

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 02/01/2016

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Jennifer Jessup

FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 10/29/2015

ACTION REQUESTED: Reinstatement without change of a previously approved collection

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201510-0648-016

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: Alaska Recreational Charter Vessel Guide and Owner Data Collection

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0647

The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 02/28/2019

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	446	229	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	446	229	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
Alaska Charter Boat Sport Fishing Cost and Earnings Survey	NA	Alaska Charter Boat Sport Fishing Cost and Earnings Survey	
Telephone follow-up/nonresponse survey	NA	Telephone follow-up	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

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

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

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

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
Alaska Recreational Charter Vessel Guide and Owner Data Collection
OMB Control No. 0648-0647

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This data collection represents a reinstatement without change for a survey instrument approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0647. Ultimately, the survey instrument is the same as was previously approved, with the exception of minor changes, such as clarifying instructions, asking for data for the current year and changing the name of the contact person at the contracting company that will be implementing the survey.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is the agency responsible for collecting and analyzing scientific data on the Nation's living marine resources, including Alaska halibut. Under the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#) (see Section 303), [Executive Order 12962](#) (Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics, Section 1(h)), and [Executive Order 12866](#) (Section 1(b)(6)), NOAA Fisheries is required to provide economic analyses of Federal management actions and policies to improve the Nation's fisheries. This data collection project will meet these statutory and administrative requirements by providing resource managers with the information necessary to understand the likely future impacts of management actions on the Alaska charter boat-based halibut sport fishery.

The halibut sport fishery in Alaska is quite large. During 2009, for instance, over 440,000 halibut were harvested by sport anglers in the state.¹ In recent years, several regulatory changes have occurred and more have been proposed that could significantly impact the sport fishery, particularly the charter boat industry that facilitates much of the halibut sport fishing trips in the state. In February 2011, a program was implemented to limit entry into the saltwater charter boat recreational fishery in Alaska (75 FR 554). This policy sets a limit on the number of charter vessels that may participate in the guided sport halibut fishery in U.S. waters off Alaska. The limited entry program is separate from other policies intended to regulate harvest of halibut by the guided fishing sector, such as the guideline harvest limit (GHL) policy established in 2003 that sets an acceptable limit on the amount of halibut that can be harvested by the recreational charter fishery during a year and establishes a process for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to initiate harvest restrictions in the event that the limit is met or exceeded. At present, numerous harvest restrictions have been adopted by the Council to address exceedances of the GHL that have occurred in recent years. These restrictions have primarily been aimed at limitations on fishing in the charter boat industry, such as restrictions on client or crew fishing behavior (e.g., bag and size limits). In 2007, maximum size limits for halibut caught on charter boat fishing trips were adopted. Following this, at the end of 2013, NOAA Fisheries and the Council adopted a catch sharing plan (CSP) to allocate halibut between the recreational and

¹ From Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Statewide Harvest Survey website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/index.cfm?ADFG=region.home>. Accessed June 28, 2011.

commercial sectors that would replace the GHL system (76 FR 14300). The data collection that was previously approved was implemented in 2011, 2012 and 2013 in order to understand, in part, the effect of the 2007 size limits on charter businesses. The current request to reinstate that data collection is aimed at continuing to assess the effect of size limit restrictions that change each year, as well as assessing the effect of the recently implemented CSP and other potential regulatory restrictions on Alaska charter boat fishing operator behavior and welfare. Some information useful for this purpose is already collected from existing sources, such as the State of Alaska's charter logbook data program. However, information on vessel and crew characteristics, services offered to clients, spatial and temporal aspects of their operations and fishing behavior, and costs and earnings information have only been made available through direct collection from the industry through this voluntary survey.

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.

Information from this collection will be used by NOAA Fisheries economists and social scientists in the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) and Alaska Regional Office, and by staff at the Council, to address issues discussed in A1 above, and others that may arise. Using these data, analyses will be conducted to describe the charter industry, its value, and its economic impact on the regional and national economy, as well as assess the effects of regulatory changes in support of efforts to develop, implement, and monitor fishery management plans.

The information collection consists of conducting an annual voluntary survey sent to a stratified random sample of licensed charter businesses who offer saltwater fishing trips in Alaska. For this implementation, we will mail questionnaires to members of the sample, followed by follow-ups to encourage response. Among the follow-up efforts will be a postcard reminder, a telephone contact with non-responding charter businesses to encourage response, and a full second mailing. Respondents will also be given the option of filling out the survey on-line at a secure website. Given that this survey instrument was deployed three times under the previously approved OMB control number and the survey instrument and implementation plan has not changed in any substantive way, a pretest was not conducted. Note however that whereas the previous implementations of the survey were conducted as population censuses, a stratified random sampling approach will be utilized for the updated survey to reduce overall burden on the population of licensed charter businesses.

The charter boat fishing season in Alaska generally runs from mid-May through mid-September. After numerous discussions with charter boat operators, it was determined that April is the best month for collecting the type of information sought in this data collection. Since the survey collects information about the previous year's activities, much of which is calculated as part of the businesses' tax preparations, it was determined that conducting the survey in April will maximize the probability that respondents will have access to the information being collected, and thus would minimize the burden on them by reducing the need to start those calculations earlier than they normally would for tax season.

The mail survey is described below. The web-based survey is based on the mail survey, asking the same questions, but formatted to be presented and filled out on-line. As a result, it will not be discussed separately. Moreover, the survey instruments are configured for collecting data for the 2015 season, but surveys for 2016 and 2017 are expected to be identical and therefore are not included.

Mail Questionnaire

The mail questionnaire is divided into six sections. The following is a discussion of how particular questions in the questionnaire will be used.

Section A is short and asks for information that identifies the charter business to enable linking the information collected in this survey to supplemental data on fishing trips (catch, number of clients, dates of trips) collected in ADF&G's charter logbook program.

Section B collects information on employees and employee compensation during the previous season. Questions are asked to identify the number of people hired as vessel operators and sport fishing guides (B1), deckhands or other crew (B2), and staff of on-shore business operations (B3). Since the fishing season has several distinct time periods, these questions ask respondents to break down employment numbers by time period. Question B4 asks respondents to indicate the total compensation provided to each of the employee classes asked about in B1 to B3, and B5 collects information on the structure of payments for each type of employee.

Section C asks respondents for information on the business' offerings – types of fishing trips offered, plus other services such as lodging, non-fishing trips, etc. Respondents are asked to identify the types of trips they offer in C1, and then are asked to identify the specific fishing trip offerings in C2 and C3. C4 collects information on additional services provided on fishing trips, such as food and beverage, fish cleaning services, etc. C5 identifies whether the business charters whole boats, and if they do, what they charge for the service. Some charter businesses in Alaska offer lodging services. Question C6 asks about offering those services to non-fishing clients. C7 collects information necessary to calculate the annual revenues from the business' activities.

Cost information is collected in Section D. The section begins with two questions to identify the number of halibut client endorsements that were leased by the respondent's business during the season (D1) and the community or city in which most of their business transactions occur (D2). Questions D3 and D4 collect the fixed costs and variable costs, respectively, associated with operating the business for the previous year. Together with information from Sections B and C, economic models of the firm can be estimated to assess cost efficiencies, profitability in the industry, and economic impacts.

The next section asks respondents for information about their clients. Questions E1 through E3 ask for the percentage of clients that were returning customers (E1), booked trips a month or more in advance (E2), and booked at the last minute (E3). E4 asks respondents to identify the percentage of clients that booked fishing trips through different sources.

The final section contains questions aimed at further classifying respondents and their businesses, and in understanding respondents' investment in the businesses. F1 and F2 are used to identify the type of business structure utilized by the charter business. F3 asks respondents for the percent of the business they (and their families) own, F5 asks for the percent of their household income earned from the business, and F4 collects information on the number of people from the respondent's household involved in the business and their role(s) therein. To assess off-season activities undertaken by owners of charter businesses, question F6 asks the respondent to identify what they did in the off-season.

The survey concludes with an open-ended question intended to capture general feelings about the survey, and offers a place for respondents to provide comments about management or policy issues, or about anything else.²

Telephone Follow-Up

Following the initial mailing and postcard reminder, we will contact non-respondents by telephone to encourage them to complete the mail or web-based survey.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained above, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response A10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

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

Survey respondents will be given the option of completing the survey on-line at a website designed specifically to securely host the survey. Each respondent will have a unique login name and password to access the secure website and complete the survey. The login information will be provided in the survey mailing letters.

² Note that the survey questions ask only for information unavailable from other sources at a sufficient level of precision and disaggregation.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The information collected in this survey is not collected by other Federal, state, or local agencies. We have informed the Council, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) about this project. None of these entities have conducted or are conducting similar economic data collections. Although there is no economic content, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers a mandatory charter boat fishing logbook program that collects information on the clients and client harvests of halibut and other saltwater species aboard charter vessels in Alaska. Additionally, a joint NOAA Fisheries and PSMFC pilot survey of charter boat operators in Alaska conducted in 2001 collected *trip-level* information (as opposed to seasonal or annual information collected in this data collection), including information on the services that were offered and amount clients paid for those services. In order to get at the targeted information in this data collection, the survey instrument was used to collect annual data from 2011 to 2013 from the charter boat sector in Alaska. The proposed data collection would be an extension of that project and would extend that body of data an additional three years.

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

Considerable efforts have been made to minimize the burden of filling out the survey on charter boat businesses. Several focus groups and interview sessions were conducted with charter boat business operators to get their input on potential questions and ways of improving the questions to make them easier (and faster) for them to answer. Moreover, we have made considerable efforts to stay in contact with the charter boat associations in the state to keep them informed of the status of the survey and the questions that we intend to ask. Additionally, instead of conducting the survey as a census of the entire population, random samples to reduce the number of businesses contacted to participate, which will reduce overall burden.

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

If the data collection is not conducted, the Council and NOAA Fisheries will not have information on charter boat operations and the effects of recent and proposed changes in fishing regulations on them and the regional economy of which they are a part. As a result, it will not be possible to monitor the impact of existing or proposed regulatory programs on the supply and behavior of saltwater-based charter boat fishing in Alaska.

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

The collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register notice published on July 21, 2015 (80 FR 43065) solicited comments on the information collection. No comments were received.

For the original submission of OMB Control No. 0648-0647, several individuals outside NOAA Fisheries were consulted about elements of the survey, availability of existing data, data to collect, and other aspects of the project. These included staff at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Council, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission with experience in recreational fishing issues in Alaska.

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

A small monetary prepaid incentive of \$5 will be included in the initial survey mailing. Given sampling plan (a stratified random sampling approach) and the small population (about 571 charter businesses), efforts to boost response rates need to be taken relative to past efforts done when the survey was administered as a census. A substantial literature has shown that monetary pre-incentives (as opposed to promises of money or gifts following participation) are effective at increasing overall response rates. Specifically, studies conducted by Singer (2002), Singer and Ye (2013), and Mercer et al. (2015) provide considerable evidence to suggest that these types of incentives lead to increased response rates in mail surveys (among other survey modes). A more detailed review of the literature and justification for the inclusion of the incentive is contained in Question 3 of Part B.

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

In the cover letter accompanying each mailing, respondents will be told that their responses are voluntary and will be kept secure, as well as access to the data will be limited to authorized personnel. The initial mailing letter and the follow-up mailing cover letter also include the following statement:

“Only aggregated results from the survey will be released publicly. Your personal information will not be disclosed. All data will be kept in password-protected files and will only be accessible to authorized personnel responsible for management and research of fisheries under the authority of NOAA.”

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.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature asked in the survey.

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

Each year, the survey will be sent to a stratified random sample of licensed charter businesses in Alaska. A stratified random sample of 427 charter businesses will be contacted to participate. The contact information for each business will be obtained from ADF&G's license database that contains updated address and telephone information for each licensee. We expect a final response rate of approximately 31 percent, leading to 132 responding license holders returning completed surveys. This response rate is based on an average of the response rates achieved during the three previous implementations of this survey (Lew et al 2015b), or 25%, adjusted upward by another 6 percentage points as a conservative estimate of the effect of including a small prepaid incentive.

Charter operator representatives we have spoken with have indicated that if they have completed their federal tax returns prior to filling out the survey, the survey usually takes no more than 90 minutes (which is why we have planned to implement the survey in April and May), which is the time we assume for computing the potential burden hours. As a result, those ultimately completing the survey are expected to contribute up to 198 hours to the overall annual hour burden.

Based on our experience with other surveys, we expect 113 respondents to have returned a completed survey or completed the on-line survey following the initial mailing and postcard reminder (~86% of all completed surveys). Given our previous experience implementing this survey instrument, we expect to be able to contact 60% of those who have not yet responded to the mail or web survey ($427 - 113 = 314$ respondents). These 314 license holders will be contacted by telephone and encouraged to complete and return the survey. The phone interview is expected to take 6 minutes on average to complete, and assuming 100% of the 314 individuals for which there is a phone number are reached and complete interviews, the contribution of the phone interview to the total time burden totals 31.4 hours.³ Following the phone interviews, the second full mailing will be sent out to all individuals who have not returned a completed survey to date. As noted above, we expect an additional 19 individuals ($132 - 113 = 19$) to have completed surveys following the phone contact and second full mailing. Thus, totaling the time contribution of the 132 completed mail surveys (214.5 hours) (Table 1).

The total number of unique respondents to all contacts in the survey implementation will be 143 (mail survey respondents) + 448 (phone respondents) – 20 (phone respondents who also returned the mail survey) = 571 (the total population size). Over a 3-year period, the survey will be

³ Note that the actual success rate for completing the telephone interview in the 2007 survey was much lower (~25%). However, for the purpose of calculating burden hours, we conservatively assume a 100% success rate.

administered three times. Assuming a static population size, which is reasonable given the limited entry system, we anticipate the annual estimates of respondents and time burden will be identical across years. Thus, the total burden hours is expected to be 690 (3 years × 230 hours).

Table 1. Annual Burden Hours by Survey Instrument

Survey instrument	Estimated number of respondents per year	Estimated time per respondent (minutes) per year	Estimated total annual burden hours (hours) per year
Mail survey (from initial mailing, postcard reminder)	113	90	169.5 (170)
Follow-up phone survey	314 ^a	6	31.4 (31)
Mail survey (second full mailing)	19	90	28.5 (29)
Annual totals	427^b		230

^a Number of successful phone contacts of license holders that have not returned completed surveys following initial mailing and postcard reminder.

^b Total unique respondents reflect the total licensees who complete the survey or phone interview only (accounts for individuals who completed both).

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

No additional cost burden will be imposed on respondents aside from the burden hours indicated above.

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

Annual cost to the Federal government of the survey implementation is approximately \$50,000 divided as follows: \$40,000 in contract award money and \$10,000 in staff time and resources. Services provided by a cooperating agency, specifically PSMFC, include conducting the survey implementation, entering and cleaning the data, and preparing a report that documents the survey procedures and response rates.

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

This is a reinstated collection, and is thus a program change. Reasons for this collection were outlined in Items A1 and A2.

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

The response rates, survey data, and analysis of the data will be described in a report. A separate

paper describing economic models used to analyze the data and the results from estimating these models will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. Statistical data summaries in tabular form will be made available at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center web site.

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.

This item is not applicable, as the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection will be shown on the survey.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

NA.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
Alaska Recreational Charter Vessel Guide and Owner Data Collection
OMB Control No. 0648-0647

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.**

The potential respondent universe is all saltwater-based charter boat businesses in Alaska during the year(s) of interest. Each of these businesses must purchase a state license to provide fishing guide services. The sport fishing license program is administered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). In 2014 (the most recent year of data available),¹ there were 571 licensed saltwater sport fishing charter businesses. Thus, the population consists of all saltwater charter boat businesses that were licensed to offer saltwater fishing charter boat trips off Alaska during the year.

Past iterations of this data collection were conducted as censuses of the population. For the current data collection, we will utilize stratified random sampling to reduce the burden on the population. The population of charter businesses will be divided into four strata based on the number of licensed guides, number of vessels, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) regulatory area in which the business operates (Area 2C or 3A). Data on licenses and vessels are available from state and federal license databases. The IPHC area of operation can be determined from license data as well.

The first two characteristics define the size of the charter business and are strongly positively correlated to the effort level (number of charter trips taken per year).² Charter businesses in the two IPHC regulatory areas are subject to differing regulations. The strata (and percent of overall population) are the following:

1. Stratum 1: Area 2C charter businesses with one vessel and one guide (~24.9% of population)
2. Stratum 2: Area 2C charter businesses with more than one vessel or guide (~27.9% of population)
3. Stratum 3: Area 3A charter businesses with one vessel and one guide (~20.8% of population)

¹ We expect to get 2015 license data in the near future.

² Correlation coefficients between each of these variables and effort level were about 0.90.

4. Stratum 4: Area 3A charter businesses with more than one vessel or guide (~26.5% of population)

These population strata each comprise between about 21 and 28 percent of the overall population. A stratified random sample of 427 charter businesses will be contacted to participate, consisting of 106 from Stratum 1, 89 from Stratum 2, 119 from Stratum 3, and 113 from Stratum 4. This represents 75% of the 2014 population size (the most recent year with data available) of 571 charter businesses, as well as 75% of each population strata. For the collection as a whole, an overall response rate of 31% is anticipated. This estimate is based on the response rate attained with the implementation of this data collection in 2011, 2012 and 2013 (Lew et al. 2015b), or 25%, adjusted upward by another 6 percentage points as a conservative estimate of the effect of including a small prepaid incentive. We expect this response rate to be obtained in each sample strata, leading to 33, 37, 27, and 35 respondents, respectively, for the four strata.

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.

Each year, a simple random sample will be drawn from each of the four population strata, which are determined by license data characteristics. The size of the random sample will be 75% of the stratum's population size. Thus, each member of the stratum has a 75% chance of being selected in a given year to participate in the survey. The sample size of the overall sample, as well as for the individual strata, was determined to ensure sufficient data would be obtained to get a precise population estimate of a proportional variable calculated with the overall stratified sample, assuming an alpha of 0.1 with a margin of error of 0.08 or less.³ Additionally, sampling 75% from each strata with a response rate of 31% will yield sufficient responses for calculating precise population estimates (assuming an alpha of 0.1 with a margin of error of 0.1) for each IPHC area (Area 2C respondents only or 3A respondents only) or for each size of business (all one vessel/one guide businesses or all multiple vessel and/or guide businesses). Note that the overall expected sample size of 132 is large enough to ensure a beta of no more than 0.2 (at least 80% power) assuming a margin of error of ± 11 percentage points and an alpha of 0.1 (power is 81.7%).

Sample weighting will be used to adjust the sample for the stratified random sampling approach (base weight), non-response bias (non-response weights), and to match up with any known population distributions of importance, such as effort level (post-stratification weights). See Lew et al. (2015a) for an example of how previous year's data were weighted to adjust for sample representativeness. Since sampling from 75% of the four population strata in multiple years will lead to a significant proportion of the population being asked to participate in multiple years (assuming the composition of the population remains static), past participation will be adjusted

³ Minimum sample size calculations were conducted using formula related to stratified sampling for proportions in Lohr (2010).

for in the data by its inclusion as a factor in response propensity estimation used in the construction of the non-response weights. Additional consideration of past participation will also be made in models explaining charter business behavior, such as input demand functions and exit-stay discrete choice models (i.e., fishery participation models). The exact manner in which these considerations will manifest in modeling and calculations will depend upon the type of analysis being done, but at a minimum dummy variables for past participation will be included as explanatory variables in econometric models to identify potential biases.

- 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.**

Numerous steps have been, and will be, taken to maximize response rates and deal with non-response behavior. These efforts are described below.

Maximizing Response Rates

The first step in achieving a high response rate is to develop an appealing questionnaire that is easy for respondents to complete. Significant effort has been spent on developing a good survey instrument. The survey instrument benefited from input on earlier versions from focus groups and one-on-one interviews with members of the target population. In the focus groups, participants helped identify questions and concepts that needed to be clarified or modified to make them easier to fill out for them, as well as provided useful information about ways of making the survey more useful and attractive for them and other charter boat operators to want to fill it out. The interviews were used to fine-tune survey design issues related to specific wording, flow, and comprehension issues. Additionally, the interviews were used to ensure the survey was a comfortable length and easy to complete. The result is a high-quality and professional-looking survey instrument.

Also, charter boat operators have made it clear to us that the optimal time for conducting the survey to minimize burden on them and maximize the accuracy of the information they provide is April and May of each year. During April and May, they will have the previous year's tax information (profit and loss sheets) available—much of which we ask for in one form or another in the survey. Moreover, this is the time of year where they are gearing up for the upcoming season, which usually begins in late May and ends in early to mid September. As a result, conducting the survey in April and May will ensure that most charter boat operators are able to provide accurate information and have the time to do so before the season begins.

The implementation techniques that will be employed are consistent with methods that maximize response rates. Implementation of the mail survey will follow the Tailored Design Method (Dillman, Smyth, and Christian, 2009), which consists of multiple contacts. The specific set of contacts that will be employed is the following:

1. An **advance letter** notifying respondents a few days prior to the questionnaire arriving. This will be the first contact with the sample.
2. An **initial mailing** sent a few days after the advance letter. Each mailing contains a personalized cover letter, instructions and credentials for accessing the online survey, a printed questionnaire, a small monetary incentive (\$5), and a pre-addressed stamped return envelope,
3. A **postcard follow-up reminder** to be mailed 5-7 days following the initial mailing.
4. A **follow-up phone call** to encourage response.⁴
5. A **second full mailing** will be mailed after the follow-up phone calls.

In addition to standard approaches to increasing response rates in mixed mode survey applications that are implemented both in the construction of the survey, and the number and types of contacts with potential respondents (e.g., Dillman et al. 2014), we will need to utilize incentives to boost response.

Incentives are consistent with numerous theories about survey participation (Singer and Ye 2013), such as the theory of reasoned action (Ajzen and Fishbein 1980), social exchange theory (Dillman et al. 2014), and leverage-salience theory (Groves, Singer, and Corning 2000). Inclusion of an incentive acts as a sign of good will on the part of the study sponsors and encourages reciprocity of that goodwill by the respondent. Although these incentives do not necessarily have to be monetary in nature, a substantial literature has shown that monetary pre-incentives (as opposed to promises of money or gifts following participation) are effective at increasing overall response rates.

A comprehensive review of the use of incentives in surveys was conducted by Singer (2002). She notes that giving respondents a small financial incentive (even a token amount) in the first mailing increases response rates in mail-based surveys and is cost-effective. Such prepaid incentives are more effective than larger promised incentives that are contingent on completion of the questionnaire. In a review of more recent studies analyzing the effects of incentives on survey response, Singer and Ye (2013) confirm earlier findings that incentives increase response rates across survey modes (including web), monetary incentives have a stronger effect than non-monetary incentives, and prepaid (upfront) incentives have a bigger effect than promised or lottery based incentives. Another recent meta-analysis by Mercer et al. (2015) confirms these findings, although they could not identify a statistically significant effect on response rates of promised incentives. Their results show that a prepaid incentive leads to at least a 6 percentage point increase in response rates for mail surveys.

For specialized populations, the effects of incentives have been studied recently in the context of physicians by Dykema et al. (2011). They found that small pre-incentives were not effective at increasing response rates in a web survey, while the largest proffered pre-incentive (\$100) led to the highest statistically significant response rate increase. In another web-based study of a

⁴ Since the survey is lengthy and requires information that the respondent may not have ready or available during the telephone call, the follow-up phone call is expected to primarily be a means to encourage response and clarify the purpose and need for the study, and not to collect data for the survey.

similar population of doctors, Halpern et al. (2011) could not find evidence that promised incentives increased response rates, while monetary pre-incentives were shown to effectively increase response rates. Another study using mail surveys was done by James et al. (2010) and found response rates are highest for prepaid incentives. However, their study design did not include a no incentive control, so it is unknown what effect the promised incentives had relative to no incentive. For a non-medical specialized population survey, a mail survey of owners of small construction companies, James and Bolstein (1992) showed that prepaid incentives increased response rates at an increasing rate with amount, but that the promised incentive did not affect response rates relative to the control group (no incentive).

Given these findings, we believe a small prepaid incentive will boost response rates relative to previous surveys and would be the most cost effective means to increase response rates. A uniform \$5 prepaid incentive was chosen due to considerations for the specialized population being targeted. Communication between charter business owners in the population is prevalent, at least at the local level, but also through regional and statewide charter associations. An incentive that is too low will likely be viewed as too insignificant and perhaps insulting. \$5 is an incentive level that is affordable within the funding available for the project and is an amount that is likely to be viewed as a sign of goodwill without being too low to be disregarded.

Non-respondents

We anticipate the use of monetary prepaid incentives will lead to response rates that are at least 6 percentage points higher than the average response rate achieved in the previous three implementations of this survey. As noted above, we expect at least a 31% response rate. Still, we acknowledge that this response rate is low in absolute terms. Although the relatively low unit response rates for these surveys are not uncommon among voluntary cost and earnings surveys of commercial fisheries (Holland et al. 2012), they are below usual benchmark levels, such as those recommended in Dolsen and Machlis (1991). This suggests that adjustments must be made for missing data in order for the population-level estimates to be calculated with confidence.

We addressed survey unit non-response through sample weighting methods described in more detail in Lew et al. (2015a)⁵. These methods involve applying weights to individuals in the sample that adjust for the missing data associated with unreturned questionnaires. The objective is to give more weight to underrepresented individuals in the sample and less weight to overrepresented individuals in the sample so that the sample better reflects the profile of the population. In this context, representativeness can be determined by sample selection, external data on the sample respondents and non-respondents, or some combination thereof. A handful of studies have applied weighting methods to adjust for unit non-response in economic surveys of participants in recreational (Fisher 1996, Hunt and Ditton 2002, Tseng, Huang et al. 2012) and commercial (Knapp 1996, Knapp 1997) fisheries.

⁵ Lew et al. (2015a) apply survey statistical methods commonly employed in the survey literature to adjust for unit non-response in the 2012 survey data described in this report. For more information about dealing with unit and item non-response in the survey statistics literature, see Brick and Kalton (1996), Groves et al. (2002), Little and Vartivarian (2003), Lohr (2010), and Graham (2012).

The non-response adjustment weight is designed to account for any differences between charter businesses that responded and those from the population who did not. As was done with the previously collected survey data (Lew et al 2015b), in this study we will be exploiting an auxiliary dataset obtained from the ADF&G's Saltwater Charter Logbook Program that contains information for the population of charter businesses concerning when fishing occurred during the year, the amount of fishing effort, the species of fish targeted, and clientele type. Since the auxiliary dataset provides information about both respondents and non-respondents, a logit regression model (response propensity regression) can be used to estimate the likelihood of a charter business responding to the survey as a function of auxiliary variables collected in the logbooks.

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.

For the original OMB approval, we conducted several focus groups with fewer than ten members of the target population, as well as a handful of cognitive interviews, during the survey design phase to test survey materials. Moreover, the survey design and implementation plan have benefited from review by individuals with expertise in fishing economic survey design and implementation.

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 following individuals were consulted on the statistical aspects of the design:

Dr. Dan Lew
Economist
NOAA Fisheries
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
(530) 554-1842
Dan.lew@noaa.gov

Dr. Amber Himes-Cornell
Social Scientist (formerly with NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center)

Dr. Dan Lew is responsible for analyzing the data.

The survey will be conducted in cooperation with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:

David Colpo
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97202
(503) 595-3100

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Alaska Saltwater Sport Fishing Charter Business Survey

2015 Season



Photo credit: R. Yamada



This survey is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a U.S. government agency charged with making decisions about halibut management.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 90 minutes, including time for reviewing instructions, reviewing existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-0647
Expiration Date: XXXX XX, 201X

SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

This is a voluntary survey.

- ◇ Your responses to the survey questions should reflect information about your saltwater sport fishing charter business.
- ◇ If you have questions or anything is unclear, please contact Geana Tyler at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, (888) 421-4251.
- ◇ If you are unable to answer the question, please write why you are unable to answer in the margin (for example, information is unavailable).

RESPONDENT IDENTIFICATION

All questions relate to you and the sport fishing charter business you licensed during 2015.

- A1** What are the business name and license number of your business as listed on the ADF&G Sport Fish Business Owner license?

_____ *Sport fish business name*

_____ *ADF&G sport fish business owner license number*

- A2** Please list the DMV-issued Alaska Vessel Number or U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Documentation Number for all (or up to 10) active vessels that this business operated during the 2015 season and indicate if the vessel was owned by the business or if it was leased from another person or business. *Include only saltwater vessels for which your business incurred expenses and/or received revenue.*

Vessel license number	Owned <input type="checkbox"/>	Leased <input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 1: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 2: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 3: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 4: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 5: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 6: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 7: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 8: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 9: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel 10: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMPLOYMENT IN 2015

The next few questions are about employment and compensation of vessel operators and licensed guides, deckhands and other crew members, and other individuals employed by this business in 2015.

For these questions:

- The **early shoulder** season refers to the period from April 1 to mid-June.
- The **main season** refers to the period from mid-June to mid-August.
- The **late shoulder** season is from mid-August to the end of September.
- The **off-season** is the period from October through March.

B1 How many individuals worked for the business primarily as hired vessel operators and/or licensed sport fishing guides during each period in 2015, *not including owners of this business? For each period, please report the number of individuals who worked full-time and part-time separately.*

	Early shoulder	Main season	Late shoulder	Off- season
Full-time (at least 35 hours per week during most of the period).....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Part-time (less than 35 hours per week during most of the period).....	_____	_____	_____	_____

B2 How many individuals worked for the business primarily as hired deckhands or other on-board crew during each period in 2015, *not including owners of this business? For each period, please report the number of individuals who worked full-time and part-time separately.*

	Early shoulder	Main season	Late shoulder	Off- season
Full-time (at least 35 hours per week during most of the period).....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Part-time (less than 35 hours per week during most of the period).....	_____	_____	_____	_____

B3 How many individuals were hired and worked for the business primarily on-shore during each period in 2015 (examples: business manager, guest services, administrative employees, etc)? *Do not include independent contractors that provide the same service to multiple businesses, or owners of this business. For each period, please report the number of individuals who worked full-time and part-time separately.*

	Early shoulder	Main season	Late shoulder	Off-season
Full-time (at least 35 hours per week during most of the period).....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Part-time (less than 35 hours per week during most of the period).....	_____	_____	_____	_____

B4 For work performed in 2015, how much did you pay in total to hired vessel operators and guides, deckhands and other crew, and on-shore employees? *Include only payment of wages and other monetary compensation; do not include non-wage benefits (for example, health insurance), other payroll expenses (for example, unemployment insurance), or any payments to owners of this business.*

Worker type	Total payments
Vessel operators/guides.....	\$ _____
Deckhands and other on-board crew.....	\$ _____
On-shore employees.....	\$ _____

B5 What forms of compensation were used for hired vessel operators and guides, deckhands and other crew, and on-shore employees in 2015? *For each worker type, please check the box for each form of compensation that was used to pay one or more individuals, not including owners of this business. Check all that apply.*

Worker type	Daily/hourly wage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Salary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revenue share <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vessel operators/guides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Deckhands and other on-board crew.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
On-shore workers.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

YOUR 2015 FISHING TRIP OFFERINGS AND SERVICES

C1 During 2015, which of the following trip types did you offer? *Check all that apply.*

- Fishing only
- Combination fishing and hunting
- Combination fishing and dedicated eco-tour/wildlife-viewing
- Eco-tour/wildlife viewing only (no fishing)
- Outfitting (example: saltwater fishing gear rental)
- Game transport
- General transportation/water taxi (no outfitting/game transport)
- Event-hosting services
- Research or oil spill monitoring and response
- Other, please describe: _____

C2 Many businesses offer saltwater fishing trips targeting multiple species (“combination fishing trips”). During 2015, what was the average price per person and the full boat price (chartering the whole boat independent of the number of clients) that you charged clients for the following types of combination fishing trips you may have advertised offering? *If you did not advertise or offer, please check the “Not offered” box.*

Type of combination fishing trip	Not offered <input type="checkbox"/>	Average price per person	Full boat price
<u>Two-species combination fishing trips</u>			
“Half day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Three-quarter day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Full day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Overnight” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Multi-day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
<u>Multiple-species combination fishing trip (more than two species)</u>			
“Half day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Three-quarter day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Full day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Overnight” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Multi-day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____

C3 During 2015, what was the average price per person and the full boat price (chartering the whole boat independent of the number of clients) that you charged clients for **halibut, king salmon, silver salmon, or other saltwater species** fishing trips targeting a single species that you may have advertised offering? *If you did not advertise or offer, please check the “Not offered” box.*

Type of fishing trip	Not offered <input type="checkbox"/>	Average price per person	Full boat price
<u>Halibut fishing trips</u>			
“Half day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Three-quarter day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Full day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Overnight” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Multi-day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
<u>King or silver salmon fishing trips</u>			
“Half day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Three-quarter day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Full day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Overnight” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Multi-day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
<u>Other saltwater species fishing trips</u>			
“Half day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Three-quarter day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Full day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Overnight” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____
“Multi-day” trip.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	\$ _____

C4 Of the following fishing-related services, which did you typically include as part of each saltwater fishing package you offered in 2015, which were offered for an added fee, and which were not offered? *For services offered for an additional fee, please indicate how much the fee is per person. If a fee is not charged on a per person basis, please write in the basis for the fee (examples: \$10/trip, \$10/pound) in the margin.*

Fishing-related services	Not offered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Included in one or more trip package? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charge an added fee? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount of added fee per person (<i>indicate if fee is charged on other basis</i>)
Long-distance fishing locations (including fuel surcharge).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Fish cleaning (head/gut).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Fish cleaning (skinning, scaling, filleting, etc).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Packing and shipping.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Transport to/from charter vessel.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
On-shore lodging.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
On-vessel lodging.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Cooked meals (breakfast/lunch/dinner)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Beverages/snacks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Bait.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Ice.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Fishing gear.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Other gear.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Souvenirs/keepsakes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____
Other (please describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____

C5 During 2015, did you offer paid lodging to visitors that were not customers of the charter business?

- Yes
- No

C6 What sales and revenue were generated from your charter business in 2015? *For each source of revenue, please indicate the number of units sold and total revenue received.*

Revenue source	Number of units sold	Total revenue
Charter trips reported in charter logbook – payment received directly from client...	_____ total clients (seats sold) _____ total trips	\$ _____
Charter trips reported in charter logbook – payment received from booking agent or other service.....	_____ total clients (seats sold) _____ total trips	\$ _____
Non-fishing charter trips – not reported in charter logbook (examples: transport, hunting-only, eco-tours).....	_____ total clients _____ total trips	\$ _____
Client referrals/booking commission revenue.....	_____ total client referrals/bookings	\$ _____
Federal Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) sales.....	_____ total endorsements sold	\$ _____
Federal Charter Halibut Permit (CHP)leases.....	_____ total endorsements leased	\$ _____

Note: If you have a printed rate sheet, brochure, or other promotional material for your business that describes saltwater charter services offered and prices, please enclose a copy with your completed survey in the return envelope.

YOUR COSTS IN 2015

The next questions ask about your business' operating costs, excluding the wages paid to employees reported in Section B. The questions are organized to make it easy to use federal tax return information and other common financial records to answer them.

- Question D1 requests information on business expenses that are generally deductible for federal tax purposes and are likely calculated with information from your federal tax return. Expenses typically based on individual charter trips are listed separately from those for other goods and services that contribute to general business overhead.
- Question D2 requests estimated costs related to major assets used by your business. These may include payments you make that are not deductible for federal tax purposes, so it may be necessary to use mortgage or checking account statements, in addition to your federal tax return, to help you estimate these costs.

D1 How much did your business pay during 2015 for goods and services listed in the table below?

Expense type	Amount paid
<u>Charter trip operating expenses</u>	
Vessel fuel.....	\$ _____
Fish handling, processing, packaging, and shipping.....	\$ _____
Broker or agent referral/commission fees.....	\$ _____
Vessel cleaning.....	\$ _____
Supplies (examples: ice, bait, food and beverage).....	\$ _____
Other vessel or trip operating expenses.....	\$ _____
Guided angler fish (GAF) leases.....	\$ _____
<u>General overhead expenses</u>	
Non-wage payroll costs, including health insurance and other employee benefits.....	\$ _____
Utilities, including telephone and internet service.....	\$ _____
Repair and maintenance expenses.....	\$ _____
Insurance (vessel, hull, property & indemnity, liability, etc., <u>excluding health insurance</u>).....	\$ _____
Travel, meals, and entertainment (include transportation and per diem costs for employee or crew if paid by business, and trade show/marketing-related travel)...	\$ _____
Office and general supplies.....	\$ _____
Legal and professional services, accounting, and advertising.....	\$ _____
Financial services (merchant and bank fees) and mortgage interest payments.	\$ _____
Taxes and licensing fees.....	\$ _____
Vehicle fuel costs.....	\$ _____
Other general overhead expenses.....	\$ _____

D2 How much did you pay to purchase, improve, or use the items listed below? *To help us distinguish annual expenditures from new long-term investments, please estimate separate amounts paid in 2015 for:*

- **Cash payments** in 2015: total rental/lease payments, purchases and improvements fully paid for during 2015, and loan payments on purchases and improvements financed during or before 2015
- **New investments** in 2015: total investment costs financed by loans issued during 2015, including loan principal, taxes and fees, and down payment amount

Item	Cash payments	New investments
<u>Vehicles, machinery, and equipment</u>		
Vessel(s) and major vessel-related equipment.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Vehicles (car/truck).....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Fishing gear, tackle, personal safety equipment.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other machinery and equipment.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
<u>Buildings, land and other real estate</u>		
Moorage/slip, boatyard and equipment storage space.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Office space, lodging, and other shore-side facilities.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Transferable fishing permits and licenses.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other business-related property and assets.....	\$ _____	\$ _____

YOUR CLIENTS IN 2015

E1 During 2015, about what percentage of your clients were return customers or personal referrals from previous customers? *Check the box of the best answer.*

- None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

E2 During 2015, about what percentage of your clients booked their trips one month or more in advance? *Check the box of the best answer.*

- None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

E3 During 2015, about what percentage of your clients booked their trips less than 48 hours in advance? *Check the box of the best answer.*

- None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

E4 During 2015, about what percentage of your clients were booked independently, through a cruise ship, through a specialty charter booking service, or through a general travel agent? *For each type of booking, check the box of the best answer.*

Independent bookings

None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

Cruise ship-based booking

None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

Specialty charter booking service (or charter business)

None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

General travel agent (or other booking service)

None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

OTHER BUSINESS AND HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

F1 Is your business structured as a C corporation? *A C corporation is taxed separately from its owners.*

- Yes → **skip** to the end of the survey
- No → continue to F2

F2 Which of the following business structures best describes your business? *Check the best answer.*

- Sole proprietorship
- Limited liability partnership (LLP), Limited liability company (LLC), or S Corporation
- Other: _____

F3 Please indicate the total percentage ownership share of this business held by you and other members of your household during 2015. *Your household includes family members and others who share your residence. Do not include family members that have their own residence outside of yours.*

My household's ownership share: _____%

F4 During 2015, how many members of your household, including yourself, worked for the business as vessel operators and guides, deckhands and other crew, and in work based primarily on-shore? *If an individual did more than one job, include them in the count for the job they did the most.*

- _____ Vessel operators/guides
- _____ Deckhands and other on-board crew
- _____ On-shore work

F5 During 2015, about what percentage of your total annual household income was earned from this business? *Check the best answer.*

- None 1-25% 26-50% 51-75% 75-99% 100%

F6 Which of the following best describes what you did during the 2014-15 off-season? *Check all that apply.*

- Continued work related to your charter business, including travel outside of Alaska
- Worked in Alaska in a commercial fishing-related job not related to your charter business
- Worked in Alaska in a non-fishing related job
- Lived in Alaska, but did not work
- Worked outside of Alaska in a recreational or commercial fishing-related job not related to your charter business
- Worked outside of Alaska in a non-fishing related job
- Lived outside of Alaska, but did not work

Do you have any comments in general or about how your charter business has been affected in the last 5 years or will likely be impacted in the next five years, either positively or negatively? Please use the space below or attach separate sheets to provide us your comments.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

SURVEY CORRESPONDENCE

ADVANCED LETTER

<DATE>

<First name> <Last name>
<Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip>

Dear <First name>,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is conducting a study to learn more about saltwater charter businesses like yours. With your help, the information we collect will enable us to better assess the economic effects of management and regulatory actions (currently in place or potential) on Alaska charter boat fishing businesses and the communities in which they operate. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is working with us to administer the survey.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game records indicate that you registered a saltwater charter business for 2015. In the next few days, you will receive a packet in the mail from NOAA and PSMFC containing a survey booklet and a postage-paid return envelope, as well as instructions for how to complete the survey on-line if that is preferable.

The survey asks about your involvement in charter fishing, including information about your vessel(s) and crew, services you offer to clients, and cost and earning information associated with your business.

Only aggregated results from the survey will be released publicly. Your personal information will not be disclosed. All data will be kept in password-protected files and will only be accessible to authorized personnel responsible for management and research of fisheries under the authority of NOAA.

Your response is voluntary, but important. The information you provide may be used to help shape decisions about federal government actions on saltwater charter boat fishing in Alaska. However, if too few responses are obtained, the results of the analysis cannot pass scientific standards, and thus will not be used to inform decision makers. Therefore, to make sure that the best possible information is obtained about Alaskan charter businesses, we need to hear from you.

If you have any questions about this study, please call toll free (877) 741-8913 and speak with Geana Tyler.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Lew
Project Director
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

INITIAL LETTER

<DATE>

<First name> <Last name>

<Address>

<City>, <State> <Zip>

Dear <First name>,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is conducting a study to learn more about saltwater charter businesses like yours. With your help, the information we collect will enable us to better assess the economic effects of management and regulatory actions (currently in place or potential) on Alaska charter boat fishing businesses and the communities in which they operate. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is working with us to administer the survey, and you have received this survey packet because Alaska Department of Fish and Game records indicate that you registered a saltwater charter business for 2015.

The survey asks about your involvement in the charter fishing industry in Alaska. Some of the questions may require you to consult your records or work with other members of your charter business to answer. It is important that the information you provide is as complete and accurate as possible.

We have included instructions for accessing a secure online version of the survey, which requires a unique login ID and password. The online survey is designed to minimize the time required to complete the survey. We have also included a printed copy of the survey and a postage-paid return envelope. Both versions of the survey ask identical questions, and we ask that you use whichever version is most convenient for you.

This survey takes most people about 90 minutes to complete. After you've completed the survey, please return it to PSMFC in the enclosed self-addressed and postage-paid envelope.

Only aggregated results from the survey will be released publicly. Your personal information will not be disclosed. All data will be kept in password-protected files and will only be accessible to authorized personnel responsible for management and research of fisheries under the authority of NOAA.

Your response is voluntary, but important. The information you provide may be used to help shape decisions about federal government actions on charter fishing in Alaska. However, if too few responses are obtained, the results of the analysis cannot pass scientific standards, and thus will not be used to inform decision makers. Therefore, to make sure that the best possible information is obtained about Alaskan charter businesses, we need to hear from you.

Please complete the survey to the best of your ability and return it no later than [DATE]. If you have any questions about this study or about any of the questions in the survey, please call toll free (877) 741-8913 and speak with Geana Tyler. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Lew
Project Director
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

P.S. We have enclosed a small token of appreciation as a way to say thanks for completing the survey!

POSTCARD FOLLOWUP

Last week a survey was mailed to you seeking information about your business' involvement in saltwater charter boat fishing in Alaska.

If you have already completed and returned the paper survey, or completed the online survey, please accept our sincere thanks. If you have not, we ask that you do so today.

Your response is voluntary, but important. The information you provide may be used to help shape decisions about federal government actions on saltwater charter boat fishing in Alaska. To make sure that enough responses are returned for the data to be useful, and the best possible information is obtained about Alaskan charter businesses, we need to hear from you. Please complete the enclosed survey to the best of your ability and return it no later than [DATE].

If you need another paper copy of the survey or instructions on accessing the survey online, please call toll free (877) 741-8913 and speak with Geana Tyler and one will be mailed to you today.

Thank you for your help.

Dr. Dan Lew
Project Director
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

SECOND MAILING

<DATE>

<First name> <Last name>
<Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip>

Dear <First name>,

A couple weeks ago, a survey was mailed to you seeking information about your business' involvement in Alaskan charter fishing.

If you have already completed and returned the paper survey, or completed the online survey, please accept our sincere thanks. If you have not, we ask that you do so today. We have enclosed another copy of the survey and instructions on accessing the secure online version of the survey in case you have misplaced the original mailing package we sent. We understand that you personally might not have all of the answers to the questions, and we fully expect you to collaborate with as many people as needed within your business to complete the survey. The key is that the information you provide is as complete and accurate as possible.

Only aggregated results from the survey will be released publicly. Your personal information will not be disclosed. All data will be kept in password-protected files and will only be accessible to authorized personnel responsible for management and research of fisheries under the authority of NOAA.

This survey takes most people about 90 minutes to complete. After you've completed the survey, please return it in the enclosed self-addressed and postage-paid envelope.

Although your participation is voluntary, your response will help us get a better understanding about charter businesses in Alaska, information that may be used to help shape decisions about federal government actions on charter fishing in Alaska. To make sure that the best possible information is obtained about Alaskan charter businesses, we need to hear from you. So please complete the enclosed survey to the best of your ability and return it to PSMFC no later than [DATE].

If you have any questions about this study or any of the questions in the survey, please call toll free (877) 741-8913 and speak with Geana Tyler. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Lew
Project Director
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

TELEPHONE FOLLOW-UP

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in Portland, Oregon, on behalf of National Marine Fisheries Service's Alaska Fisheries Science Center. I am trying to reach [name on address].

[IF NOT AVAILABLE] Thank you, I will call back later. When would be a good time to reach [name on address]?

[IF QUALIFIED RESPONDENT IS ON THE PHONE]

QA Recently, we mailed you a questionnaire asking you about your charter business structure, costs and revenue. The survey had a picture of charter boats on the cover and was titled the Alaska Charter Boat Sport Fishing Cost and Earnings Survey. Do you remember receiving that questionnaire?

1 YES

2 NO [*SKIP TO QA2*]

QA1 As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire. As a member of the charter fishing industry in Alaska, you are probably aware of the smaller number of charter operators that remain in operation in Alaska and their importance to local economies. As one of the remaining operators, your response is very important, and we would greatly appreciate it if you would participate in the survey. The online version of the survey is most convenient for computer users— would it be possible for you to complete the online survey in the next week?

1 YES [*SKIP TO VERIFY 1*]

2 NO TO INTERNET [*SKIP TO QA3*]

3 NO TO SURVEY [*SKIP TO QB*]

4 SURVEY HAS ALREADY BEEN RETURNED [*THANK YOU, SKIP TO CONTINUE*]

QA2 We are collecting information about saltwater charter businesses like yours to help the federal government better assess the economic effects of management and regulatory actions (currently in place or potential) on Alaska charter boat fishing businesses and the communities in which they operate. Your input is very important since if too few people respond, the results of the analysis cannot pass scientific standards, and thus will not be used to inform decision makers on the charter boat sector and how it may be affected by their decisions. The online version of the survey is most convenient for computer users – would it be possible for you to complete the online survey in the next week?

1 YES [*SKIP TO VERIFY 1*]

2 NO TO INTERNET [*SKIP TO QA3*]

3 NO TO SURVEY [*SKIP TO QB*]

4 SURVEY HAS ALREADY BEEN RETURNED [*THANK YOU, SKIP TO CONTINUE*]

QA3 Okay, If we send you another survey, could you find the time to complete the survey and return it to us by mail within a week of receiving it?

- 1 YES – *[SKIP TO VERIFY 2]*
- 3 NO - *[SKIP TO QB]*

VERIFY 1: (If they indicate they'll take survey online)

To ensure the security of information provided in the online survey, we included a user id and password to access our website in the survey packet we sent you in April. For your convenience I can email your id, a new password, and the web address for the survey if you don't still have it. Is your email address *[GIVE EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE]*?

- 1. YES, BUT DON'T NEED NEW PASSWORD*[SKIP TO CONTINUE]*
- 2. YES, SEND NEW PASSWORD *[FLAG FOR RESET]*
- 3. NO *[RECORD NEW EMAIL ADDRESS and FLAG FOR RESET]*

Thank you, I will email you the information today. *[GO TO CONTINUE]*

VERIFY 2 (If new survey needs to be sent)

I would like to verify the address for [name of business] as...

STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Is this correct?

- 1- NO – *[RECORD NEW ADDRESS.]*
- 2- YES

Okay, I will send another questionnaire out today. *[GO TO CONTINUE]*

CONTINUE (If they indicate survey has been or will be returned)

Thanks for your participation. *[GO TO QB]*

QB It is very important for our analysis that we understand how those who haven't returned the survey compare to those who did. This way we will not misinterpret the results. Could I take about 5 minutes to ask you a few questions that will help us with our work? I'd like to remind you that all of your answers are confidential and your name will not be revealed to anyone.

- 1 YES [*SKIP TO Q1*]
- 2 NO [*ASK FOR A MORE CONVENIENT TIME, OTHERWISE, THANK AND TERMINATE*]

CHARTER BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Q1 Which of the following business structures best describes your business? *Check the best answer.*

- 1 C Corporation
- 2 Sole proprietorship
- 3 Limited liability partnership (LLP), Limited liability company (LLC), or S corporation
- 4 Other
- 5 Don't know

Q2 Do you plan on operating this charter business in 2012?

- 1 YES [*SKIP TO Q3*]
- 2 NO [*GO ON TO Q2a*]

Q2a Why are you not going to operate in 2012? (indicate all that apply)

- 1 The business isn't profitable.
- 2 Regulatory requirements are too stringent.
- 3 Reporting requirements are too stringent.
- 4 I'm retiring.

[After Q2a is answered, skip to Q4]

Q3 Do you plan to change your business model in any way, for example, by changing the types of fishing trips you offer or adding other services besides guided fishing?

- 1 YES [*GO ON TO Q3a*]
- 2 NO [*GO ON TO Q4*]

Q3a How do you expect to change your business model? (Indicate any that apply)

- 1 I will not offer trips to fish for halibut any more or offer fewer trips for halibut.
- 2 I plan to offer more non-fishing trips.
- 3 I plan to offer trips to fish for multiple species in the same trip.

Q4 Does your business offer trips only in saltwater, only in freshwater or do you offer trips in both saltwater and freshwater?

- 1 Only saltwater
- 2 Only freshwater
- 3 Both saltwater and freshwater

Q5 During 2015, about what percentage of your total annual household income was earned from your charter business?

- 1 0-25%
- 2 26-50%
- 3 51-75%
- 4 75-100%

Q6 Which of the following best describes what you did during the 2010-11 off-season? *Check all that apply.*

- I continued work related to your charter business, including travel outside of Alaska
- I worked in Alaska in a fishing-related job not related to your charter business
- I worked in Alaska in a non-fishing related job
- I lived in Alaska, but do not work
- I worked outside of Alaska in a fishing-related job not related to your charter business
- I worked outside of Alaska in a non-fishing related job
- I lived outside of Alaska, but did not work

[IF RETURNING SURVEY] Thank you, this will help with our preliminary analysis. Receiving your completed survey will greatly help improve our understanding of charter business operations in Alaska. Thanks again, and have a good evening.

[IF NOT RETURNING QUESTIONNAIRE] That's all the questions I have for you. Do you have any comments that you would like to add? Thank you for your time. We really appreciate your participation in this brief survey. Thanks again, and have a good evening.

TERMINATE

[TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER]

Respondent gender: MALE
 FEMALE

LANG Language or other barrier:

- 1 YES, POSSIBLE LANGUAGE BARRIER
- 2 YES, DEFINITE LANGUAGE BARRIER
- 3 NO LANGUAGE, BUT OTHER TYPE OF BARRIER [*SPECIFY*]
- 4 NO BARRIERS

OTHER RESPONDENT COMMENTS

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS AND ANSWERS

[If concerned about purpose of the call] This is not a marketing or sales call. We are collecting public input for government, industry, and citizen groups to consider when evaluating ways to manage fish species, like halibut, that are targeted by charter businesses in Alaska. I want to assure you that your answers will be kept confidential and your name will not be revealed to anyone.

[If asking about the study sponsor] This survey is sponsored by NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service, a U.S. government agency charged with understanding the effects of federal management actions and policies affecting the nation's saltwater and freshwater fisheries.

ONLINE SURVEY INFORMATION

The following are instructions for accessing and using the online Charter Operator Survey, which provides a safe, quick method for completing the survey. This secure method will allow you to login to the survey and work at your own pace. At any time, you can save your answers and re-login at a later time to pick up where you left off.

If you would like to use the online version of the survey, please point your web browser to:

<http://www.psmfc.org/am80edr/edr>

For ADF&G Saltwater Charter License No: 1111

Your Login ID is: 2015A-1000A

Your password is: 4we7i5b

Please keep your Login ID and password secure. If this information gets misplaced or you are concerned about unauthorized access, please contact PSMFC and password will be reset.

We have taken several measures to protect the confidentiality of the data you submit through the online survey. These include:

1. Access to data you enter is password protected, and your user id and password are delivered to you by certified mail.
2. All logins to the website (successful and unsuccessful) are logged and the log will be monitored for signs of unauthorized access.
3. The database is password-protected on PSMFC's secure network.
4. Data traveling between your PC and the PSMFC Web server is encrypted for security using an SSL certificate from GoDaddy.com, Inc. (<http://www.godaddy.com/gdshop/ssl/ssl.asp>). The GoDaddy web site certificate safeguards sensitive data by securing online

If you have any questions about the online version of the EDR or need assistance with any questions on the EDR, please call toll free (877) 741-8913 and speak with Geana Tyler.

TELEPHONE FOLLOW-UP

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in Portland, Oregon, on behalf of National Marine Fisheries Service's Alaska Fisheries Science Center. I am trying to reach [name on address].

[IF NOT AVAILABLE] Thank you, I will call back later. When would be a good time to reach [name on address]?

[IF QUALIFIED RESPONDENT IS ON THE PHONE]

QA Recently, we mailed you a questionnaire asking you about your charter business structure, costs and revenue. The survey had a picture of charter boats on the cover and was titled the Alaska Charter Boat Sport Fishing Cost and Earnings Survey. Do you remember receiving that questionnaire?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [*SKIP TO QA2*]

QA1 As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire. As a member of the charter fishing industry in Alaska, you are probably aware of the smaller number of charter operators that remain in operation in Alaska and their importance to local economies. As one of the remaining operators, your response is very important, and we would greatly appreciate it if you would participate in the survey. The online version of the survey is most convenient for computer users— would it be possible for you to complete the online survey in the next week?

- 1 YES [*SKIP TO VERIFY 1*]
- 2 NO TO INTERNET [*SKIP TO QA3*]
- 3 NO TO SURVEY [*SKIP TO QB*]
- 4 SURVEY HAS ALREADY BEEN RETURNED [*THANK YOU, SKIP TO CONTINUE*]

QA2 We are collecting information about saltwater charter businesses like yours to help the federal government better assess the economic effects of management and regulatory actions (currently in place or potential) on Alaska charter boat fishing businesses and the communities in which they operate. Your input is very important since if too few people respond, the results of the analysis cannot pass scientific standards, and thus will not be used to inform decision makers on the charter boat sector and how it may be affected by their decisions. The online version of the survey is most convenient for computer users – would it be possible for you to complete the online survey in the next week?

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QA3 Okay, If we send you another survey, could you find the time to complete the survey and return it to us by mail within a week of receiving it?

- 1 YES – *[SKIP TO VERIFY 2]*
- 3 NO - *[SKIP TO QB]*

VERIFY 1: (If they indicate they'll take survey online)

To ensure the security of information provided in the online survey, we included a user id and password to access our website in the survey packet we sent you in April. For your convenience I can email your id, a new password, and the web address for the survey if you don't still have it. Is your email address *[GIVE EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE]*?

- 1. YES, BUT DON'T NEED NEW PASSWORD*[SKIP TO CONTINUE]*
- 2. YES, SEND NEW PASSWORD *[FLAG FOR RESET]*
- 3. NO *[RECORD NEW EMAIL ADDRESS and FLAG FOR RESET]*

Thank you, I will email you the information today. *[GO TO CONTINUE]*

VERIFY 2 (If new survey needs to be sent)

I would like to verify the address for [name of business] as...

STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Is this correct?

- 1- NO – *[RECORD NEW ADDRESS.]*
- 2- YES

Okay, I will send another questionnaire out today. *[GO TO CONTINUE]*

CONTINUE (If they indicate survey has been or will be returned)

Thanks for your participation. *[GO TO QB]*

QB It is very important for our analysis that we understand how those who haven't returned the survey compare to those who did. This way we will not misinterpret the results. Could I take about 5 minutes to ask you a few questions that will help us with our work? I'd like to remind you that all of your answers are confidential and your name will not be revealed to anyone.

- 1 YES [*SKIP TO Q1*]
- 2 NO [*ASK FOR A MORE CONVENIENT TIME, OTHERWISE, THANK AND TERMINATE*]

CHARTER BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Q1 Which of the following business structures best describes your business? *Check the best answer.*

- 1 C Corporation
- 2 Sole proprietorship
- 3 Limited liability partnership (LLP), Limited liability company (LLC), or S corporation
- 4 Other
- 5 Don't know

Q2 Do you plan on operating this charter business in 2012?

- 1 YES [*SKIP TO Q3*]
- 2 NO [*GO ON TO Q2a*]

Q2a Why are you not going to operate in 2012? (indicate all that apply)

- 1 The business isn't profitable.
- 2 Regulatory requirements are too stringent.
- 3 Reporting requirements are too stringent.
- 4 I'm retiring.

[After Q2a is answered, skip to Q4]

Q3 Do you plan to change your business model in any way, for example, by changing the types of fishing trips you offer or adding other services besides guided fishing?

- 1 YES [*GO ON TO Q3a*]
- 2 NO [*GO ON TO Q4*]

Q3a How do you expect to change your business model? (Indicate any that apply)

- 1 I will not offer trips to fish for halibut any more or offer fewer trips for halibut.
- 2 I plan to offer more non-fishing trips.
- 3 I plan to offer trips to fish for multiple species in the same trip.

Q4 Does your business offer trips only in saltwater, only in freshwater or do you offer trips in both saltwater and freshwater?

- 1 Only saltwater
- 2 Only freshwater
- 3 Both saltwater and freshwater

Q5 During 2015, about what percentage of your total annual household income was earned from your charter business?

- 1 0-25%
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Q6 Which of the following best describes what you did during the 2010-11 off-season? *Check all that apply.*

- I continued work related to your charter business, including travel outside of Alaska
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- I lived in Alaska, but do not work
- I worked outside of Alaska in a fishing-related job not related to your charter business
- I worked outside of Alaska in a non-fishing related job
- I lived outside of Alaska, but did not work

[IF RETURNING SURVEY] Thank you, this will help with our preliminary analysis. Receiving your completed survey will greatly help improve our understanding of charter business operations in Alaska. Thanks again, and have a good evening.

[IF NOT RETURNING QUESTIONNAIRE] That's all the questions I have for you. Do you have any comments that you would like to add? Thank you for your time. We really appreciate your participation in this brief survey. Thanks again, and have a good evening.

TERMINATE

[TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER]

Respondent gender: MALE
 FEMALE

LANG Language or other barrier:

- 1 YES, POSSIBLE LANGUAGE BARRIER
- 2 YES, DEFINITE LANGUAGE BARRIER
- 3 NO LANGUAGE, BUT OTHER TYPE OF BARRIER [*SPECIFY*]
- 4 NO BARRIERS

OTHER RESPONDENT COMMENTS

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS AND ANSWERS

[If concerned about purpose of the call] This is not a marketing or sales call. We are collecting public input for government, industry, and citizen groups to consider when evaluating ways to manage fish species, like halibut, that are targeted by charter businesses in Alaska. I want to assure you that your answers will be kept confidential and your name will not be revealed to anyone.

[If asking about the study sponsor] This survey is sponsored by NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service, a U.S. government agency charged with understanding the effects of federal management actions and policies affecting the nation's saltwater and freshwater fisheries.

ONLINE SURVEY INFORMATION

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For ADF&G Saltwater Charter License No: 1111

Your Login ID is: 2015A-1000A

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1. Access to data you enter is password protected, and your user id and password are delivered to you by certified mail.
2. All logins to the website (successful and unsuccessful) are logged and the log will be monitored for signs of unauthorized access.
3. The database is password-protected on PSMFC's secure network.
4. Data traveling between your PC and the PSMFC Web server is encrypted for security using an SSL certificate from GoDaddy.com, Inc. (<http://www.godaddy.com/gdshop/ssl/ssl.asp>). The GoDaddy web site certificate safeguards sensitive data by securing online

If you have any questions about the online version of the EDR or need assistance with any questions on the EDR, please call toll free (877) 741-8913 and speak with Geana Tyler.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration**

[A-533-813]

Certain Preserved Mushrooms from India: Partial Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2014-2015

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) is partially rescinding its administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain preserved mushrooms (mushrooms) from India for the period February 1, 2014, through January 31, 2015 (POR).

DATES: *Effective Date:* July 21, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Johnson or Terre Keaton Stefanova, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4929 or (202) 482-1280, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On February 2, 2015, the Department published in the **Federal Register** a notice of “Opportunity to Request Administrative Review” of the antidumping duty order on mushrooms from India for the POR.¹

On March 2, 2015, in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and 19 CFR 351.213(b), the Department received timely requests from Monterey Mushrooms Inc. (the petitioner), and Sunny Dell Foods Inc. (Sunny Dell), a domestic interested party, to conduct an administrative review of the sales of Agro Dutch Industries Limited (Agro Dutch), Himalya International Ltd. (Himalya), Hindustan Lever Ltd. (formerly Ponds India, Ltd.) (Hindustan), Transchem Ltd. (Transchem), and Weikfield Foods Pvt. Ltd (Weikfield).²

On April 3, 2015, the Department published in the **Federal Register** a notice of initiation of an administrative review of the antidumping duty order

on mushrooms from India with respect to the above-named companies.³

On May 1, 2015, we received a no shipment claim for the POR from Weikfield.⁴

On July 2, 2015, the petitioner and Sunny Dell timely withdrew their request for a review of Agro Dutch, Hindustan, Transchem, and Weikfield.⁵

Partial Rescission of Review

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(1), the Department will rescind an administrative review, in whole or in part, if the parties that requested a review withdraw the request within 90 days of the date of publication of notice of initiation of the requested review. The petitioner’s and Sunny Dell’s withdrawal requests were filed before the 90-day deadline. Therefore, in response to the withdrawals of request for review of Agro Dutch, Hindustan, Transchem and Weikfield, and pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(1), we are rescinding this review with regard to these companies. However, because the petitioner and Sunny Dell did not withdraw their requests for review of Himalya, the instant review will continue with respect to this company.

Assessment

The Department will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. For the companies for which this review is rescinded, antidumping duties shall be assessed at rates equal to the cash deposit of estimated antidumping duties required at the time of entry, or withdrawal from warehouse, for consumption, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(c)(1)(i). The Department intends to issue appropriate assessment instructions directly to CBP 15 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as the only 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 may result in the presumption that reimbursement of

antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

Notification Regarding Administrative Protective Order

This notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of return/ destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

This notice is published in accordance with section 751 of the Act and 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4).

Dated: July 15, 2015.

Christian Marsh,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

[FR Doc. 2015-17839 Filed 7-20-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Recreational Charter Vessel Guide and Owner Data Collection**

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 September 21, 2015.

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

¹ See *Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity to Request Administrative Review*, 80 FR 5509 (February 2, 2015).

² See March 2, 2015, letters from the petitioner and Sunny Dell regarding request for administrative review.

³ See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 80 FR 18202 (April 3, 2015).

⁴ See Letter from Weikfield to the Department, dated April 30, 2015.

⁵ See July 2, 2015, letters from the petitioner and Sunny Dell regarding withdrawal of request for review.

directed to Amber Himes-Cornell, (206) 526-4221; or Amber.Himes@noaa.gov or Dan.Lew@noaa.gov, (530) 554-1842, or Dan.Lew@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for reinstatement, with changes of a previously approved information collection.

Numerous management measures have recently been proposed or implemented that affect recreational charter boat fishing for Pacific halibut off Alaska. On January 5, 2010, NMFS issued a final rule establishing a limited entry permit system for charter vessels in the guided halibut sport fishery in International Pacific Halibut Commission Areas 2C (Southeast Alaska) and 3A (Central Gulf of Alaska) (75FR554). This permit system is intended to address concerns about the growth of fishing capacity in this fishery sector, which accounts for a substantial portion of the overall recreational halibut catch in Alaska. On March 16, 2011, a size limit on Pacific halibut caught while charter boat fishing in Area 2C for the 2011 fishing season was established (76FR14300). In addition, a Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (76FR44156) was implemented in 2014 that altered the way Pacific halibut is allocated between the guided sport (*i.e.*, the charter sector) and the commercial halibut fishery.

To assess the effect of regulatory restrictions (currently in place or potential) on charter operator and owner behavior and welfare, it is necessary to obtain a better general understanding of the Alaska recreational charter boat industry. Some information useful for this purpose is already collected from existing sources, such as charter vessel logbooks administered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). In addition, a voluntary survey under this OMB Control Number administered to collect economic information for three fishing seasons (2011–2013) from business owners in the charter fleet was administered between 2012 and 2014. It collected information on vessel and crew characteristics, services offered to clients, spatial and temporal aspects of their operations and fishing behavior, and costs and earnings information for the three fishing seasons prior to implementation of the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan. These data were collected directly from the industry since they are not available from other existing data sources. A description of the previously-fielded survey and a summary of the results are available in a NOAA Technical Memorandum that can be accessed at <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/>

Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-299.pdf.

To evaluate changes in the charter sector associated with the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan, the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Alaska Fisheries Science Center proposes to continue the implementation of the survey of charter vessel owners to collect annual cost, earnings, and employment data that will supplement logbook data collected by ADF&G. The proposed data collection will provide another three years of basic economic information about the charter sector beyond the 2011 to 2013 data that was collected previously, including revenues produced from different products and services provided to clients, fixed and variable operating costs, and locations of purchases. These data will support improved analysis and of the effects of fisheries regulations on the charter fishing industry, information that is increasingly needed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and NMFS to more completely understand ongoing halibut allocation issues and other fishery management issues involving the charter industry. The survey will have minor changes, including, possibly, a small set of questions about how charter vessels have been impacted by a new management program)

II. Method of Collection

The method of data collection will be a survey of charter vessel owners implemented through a voluntary mail questionnaire.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0647.

Form Number: None.

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

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,200.

Estimated Time per Response: 60 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,200.

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: July 15, 2015.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015–17768 Filed 7–20–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting of the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee (Committee). The Committee provides advice to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on spectrum management policy matters.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 26, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Boeing Regional Headquarters, 929 Long Bridge Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. Public comments may be mailed to Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4099, Washington, DC 20230 or emailed to BWashington@ntia.doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bruce M. Washington, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 482–6415 or BWashington@ntia.doc.gov; and/or visit NTIA's Web site at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/csmac>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Committee provides