes in regulations, fishing conditions, and market conditions. Without this information, analyses that attempt to assess the economic effects of proposed regulations or policy alternatives on vessels, crew and the fishery as a whole are incomplete and inaccurate.

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

All OMB guidelines for information collections will be met. This study will not require:

1) Respondents to report information more often than quarterly,

2) Respondents to prepare a written response in fewer than thirty days after they receive the request,

3) Respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document,

4) Respondents to retain records for more than three years unless those records are health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records.

5) This study will be a statistical study which is designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study population

6) The statistical data classification will be reviewed and approved by the OMB.

7) NMFS internal procedures are established to insure confidentiality of these data.

8) This study will not require respondents to submit proprietary, trade secret, or other confidential information that falls outside the above defined regulations and statutes.

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 May 9, 2011 (76 FR 26705) solicited comments from the public.

Comment received from Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D, Executive Director, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, 4340 East-West Highway. Room 700:

The Marine Mammal Commission supports the request from the National Marine Fisheries Service to collect economic data on the costs of operating commercial fishing businesses. Cost and earnings data are necessary for complying with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 12866, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act. Moreover, they are essential for carrying out meaningful and effective socio-economic studies of commercial fisheries. Such studies enable managers to understand the likely behavioral responses of fishermen to management measures. The Marine Mammal Commission is especially interested in understanding how the costs associated with management measures for protecting marine mammals (e.g., protection-oriented harvest limits, gear changes, incentives, enforcement actions) affect the profitability of fishing operations and associated changes in fishermen's behavior. The Commission encourages the Service to promote a high response rate and to validate the accuracy of responses, both of which will enhance the value of the information collected

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

To increase the response rate, NMFS will provide prepaid cash incentives or tokens of appreciation worth $5 or less to respondents. Dillman's third edition (2009) book on mixed-mode surveys reports several studies that showed positive results from using prepaid incentives in establishment surveys. The incentives will be sent in the initial mailing to survey respondents.

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

NMFS 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 and this assurance is included in the form. In particular, the data collected will be kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

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

No questions of a sensitive nature will be asked.

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

The voluntary survey panel will be made up of approximately 1,600 commercial vessels each year. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average an hour per respondent. This includes the time required to read the introductory statement and the gathering of business information necessary to complete the survey. The response rate is expected to be 80%, resulting in approximately 1,280 returned surveys each year. As a result, the survey is expected to impose a total of 1,280 burden hours on the Northeast fishing industry.

Total number of active permit holders	3,199
Sample size	1,600
Expected survey response rate	80%
Expected number survey respondents	1,280
Average burden hours/survey	1
Total annual burden hours	1,280.

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

The respondents may choose to make photo copies of their completed forms. The survey instrument is expected to be 6 pages long and the cost of photocopying each form will be 10 cent per page, totaling 60 cents. If the respondent chooses to fill out the form online and print a hardcopy the cost is also estimated to be 60 cents. Assuming 1,280 surveys are returned, the total annual cost burden to the respondents for record keeping would be around $768.00.

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

Total estimated cost to the federal government is $78,000. A private firm will be hired to administer the survey, conduct follow up contacts, and enter and validate the data. In addition to survey firm contract costs, there will be additional costs for project related travel, printing surveys and for supplies. A table of itemized costs is presented below.

Description	Estimated Cost
Data Collection	
Printing and postage	$10,000
Follow-up phone calls	$6,500

Survey tracking, scanning/data entry	$6,500
Project management	$25,000
Incentive Payment	$8,000
Data preparation	
Data verification /checks	$3,000
Development of population weighting adjustments	$4,000
Project management	$15,000

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

This is a new collection.

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

Numerical and textual survey information will be a product of this study. Survey data will be analyzed using standard economic data analysis methods. Final reports and other relevant portions of the research process will be posted on http:/www.nefsc.noaa.gov. Where relevant, studies in their entirety will be published as internal reports and submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals to encourage additional analysis as well as to disseminate findings. Data will also be released to the public, but only in summary or tabular form.

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

NA.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

NA.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL COST AND EARNINGS DATA COLLECTION SURVEY IN THE NORTHEAST REGION

OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-XXXX

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.

Potential Respondent Universe

The potential respondent universe consists of all active commercial fishing vessels holding a current Northeast Region permit in any fishery. Active fishing vessels are defined as having reported landing fish through the Northeast Seafood Dealer Reporting System during the calendar year of study. Based on 2010 calendar year data, there were 3,199 active vessels in the Northeast Seafood Dealer Reporting System.

Sampling and Other Respondent Selection Methods

A sample consisting of 50% of the population of active vessels in the Northeast Dealer Reporting System will be selected each year. In Calendar Year 2010, there were 3,199 active vessels with valid permits. Therefore, in 2011, 1,600 vessels will be asked to participate in the survey. The survey selection process is explained in detail under Question 2. This method of sample selection will continue each year, which in turn implies that the sample size may increase or decrease each year as some vessels become active or inactive or if there is exit/entry from or to the fishery. However, since entry is limited by regulation in most Northeast fisheries, a large variation in the number of vessels entering and exiting the fishery is not expected. In the past five years, vessel owners' population has varied from 2,785 in 2006 to 3,199 in 2010. Therefore, on average the sample size can be expected to be around 1,500 each year.

Expected Response Rate

The NEFSC SSB collected annual cost information from commercial fishing vessel owners for Calendar Years 2006, 2007, and 2008. Each year, approximately 2,700 surveys were sent to the universe of active vessels with a Northeast federal permit. However, the overall response rate was low and continuously declined during the period of data collection. Through changes to the data collection methods we are anticipating a response rate of 80% for this collection effort. The methods that will be followed to improve response rates are explained in Question 3.

No. vessels in the sample universe	No. of vessels in the sample	Expected response rate	No of expected respondents
3,199	1,600	80%	1,280

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.

The survey is designed to improve coverage and response rates. A stratified sampling method shall be used to select the sample, and vessel owners will have the option to provide their data by mail or via the Web. The vessel-level populations are stratified by gear and length. All vessels are grouped into one of three gear categories: (1) mobile, (2) stationary, and (3) other. Mobile gear includes dredge and trawl gears. Stationary gear includes gillnet, handgear, longline and pot/traps. The other gear group includes all the gears not included in the stationary and mobile gear groups. Next, vessels are put into categories based on length. Two length categories are created for each gear group based on the mean length of the vessels within each gear group. This method of stratification gives us six strata. A random sampling method will be followed to select fifty percent of the populations from each stratum.

Application

A basic application of the survey data will be the inference of unobserved population cost estimates from the observed cost values. Data from this survey will be used to develop a variety of economic models covering applications such as fleet efficiency and fishery participation. For better inference, high response rate and a high degree of accuracy in the data collection process is desired. Question 3 discusses the steps that will be taken to promote high response rates and reduce non-response errors.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response. 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.

A considerable amount of effort will be implemented to reduce non-response in order to make meaningful and statistically sound inferences about the population. Dillman etal. (2008) suggested several approaches that can improve response rates. We will follow several of these suggestions to increase response rates in our survey. We explain below the procedures that will be followed to improve response rates.

1. Different mode of communications will be used to contact the survey respondents. Studies have shown that making distinction between modes of contacts improves

response rate in mail surveys (Dillman et al. 1974, 2008; Heberlin and Baumgartner, 1978). Below we explain our different mode of contacts:

a. A pre-notice letter will be developed and sent to all vessel owners selected to be in the sample. This letter will inform vessel owners about the impending survey and the value and use of this data. In the subsequent years, a data summary will also be included in the pre-notice letter to enlighten the prospective respondents about the general cost structure of the fishery. Research has shown that pre-notice letters improve response rates in mail surveys by 3 to 6 percentage points (Dillman, 1991; Kanuk and Berenson 1975).
b. One week following the pre-notice letter, each vessel owner selected as part of the sample will receive a survey instrument and a cover letter. The cover letter will explain the importance of the survey and how responding survey will provide valuable information to NOAA. The cover letter will explain about the online survey instrument. The mail-out package will also contain a monetary incentive of $5.
c. Approximately 2-3 weeks following the first mail-out, a reminder postcard will be sent to the non- respondents. The postcard will provide contact information (phone and email) to respondents to get a replacement copy or information to access the online survey if needed.
d. Approximately two weeks following the reminder postcard, SSB will mail out a second copy of the survey to those that still have not responded. The survey will arrive with a cover letter explaining that a second copy is provided to ensure the survey was not lost, and again stress the importance of responding. Once more information to access the online survey will also be provided.
e. Two weeks following the mail-out of the second survey copies, a final attempt to contact the non-respondents will be made via telephone.

2. A 1-800 phone line will be set up to address any questions or concerns that the respondents may have regarding the survey.
3. We expect offering the Web-based survey option will improve response rates. Our rationale is that, many vessel owners store their financial information electronically and can easily access them while filling out the survey form online. It is also more convenient in that a paper form does not have to be physically mailed. NOAA’s Alaska Regional Office has been using Web-based surveys for catcher vessels since 2007, and they have witnessed increasing response rates. Dillman (2008) also discusses the potential of mixed mode surveys in improving response rates and reducing non-response errors.
4. The monetary incentives sent with the initial mailing of the survey is also expected to have positive impact on the response rates. Dillman’s third edition (2009) book on mixed-mode surveys reports several studies that showed positive results from using prepaid incentives in establishment surveys.

5. In addition to the pre-notification letter, SSB also plans to perform outreach regarding the survey. This will include advertising the survey in local publications (e.g., *Commercial Fishing News*) and writing a guest editorial in *Commercial Fishing News* that describes the value of responding to the survey.
6. Finally, an external survey agency specializing in similar data collection surveys will be employed to administer the survey. The survey firm will employ best practices in terms of question sequencing, wording and administering the survey, which is further expected to improve response rates.

After taking all the above steps to increase response rates, a non-response bias check will be conducted post data collection. A considerable amount of information is currently available on vessel characteristics, landings and revenue for the survey population. This information will be used to compare the survey population with survey respondents, and to make adjustments for non-response biases. However, if response rates are lower than expected and a proper non-response bias calculation is not possible, then data from two consecutive years could be combined to generate population estimates. This is possible because vessels' fixed costs are not expected to change significantly between consecutive years provided there are no significant external economic shocks or changes. In addition, respondent feedback and findings from this survey will be used to further improve survey response rates in subsequent years.

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.

The survey instrument will be tested with nine vessel owners that will be selected randomly from the sampling frame. Both the web-based and mail survey instruments will be tested. Feedback from the pilot surveys will be used to make any necessary changes.

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.

The internal NMFS survey design team consists of Dr. Chhandita Das (508 495-2354), Scott Steinback (508 495-2371), Andrew Kitts (508 495-2231), Dr. Tammy Murphy (508 495-2000).

The primary agency responsible for collecting data will be the survey firm that will be hired to administer the survey. The primary individual expected to analyze the data is Dr. Tammy Murphy; (508) 495-2000.

REFERENCES:

Dillman, D. A., Smyth, J. D., Christian, L. M. (2009). Internet, mail, and mixed-mode surveys: The tailored design method. (3rd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

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Haberlein, T.A and Baumgartner, R (1978), Factors affecting response rates to mailed questionnaires: A quantitative analysis of the published literature. American Sociological Review, 43, 447-462.

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Dillman, D. A., Christenson. K. A, Carpenter, E. H., and Brooke, R., Increasing mail questionnaire response: A four-state comparison. American Sociological Review, 39, 744-756, (1974).

Pre-notice Letter

{DATE}

{RESPONDENT NAME}
{RESPONDENT ADDRESS}

Dear {NAME},

Within the next few days you will be receiving a survey from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Social Science Branch (SSB) in Woods Hole, MA. You have been selected at random to receive this survey because you own a commercial fishing vessel.

The survey will ask you a number of questions on your annual fishing costs. We are collecting this information so that NMFS can better understand how changes in fisheries management practices affect commercial fishing vessel owners. This information in turn will help better shape future management policies. Thus, it is important that you complete the survey and return it to SSB. The survey is voluntary, but by completing it and sending it back, you will be helping us understand how fishery management policies affect your industry.

The survey will also be available online at a secured site. You will be given a user ID and password to access the online survey. A self-addressed stamped envelope will also be sent in case you choose to complete the paper survey. We estimate the survey will take about an hour to complete. If you have any questions or concerns related to this survey, you can contact {SSB CONTACT} at {NUMBER} or {E-Mail}.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,
{Signed}

Cover Letter

{DATE}

{RESPONDENT NAME}
{RESPONDENT ADDRESS}

Dear {NAME},

Enclosed you will find a survey from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Social Science Branch (SSB) in Woods Hole, MA. As you may recall, we sent a letter a few days ago letting you know that you have been selected at random to receive this survey because you own a commercial fishing vessel.

The survey will ask you a number of questions on your annual fishing costs. NMFS will be using this information to better understand how fisheries management practices affect commercial fishing vessel owners. This information in turn will help better shape future management policies. Thus, it is important that you complete the survey and return it to SSB. The survey is voluntary, but by completing it and sending it back, you will help us understand how fishery management policies affect commercial fishermen. An online version of the survey is also available for your convenience via {web address}. To complete the online survey, you will need a user ID and a password which is provided with this letter. You will have the option to change the password after you log in.

We attached a $5 bill with the survey as a token for your assistance in providing this crucial information relevant to our analyses. This money is yours to keep whether you decide to complete the survey or not. We also included a self-addressed stamped envelope in case you decide to complete the paper survey. Answering the questions will take about an hour. If you have any questions or concerns related to this survey, you can contact {SSB CONTACT} at {NUMBER} or {E-Mail}.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,
{Signed}

UserID for Online Survey: XXXXXXXXXX

Password: XXXXXXXX

Reminder Cover Letter, Mailing #2

{DATE}

{RESPONDENT NAME}
{RESPONDENT ADDRESS}

Dear {NAME},

You were randomly selected to participate in a survey about your fishing vessel and should have received a survey in the mail a few weeks ago. A number of your fellow commercial fishermen have already returned their surveys, but we have not received your survey yet. We hope you can find the time to complete and return the survey which will provide us with information that we can use to assess how fishery management policies affect commercial fishermen. This information will help better shape future management policies. To get an accurate picture of how fishery management policies affect commercial fishermen, we need as many surveys returned to us as possible.

In case you have misplaced the original, we enclosed a replacement survey. We have also provided the information for completing the online survey via {web address}. Your user ID and password to access the online survey is provided below. As before, we included a self-addressed stamped envelope should you decide to complete the paper survey. We expect answering the questions will take about an hour. If you have any questions or concerns related to this survey, you can feel free to contact {SSB CONTACT} at {NUMBER} or {E-Mail}.

Thanks once again and please consider taking the time to complete the enclosed survey.

Sincerely,
{Signed}

UserID for Online Survey: XXXXXXXXXX

Password: XXXXXXXX

<u>Postcard</u>

Dear {NAME},

Our records indicate that you have not yet returned the survey we sent on {DATE}. This is a reminder to complete and return the survey as soon as possible. Your information will assist us in assessing how fishery management policies affect you. This information will be very useful in formulating future management policies. If you have already returned the survey, thanks! If not, we encourage you to fill out the survey and return it in the envelope we provided or complete the online survey. The online survey can be accessed via {the web link}. Please contact SSB if you need the user ID and password to access the online version.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this survey, or ***if you need a replacement survey***, please feel free to contact {SSB CONTACT} at {NUMBER} or {E-Mail}. You can also download the survey from the web address provided above.

Thank you once again!

OMB Control No:
Expires:

Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey

United State Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Social Science Branch
166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543

Please take note of the following points while answering the survey questions,

- Record the annual costs associated with only the vessel identified below
- If you own more than one vessel, certain costs may need to be divided among vessels (for example, divide office expenses by the number of vessels owned).
- Record the combined annual cost for all fisheries you may have participated in this fiscal year.
- Please consult the **detailed instructions** if you are unsure about any questions.

Vessel Information

Coast Guard Documentation or State Registration Number: 12345678 (one survey per vessel)

Fiscal year that corresponds with the annual costs you will provide below (use the most recent year for which you have complete records). Please provide information for *one* year only. Format: (mm/dd/yyyy)

Start date: __ __ / __ __ / __ __ __ __ End date: __ __ / __ __ / __ __ __ __

1. a) Vessel Ownership Type (*check one*):

A. Sole proprietorship ☐
B. General partnership ☐
C. Limited partnership ☐
D. Corporation ☐
E. Other ☐ |__ __ __ __

b) If you checked "D" (Corporation), please check which type:

C corporation ☐
S corporation ☐
Limited Liability Corporation ☐

2. Please list the number of owners: __ __

3. Was the vessel purchased from a previous owner or was it bought new?
   Previous owner ☐ New ☐

4. In what calendar year did you acquire the vessel? __ __ __ __

5. Please estimate the market value of your vessel (including all equipment, fishing gear, permits, and fishing history): $ __ __ , __ __ __ , __ __ __

Repair/Maintenance/Upgrade/Improvements Costs

6. Please use this table to record any repair, maintenance, improvement, or upgrade costs that were made to the vessel this fiscal year. For each category listed in the first column of the table below, indicate whether you spent any amount by checking the "Yes" box and listing the dollar amount spent in the blank space. If you did not have an expense this fiscal year, then check the "No" box. In the third column indicate the type of the expense by checking the appropriate box.

Expense Category	Annual Amount Spent	Type of Expense	Comments
Propulsion Engine (engine, drive train, exhaust/cooling systems)	☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	
Deck equipment/other machinery (winches, haulers, generators, hydraulics, compressors, reels, pumps)	☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	
Hull (including frame, deck, wheelhouse, keel, steering, rigging, fish holds, fuel tanks)	☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	
Fishing Gear (Codends, nets/panels, dredges, buoys, highfliers, doors, pots/traps, cables)	☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	
Wheelhouse and gear electronics (Radar, GPS, VMS, sounder, radio, depth/temperature/net sensors)	☐ Yes; : $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	

Processing/ Refrigeration (RSW, packaging equipment)	☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	
Safety equipment (EPIRB, rafts, fire extinguishers, flares, survival suits)	☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	
Haul-out cost (the cost for taking the boat in and out of the water only, excluding costs mentioned in above categories)	☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	☐ General Maintenance/Repair ☐ Major Repair ☐ Upgrade/Improvement	

Fishing Business Related Costs

7. For each category listed in the table below, indicate whether you have spent any amount by checking the "Yes" box and listing the **ANNUAL** amount spent in the blank space. If you did not have an expense this fiscal year, then check the "No" box.

Mooring/Dockage Fees: ☐ Yes; $ _ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $ 0.00	Storage Expenses (eg: gear shed rental etc.): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Office Expenses: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Business Vehicle Usage costs: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Business travel costs: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Professional Fees (eg: settlement, accounting, legal fees etc.): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00

Association fees (eg: co-operative, fishing, organization , sector fees etc.): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Permit and/or License fees: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Vessel insurance premium: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00 Number of months insured: __ __	Business taxes: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Principal paid on business loans (not outstanding balance): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Interest paid on business loan: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Total crew payment (including captain): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Crew benefits (e.g., retirement benefits; your portion of health, life, or disability insurance premiums; unemployment insurance): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Non-crew labor services (eg: night watchman etc.): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	

Trip Costs

8. These questions are relating to your trip costs. For each category of expenses listed in the table below, indicate whether you have spent any amount by checking the "Yes" box and listing the **ANNUAL** amount spent in the blank space. If you have did not have an expense this fiscal year, then check the "No" box.

Fuel: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Oil/lube: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00

Food/water: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Bait: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Catch handling (eg: auction, lumping, grading, transportation etc): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Settlement fees: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Ice: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Electronics: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
Communication Cost (eg: cell phones, radio etc.): ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Quota or DAS lease: ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00
General Fishing Supplies (eg: gloves, boot liners, foul weather gear, knives, picks, hooks, boxes, bags, ties, lobster bands, rags, tape, links/rings, lines/twine/rope, *etc.*) ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00	Others: _ ☐ Yes; $_ _, _ _ _,_ _ _.00 ☐ No; $0.00

Typical Lay System

9. a) What was your primary fishery (based on revenue) this fiscal year? Please list only one (e.g., groundfish, scallops, etc.)

___ ___

b) For the primary fishery you listed above, did you hire a captain? ☐ Owner operated ☐ Hired captain

c) How many years of experience does the captain (or the owner if owner-operated) have in the primary fishery you listed above? |___ ___ years

d) What is the size of the crew in the primary fishery you listed above? ___ ___ crew members
(**EXCLUDE** the captain)

e) For the primary fishery you listed above, which best describes how the crew (including the captain) is paid:

☐ Clear lay (gross stock is split between boat and crew; then trip expenses are deducted from the crew's share)

☐ Broken lay (trip expenses are deducted from the gross stock; then split between boat and crew)

☐ Per-trip or hourly wage ☐ Other -- please describe in the comments sections on page – 6

☐ Not applicable (no crew)

f) If you chose clear lay or broken lay for question (e) then provide the percentage share to the boat and crew below (should add to 100%), otherwise go to question 9 (g).

___ ___ % Boat (owner) share ___ ___ % Crew share (include hired captain's share)

g) For clear or broken lay systems, which trip expenses are normally deducted? (*check all that apply*) Check the "Not applicable" box if it does not apply to you.

☐ Fuel ☐ Food and Water ☐ Oil/lubrication ☐ Bait ☐ Catch handling costs

☐ Settlement fees ☐ Ice ☐ Electronics ☐ Communication costs ☐ General fishing supplies

☐ Quota and DAS lease ☐ Others _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (explain here) ☐ Not applicable

Other *Annual* Costs (not Listed in Previous Sections)

10. Please record costs regarding your fishing activity here that you have incurred but **have not reported anywhere else in this survey**. (Please do not report you personal costs, such as personal health insurance and house mortgage etc.)

Cost	Description of other annual costs
$ ___ ___ ___ , ___ ___ ___	___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
$ ___ ___ ___ , ___ ___ ___	___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
$ ___ ___ ___ , ___ ___ ___	___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Please use this space to provide additional information or comments

___ ___

___ ___

___ ___

___ ___

___ ___

___ ___

Snap-shot of the homepage for the online survey

Below is a snap-shot of the homepage page for the online version of the survey. The link to access the data entry form using the user ID and the password is given within this page. Respondents will have the option of entering their data online and submitting it electronically or entering their information on a PDF form which can be printed and sent via the self-addressed envelope included in the survey packet. Separate links are provided for each.

Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey

Social Science Branch
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
DOC/NOAA/NMFS
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

OMB control no:
Expiration Date:

Instructions: This survey is designed to record your annual vessel fishing costs. The survey consists of five sections. Section A asks questions about your vessel. Please record the annual costs associated with only the vessel identified in section A. If you own more than one vessel, certain costs may need to be divided among vessels (for example, divide office expenses by the number of vessels owned). Record the combined annual cost for all fisheries you may have participated in this fiscal year. In section B, you are asked to provide cost information associated with improvements, quota transfer/lease, and repair/maintenance and crew compensation. Section C asks question on your fishing business related costs. In section D, you are asked to report any other annual costs not reported in sections B or C. Finally, Section E asks questions on the lay system. This survey does not have questions about trip costs such as fuel, ice, bait, and supplies. This type of information is collected by observers at sea.

IMPORTANT: *if you do not know the cost of a particular item (but an expense was incurred), please leave the question blank. If this expense does not apply to your vessel, please check the "not applicable" box.*

If you would like to enter your information online and submit it electronically, click here *(not an active link)*.

If you would to enter your information into a PDF file then print and mail it to us using the self-addressed envelope, click here *(not an active link)*

Snap-shot of the log-in page for the online survey

A snap-shot of the web-based survey log-in page is given below. This is the page respondents will see when they click on the link to access the online survey from the home-page displayed above. Once they enter their log-in information they will see the actual survey in the exact form as the paper-based survey shown on page-16.

Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey

Social Science Branch
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
DOC/NOAA/NMFS
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

OMB control no:
Expiration Date:

Calendar Year XXXX

To access the survey you will need to log in. Enter your user ID and password below. Your user ID and password were sent to you in a separate letter.

Login

User ID: ______________________
Password: ______________________

OK Cancel

For more information or if you have any questions,

Please call {contact number} or email {email contact}

date, as provided for by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) For the exporters listed above, the cash deposit rate will be established in the final results of this review (except, if the rate is zero or *de minimis, i.e.,* less than 0.5 percent, no cash deposit will be required for that company); (2) for previously investigated or reviewed PRC and non-PRC exporters not listed above that have separate rates, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the exporter-specific rate published for the most recent period; (3) for all PRC exporters of subject merchandise which have not been found to be entitled to a separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the PRC-wide rate of 206.00 percent; and (4) for all non-PRC exporters of subject merchandise which have not received their own rate, the cash deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the PRC exporters that supplied that non-PRC exporter. These deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Notification to Importers

This notice also serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: May 2, 2011.

Ronald K. Lorentzen,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

Appendix I

- Advanced Hardware Company
- Anhui Ningguo Zhongding Sealing Co. Ltd.
- Autocraft Industrial (Shanghai) Ltd.
- Beijing Peace Seasky International
- Billion Land Ltd.
- Century Distribution Systems
- China Jiangsu International Economic Technical Cooperation Corporation
- Dalian Americh International Trading Co., Ltd.
- Dalian Fortune Machinery Co., Ltd.
- Dalian Harada Industry Co., Ltd.
- EC International (Nantong) Co. Ltd.
- Ever Industries Co.
- Fastwell Industry Co. Ltd.
- Haining Light Industry Trade Co. Ltd.
- Haiyan County No. 1 Fasteners Factory (Hu-Hang Company)
- Haiyan Feihua Fasteners Co. Ltd.
- Haiyan Haiyu Hardware Co. Ltd.
- Haiyan Lianxiang Hardware Products
- Haiyan Sanhuan Import & Export Co.
- Haiyan Xiyue Electrical Appliances Co., Ltd.
- Haiyan Yida Fastener Co. Ltd.
- Handsun Industry General Co.
- Hangshou Daton Wind Power
- Hangshou Huayan Imp. and Exp. Co. Ltd.
- Hangzhou Everbright Imp & Exp Co. Ltd.
- Hangzhou Grand Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd.
- Hangzhou Robinson Trading Co. Ltd.
- HD Supply Shanghai Distribution Center
- Hebei Richylin Trading Co Ltd.
- Honghua International Co. Ltd.
- Jiangsu Changzhou International
- Jiangsu Soho International Group Corp.
- Jiangsu Yanfei Special Steel Products
- Jiangxi Yuexin Standard Part Co. Ltd.
- Jiashan Lisan Metal Products Co. Ltd.
- Jiaxing Pacific Trading Co. Ltd.
- Jiaxing Tsr Hardware Inc.
- Jiaxing Wonper Imp. & Exp. Co. Ltd.
- JS Fasteners Co. Ltd.
- Jun Valve Junshan Co. Ltd.
- Kewell Products Corporation
- Lanba Fasteners Co. Ltd.
- Nantong Harlan Machinery Co. Ltd.
- Ningbiao Bolts & Nuts Manufacturing Co.
- Ningbo ABC Fasteners Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Beilun Fastening Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Beilun Longsheng
- Ningbo Daxie Chuofeng Industrial Development Co., Ltd.
- Ningbo Etdz Holding Ltd.
- Ningbo Fengya Imp. & Exp. Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Fourway Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Haishu Wit Imp. & Exp. Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Haobo Commerce Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Jiansheng Metal Products Co.
- Ningbo Shareway Import and Export Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Weiye Co.
- Ningbo Xinyang Weiye
- Ningbo Yinzhou Foreign Trade Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Yonggang Fastener Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Zhenghai Yongding Fastener Co.
- Ningbo Zhengyu Fasteners Co., Ltd.
- Ningbo Zhongbin Fastener Mfg. Co. Ltd.
- Ningbo Zhongjiang High Strength
- Ningbo Zhongjiang Petroleum Pipes & Machinery Co. Ltd.
- Orient International Enterprise Ltd.
- Penglai City Bohai Hardware Tool Co. Ltd.
- Pennengineering Automotive Fastener
- Pinghu City Zhapu Screw Cap
- Qingdao H.R. International Trading Co.
- Qingdao Hengfeng Development Trade
- Qingdao Huaqing Imp. and Exp. Co. Ltd.
- Qingdao Morning Bright Trading
- Qingdao Uni-trend Int'l Ltd.
- Roberts Co.
- R-union Enterprise Co. Ltd.
- Shaanxi Shcceed Trading Co. Ltd.
- Shanghai Foreign Trade Enterprises Pudong Co. Ltd.
- Shanghai Huiyi International Trade
- Shanghai Jiading Foreign Trade Co. Ltd.
- Shanghai Overseas International Trading Co. Ltd.
- Shanghai Recky International Trading Co., Ltd.
- Shanghai Shangdian Washer Co.
- Shanghai Shenguang High Strength Bolts Co. Ltd.
- Shanghai Sunrise International Co.
- Shanghai Tianying Metal Parts Co. Ltd.
- Shanghai Wisechain Fastener Ltd.
- Shanghai Xianglong International Trading Co., Ltd. (Wangzhai Group)
- Shanghai Xiangrong International Trading Co., Ltd.
- Shenzhen Texinlong Trading Co.
- Shenzhen Xiguan Trading Ltd.
- Suzhou Textile Silk Co. Ltd.
- Synercomp China Co. Ltd.
- T and C Fastener Co. Ltd.
- T and L Industry Co. Ltd.
- T&S Technology LLC
- Tong Ming Enterprise
- Tri-Star Trading Co. (Hong Kong)
- Unimax International Ltd.
- Wujiang Foreign Trade Corporation
- Wuxi Zontai International
- Yancheng Sanwei Imp. & Exp. Co. Ltd.
- Yi Chi Hsiung Ind. Corp.
- Yixunda Industrial Products Supply
- Yueyun Imp & Exp Co. Ltd.
- Yuyao Nanshan Development Co. Ltd.
- Zhapu Creative Standard Parts Material Co., Ltd.
- Zhejiang Guorui Industry Co., Ltd.
- Zhejiang Hailiang Co. Ltd.
- Zhejiang Huamao International Co. Ltd.
- Zhejiang Laibao Hardware Co. Ltd.
- Zhejiang Machinery & Equipment Co. Ltd.
- Zhejiang Minmetals Sanhe Import & Export Co. Ltd.
- Zhejiang Morgan Brother
- Zhejiang New Oriental Fastener Co., Ltd.
- Zhejiang Peace Industry and Trading
- Zhejiang Xingxing Optoelectron
- Zhejiang Zhenglian Corp.

[FR Doc. 2011–11255 Filed 5–6–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Commercial Fishing Vessel Cost and Earnings Data Collection Survey in the Northeast Region

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 July 8, 2011.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Andrew Kitts, (508) 495–2231 or *akitts@mercury.wh.whoi.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

Economic data on the costs of operating commercial fishing businesses are needed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to meet the legislative requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Social Sciences Branch (SSB) of the NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) is responsible for estimating the economic and social impacts of fishery management actions.

Lack of information on vessel operating costs has severely limited the ability of the SSB to assess fishermen's behavioral responses to changes in regulations, fishing conditions, and market conditions. Establishing an on-going, consistent, data collection program will enable the SSB to provide a level of analysis that meets the needs of the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, to make informed decisions about the expected economic effects of proposed management alternatives.

II. Method of Collection

The survey will be administered via mail and online. Vessel owners will receive a survey packet via mail, which will contain a password and a secured link to an online version of the survey. Vessel owners will be given the option of completing the survey online or by mail.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number: NA.

Type of Review: Regular submission (request for a new information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,280.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,280.

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: May 4, 2011.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–11214 Filed 5–6–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA418

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; *telephone:* (978) 777–2500; *fax:* (978) 750–7991.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; *telephone:* (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to begin work on Framework Adjustment 47 (FW 47) to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. FW 47 will adopt Annual Catch Limits for fishing years 2012–2014 and will address several management issues. The Committee will discuss adjustments to accountability measures for windowpane flounder, ocean pout, Atlantic halibut, Atlantic wolffish, and SNE/MA winter flounder. They will also discuss modifications to the cap on yellowtail flounder that applies to the scallop fishery access areas in Closed Area I, Closed Area II, and the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area. The Committee will discuss whether changes are needed to the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder rebuilding strategy as a result of the International Fisheries Agreement Clarification Act. They will also review public comments on Amendment 17, an amendment that if approved will authorize state permit banks, and will consider making a recommendation to the Council for that amendment. The Committee will consider providing advice to the National Marine Fisheries Service to consider when making in-season adjustments to common pool trip limits and days-at-sea adjustments. Council staff will update the Committee on plans for a sector workshop. Other business may be discussed.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*