NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 10/30/2013

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received
07/19/2013

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201306-0648-005
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0652
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: 10/31/2016 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	53,400	8,900	0
New	153,000	25,500	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	120,000	20,000	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	-20,400	-3,400	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
Resident Angler Survey	NA	Weather and outdoor activity survey	
Nonresident Angler Survey	NA	Weather and outdoor activity survey	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

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

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/NMFS

2. OMB control number b. [ ] None
a. 0648 - 0652

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

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

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

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

7. Title
Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey

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

9. Keywords
Fishing

10. Abstract

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) be upgraded and that future fishing surveys target anglers licensed or registered at the State or Federal level. Several pilot studies to test new survey methods have been completed. This revision is requested to implement a new method for collecting recreational fishing effort data on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Results of this data collection will be used to calculate bi-monthly estimates of marine recreational fishing participation and effort.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. P 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 (*check one*)
a. [✔] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden

a. Number of respondents	153,000
b. Total annual responses	153,000
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically	0 %
c. Total annual hours requested	25,500
d. Current OMB inventory	8,900
e. Difference	16,600
f. Explanation of difference	
1. Program change	20,000
2. Adjustment	-3,400

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden *(in thousands of dollars)*

a. Total annualized capital/startup costs	0
b. Total annual costs (O&M)	0
c. Total annualized cost requested	0
d. Current OMB inventory	0
e. Difference	0
f. Explanation of difference	
1. Program change	0
2. Adjustment	0

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

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

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

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Rob Andrews
Phone: (301) 427-8105

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

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

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

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

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

(i) Why the information is being collected;

(ii) Use of information;

(iii) Burden estimate;

(iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);

(v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and

(vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

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

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature signed by Dr. Ned Cyr	Date 06/03/2013
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Digitally signed by BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=OTHER, cn=BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Date: 2013.11.01 15:16:44 -04'00'	Date 06/07/2013

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM (MRIP) FISHING EFFORT SURVEY
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0652

A. JUSTIFICATION

This request is for a revision of a currently approved collection, to implement the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey (MFES) in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and all states along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, with the exception of Texas.

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

Collection of recreational fisheries catch and effort data is necessary to fulfill statutory requirements of Section 303 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852 et. seq.) and to comply with Executive Order 12962 on Recreational Fisheries. Section 303 (a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies data and analyses to be included in Fishery Management Plans (FMPs), as well as pertinent data that shall be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce under the plan.

Currently, recreational fishing effort data (number of fishing trips) are collected through the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS), a list-assisted, random digit dial telephone survey of coastal county households (OMB Control No. 0648-0052). In recent years, the efficiency and effectiveness of RDD surveys in general, and the CHTS specifically, have been questioned due to declining rates of coverage and response. To address concerns about the CHTS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) commissioned a review of the survey by the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies of Science. The NRC Review concluded that existing recreational fishing surveys suffer from inefficiency, potential bias due to under-coverage, and potential bias due to nonresponse (NRC, 2006).

Specific recommendations and conclusions from the NRC Review include the following:

- "Future telephone surveys should be based on a universal sampling frame";
- "Offsite sampling methods that rely on telephone interviews are complicated by the increasing use of cell phones";
- "The existing random digit dial (RDD) survey suffers in efficiency";
- "The existing random digit dial (RDD) survey may allow bias in estimation from its restriction to coastal counties only";
- "Dual-frame procedures should be used whenever possible to reduce sample bias".

NMFS has addressed these concerns by implementing the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and developing and testing alternative survey designs. Over the past several years, under OMB Control Nos. 0648-0052 and 0648-0652, NMFS has sequentially tested several alternatives to the CHTS with a goal of replacing the CHTS with a more accurate and efficient survey of recreational fishing activity. The various designs that have been studied through MRIP pilot studies are described below. More detailed descriptions of the data

collection designs and comparisons of estimates and metrics of survey quality, such as response rates and coverage rates, are documented elsewhere (Brick et al., 2012).

Angler License Directory Telephone Survey

As noted by the NRC, a more efficient approach for surveying anglers is to sample directly from a "universal sampling frame" of licensed saltwater anglers. Working collaboratively with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, the Gulf Coast states, and the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, MRIP has designed and tested Angler License Directory Telephone Surveys (ALDS), which sample from state databases of licensed anglers. The ALDS was implemented as a pilot project in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana in 2007 and expanded to North Carolina in 2008. Currently, the survey is being administered in LA and NC.

As predicted, the ALDS is more efficient than the CHTS at identifying anglers – in a recent reference wave, 46% of ALDS respondents reported fishing, while only 6.5% of CHTS respondents reported fishing during the same wave. However, state license databases are not comprehensive - exemptions to state licensing requirements and unlicensed fishing activity, as well as incomplete and inaccurate contact information for individuals included on the sample frames, result in gaps in the coverage of the survey. Subsequent studies (Brick et al., 2012) have suggested that undercoverage due to unlicensed fishing activity may be as high as 70% in some states for certain types of fishing activity, and that as many as 20% of frame entries may be unreachable due to "bad" (missing, nonworking, wrong number) telephone numbers. In addition, response rates for the ALDS are only marginally higher than CHTS response rates. Consequently, MRIP has explored alternative data collection designs that provide greater coverage and are less susceptible to survey error.

Dual-Frame Telephone Survey

As noted above, the CHTS and the ALDS, considered individually, do not provide complete coverage of the angler population; the CHTS excludes residents of non-coastal counties and households without landline telephone service, and the ALDS excludes unlicensed anglers. To compensate for potential sources of coverage error in the CHTS and ALDS, MRIP developed an estimation design that integrates CHTS and ALDS sampling in a dual-frame design (Lai and Andrews, 2008). The union of the CHTS and ALDS sample frames defines three domains; 1) anglers who can only be sampled from the CHTS frame (unlicensed anglers who reside in coastal counties and have a landline telephone); 2) anglers who can only be sampled from the ALDS frame (licensed anglers who reside outside of the coverage area of the CHTS or reside within the coverage area of the CHTS but don't have a landline telephone); and, 3) anglers who can be sampled from both the CHTS and ALDS frames (licensed anglers who reside in coastal counties and have a landline telephone). A fourth domain includes anglers who cannot be sampled by either the CHTS or ALDS (unlicensed anglers without landline telephones within the CHTS coverage area and unlicensed anglers residing outside the coverage area of the CHTS).

The dual-frame telephone survey design has greater coverage than either the CHTS or the ALDS independently. However, exclusions from the union of the CHTS and ALDS sample frames create a potentially significant coverage gap – for example, an estimated 38% of fishing trips in NC are taken by anglers who are not included on either the CHTS or ALDS frames (Andrews et al., 2010). In addition, partitioning anglers into the appropriate domains, and subsequently

adjusting sample weights, is based upon survey respondents' willingness and ability to classify themselves as licensed or unlicensed anglers. This is an unreliable approach for defining dual-frame domains (Andrews et al., 2010) and subsequently calculating unbiased survey weights. Finally, the dual-frame telephone survey approach is susceptible to nonresponse error due to the low response rates of the component surveys.

Dual-Frame Mail Survey

An alternative to the dual-frame telephone survey is to identify and contact anglers through a dual-frame mail survey design. MRIP initially tested the feasibility of a dual-frame mail survey design in NC in 2009, and conducted a follow-up study aimed at enhancing response rates and response times in NC and LA in 2010.

The specific details of the dual-frame mail survey design are described elsewhere (Andrews et al. 2010). Briefly, anglers are sampled from both state databases of licensed saltwater anglers and residential address frames maintained and made commercially available by the United States Postal Service. To address concerns about coverage, all addresses within the study states are included in the ABS sample frame (i.e., the sample was not limited to coastal counties). Domains defined by the union of the component sample frames are determined by matching the address-based sample (ABS) to the license databases by address and/or telephone number (for the cases in which a telephone number can be located through a commercial service for the ABS sample).

Sampling from the license frame is conducted in a single phase; sampled anglers are mailed a brief questionnaire that asks respondents to report the number of days fished from the shore and from a boat during a two-month reference wave. The ABS sampling is conducted in two phases; residential addresses are sampled and mailed a screening questionnaire to identify individuals who fished during the previous twelve months, and anglers identified in the screening phase are sent a second-phase questionnaire that is identical to the license sample questionnaire.

Results of the pilot studies were encouraging; sampling from the ABS frame provides nearly complete coverage of the population (Iannacchione, 2011), and response rates to the mail surveys were considerably higher than either the ALDS or CHTS (Andrews et al., 2010, Brick et al., 2012), minimizing the potential for nonresponse error. In addition, matching the ABS sample to license frames a priori by address and/or telephone number provides a more accurate means for defining domain membership that is not susceptible to recall error or inaccurate reporting. Frame matching also provides supplemental information for assessing nonresponse error for the ABS sample, and subsequently defining nonresponse weighting adjustment cells.

The dual-frame mail survey design provides many benefits over telephone survey approaches and addresses many of the concerns identified by the NRC. However, frame matching is not 100% accurate, resulting in misclassification of domain membership for some sample units; generally frame units that could have been sampled from both frames are excluded from the overlapping domain due to a failure to match. Subsequently, dual-frame weights are not down-weighted appropriately, resulting in an overestimation of fishing effort (Brick et al., 2012). In addition, there are concerns that a mail survey design cannot satisfy customer needs for timely estimates, although comparisons between early mail survey returns and later survey returns show

little difference in terms of fishing activity, suggesting that preliminary effort estimates could be produced within the timeframe required by customers.

Dual-Frame, Mixed-Mode Survey

To further address concerns about timeliness, as well as explore differences between mail and telephone data collection modes, MRIP implemented a dual-frame, mixed-mode survey. The sampling design for the survey, which tested for six reference waves in 2012, is nearly identical to the dual-frame mail survey – anglers are sampled from angler license frames and households are sampled from residential address frames. As with the dual-frame mail survey, the address-based sample (ABS) is mailed a screening questionnaire to identify anglers. The methodology differs from the dual-frame mail survey in that anglers identified through household screening, as well as anglers sampled from the state license databases, are randomly allocated into telephone and mail treatment groups – anglers in the telephone treatment group are contacted and asked to provide information about recent recreational fishing trips through a telephone interview, and anglers in the mail treatment group are mailed a questionnaire that asks about recent recreational fishing activity.

Results from the mixed-mode study demonstrate that after three weeks of data collection, response rates for the mail survey treatment equal or exceed response rates for the telephone treatment, which is fielded and completed during the first ten days following the end of the reference wave. In addition, preliminary estimates based upon early mail survey returns (mail surveys returned within three weeks after the conclusion of the reference wave) are not significantly different from final estimates, which include an additional nine weeks of data collection. This suggests that early mail survey returns can be used to produce preliminary effort estimates in a timeframe that is consistent with the current estimation schedule for the CHTS, in which estimates are available 45 days after the conclusion of each wave.

Single Phase, Screening Dual-Frame Design with Screening Prior to Data Collection (MRIP Fishing Effort Survey)

In October, 2012, MRIP implemented a pilot study to test a single phase, dual-frame design in which screening for anglers is completed prior to data collection (OMB Control No. 0648-0652). The survey, which is referred to as the MFES, includes two components; 1) a resident angler survey, which estimates fishing effort by residents of coastal states, and 2) a nonresident angler survey, which estimates fishing effort by anglers who fish in a coastal state but reside in a different state. In addition a nonresponse follow-up survey was conducted to assess nonresponse bias in the MFES survey components.

The Resident Angler Survey (RAS) is a single-phase mail survey that utilizes a screening dual-frame design with screening occurring prior to data collection (Lohr, 2009). Specifically, an ABS sample within a coastal state is matched to that state's angler license database to identify addresses with (matched) and without (unmatched) licensed anglers. In this application, the license information is used to stratify the ABS sample into strata than can be sampled at different rates. For example, the matched stratum, which is expected to be more productive in terms of identifying anglers, can be sampled at a higher rate than the unmatched strata. This type of stratification is expected to improve the efficiency of data collection and maintain the coverage

of the ABS frame, two concerns identified by the NRC Review. Because the matching is only used to determine the sampling rate, matching errors will only impact the efficiency of data collection; they will not result in biased estimates.

The Nonresident Angler Survey (NAS) is a single-phase mail survey that samples directly from frames derived from state databases of licensed saltwater anglers. An address-based sampling approach would be especially inefficient for sampling nonresident anglers due to the low proportion of nonresident anglers among the general population.

The MFES is being tested in four states, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina and Florida for eight, two-month reference waves, beginning with the September/October wave (wave 5) of 2012 and continuing through the November/December wave (wave 6) of 2013. The data collection design, which included testing of two versions of the questionnaire and multiple levels of prepaid cash incentives, is being evaluated in terms of response rates, nonresponse error, representation of the residential population within the sample, and cost.

Through three complete waves of data collection, overall RAS response rates were 38.4%. Response rates ranged from 27.0% to 46.7%, depending upon the level of prepaid cash incentive included in the initial survey mailing (additional information from the incentive experiment are provided in section 9). RAS response rates for all incentive treatments, including the non-incentive control, exceeded those of the CHTS, which were approximately 16% for the same time period. Overall response rates for the NAS, which samples directly form lists of licensed anglers, were 55.7%, with a range of 43%-61%, depending upon the level of incentive. Comparisons of survey measures between MFES respondents and those who responded to the nonresponse follow-up study revealed no significant differences, suggesting that nonresponse error is minimal.

Augmenting ABS samples with license information and sampling matched and unmatched households at different rates provides an effective mechanism for sampling saltwater anglers. Overall, the MFES data collection design is considerably more efficient than a simple random sample of the same population[1]. Considering gains in efficiency, coverage and response over the CHTS, the MFES will result in improved estimates of recreational fishing effort.

This request is to implement the MFES in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and all states along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, with the exception of Texas[2]. The MFES will be conducted for five, two-month reference waves (March/April – November/December) in the states along the Atlantic Coast, with the exception of North Carolina and Florida. In North Carolina, the Gulf States (including both coasts of Florida), Hawaii, and Puerto Rico the MFES will be conducted for six reference waves (January/February – November/December). These specific reference periods encompass the majority of annual recreational saltwater fishing activity within the study area. Prior surveys indicated recreational fishing outside these periods was uncommon, contributed a very small

[1] The overall design effect for the MFES through three waves of data collection is 0.72.

[2] Recreational saltwater fishing activity in TX is monitored independently by the TX Parks and Wildlife Department.

percentage of annual fishing effort and fishery landings, and would be disproportionately expensive to sample. This information collection will fulfill statutory requirements of Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. Section 401 (g) requires that the Secretary of Commerce, "establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey". MSA further specifies that future surveys should, "target anglers registered or licensed at the State or Federal level to collect participation and effort data", and that the program, "to the maximum extent feasible implement the recommendations of the [NRC]".

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

The MFES estimates marine recreational fishing effort for two-month reference waves. Recreational fishing catch and effort data are used on an ongoing basis by NMFS, regional fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions and state natural resource agencies in developing, implementing and monitoring fishery management programs, per statutory requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Catch and effort statistics are fundamental for assessing the influence of fishing on any fish stock. Accurate estimates of the quantities taken, fishing effort, and both the seasonal and geographic distributions of catch and effort are required for the development of regional management policies and plans.

The Resident Angler Survey and Nonresident Angler Survey use the same instrument. Testing of different instruments for the MFES during the first two waves of this information collection demonstrated that a general instrument, the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey that collects both fishing and non-fishing information resulted in more representative samples of the general population than a fishing-specific instrument, the MRIP Recreational Fishing Survey. Subsequently, the MFES will utilize the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey instrument. Specific data elements that will be collected in the questionnaire include:

a) Questions about weather and visitation to coastal areas are included to engage non-anglers,
b) Total number of household residents,
c) Type of household telephone service is used to assess gains in coverage over the CHTS and compare MFES samples to other national population surveys,
d) The type of household unit (rented or owned) is used for nonresponse weighting adjustment and/or post-stratification,
e) Demographic information of household residents, including gender, age and ethnicity is used for nonresponse weighting adjustment and/or post-stratification of estimates,
f) Questions about fishing activity in the past 12 months, 8 months, 4 months and 2 months are used to screen for recent fishing activity, assist with recall, and estimate the number of private and boat and shore trips during the different reference periods,

NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. The data collected by the MFES will be subject to the quality control measures and 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.

The surveys will be conducted by mail. Survey responses for mail surveys will be automatically captured through optical character recognition (OCR), which will greatly increase the accuracy and efficiency of data collection.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

NMFS collaborates with state natural resource agencies and regional interstate fisheries commissions on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to ensure that recreational fisheries data collections are not duplicative. Every five years, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the U.S. Department of the Interior conducts the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (OMB Control No. 1018-0088). This survey collects minimal information about annual recreational saltwater fishing activity within the context of additional recreation activities. That survey does not provide the spatial or temporal resolution needed by managers of fishery resources to monitor and manage recreational fisheries landings.

The MRIP Fishing Effort Survey will replace the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (OMB Control No. 0648-0052), which is a random-digit-dial survey that collects similar information.

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

No small businesses will be impacted by this revision. Individuals or households are the respondents.

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

If the survey is not conducted, NMFS will continue to rely upon the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) to estimate recreational fishing effort. The CHTS has been criticized for its lack of efficiency and susceptibility to bias resulting from nonresponse and undercoverage. If the survey were conducted less frequently, NMFS and state natural resource agencies would experience difficulty in effectively carrying out their responsibilities to meet statutory, administrative, and other obligations to end overfishing of marine fishery resources. An ongoing survey of recreational anglers is required to monitor changing conditions in the

fishery and support modifications in fishery regulations both within fishing seasons and among fishing years. In addition, a continuous time series of data is scientifically essential to assess the impact of recreational fishing on fish stocks.

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

A Federal Register Notice, published on April 4, 2013 (78 FR 20296) solicited public comment on this revision. One substantive comment was received from the Ocean Conservancy. The commenter was very supportive of the proposed information collection and provided the following recommendations:

(a) The proposed collection of information is essential to the proper performance of agency functions and integral to increased understanding of angler attitudes and preferences.
(b) The proposed survey instrument is sufficiently concise and should allow for respondents to complete the survey in the estimated time.
(c) NMFS should consider adding questions relating to angler effort from private access points, such as private docks and marinas.
(d) Efficiency and reduction of costs could be achieved if the survey were electronic.

Regarding recommendation C, the current instrument was designed be concise and collect the minimum amount of information necessary to estimate recreational fishing effort.
We recognize the value of additional information and will consider mechanisms for collecting this type of information once the base data collection design has been established.

Regarding recommendation D, we recognize the perceived benefits of electronic data collection. However, alternative data collection modes must be carefully evaluated through controlled experiments to understand the impacts on survey response and survey measures. We will consider alternative data collection modes after the base data collection design has been established.

MRIP is a collaborative effort among government agencies, independent scientists, recreational fishing groups and conservation organizations to ensure scientifically rigorous collection of appropriate information that meets manager and stakeholder needs. Subsequently, MRIP staff members maintain regular communication with customers, through workshops, workgroup meetings and one-on-one consultations. For example, The MRIP Executive Steering Committee

(ESC), which includes senior managers from NOAA Fisheries, the Executive Directors of the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and a representative from the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, provides general oversight of MRIP and ensures that the program satisfies Federal, state and stakeholder needs for recreational fishing statistics. The ESC meets annually to review program activities, strategically allocate funds to addresses data needs and approve research priorities. Similarly, the MRIP Operations Team (OT), which is responsible for developing and testing improved data collection designs, includes representatives from NOAA Fisheries headquarters, regional offices and science centers, the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions and state natural resource agencies. The OT meets 1-2 times each year to identify regional and state needs for recreational fishing statistics and develop research priorities. Finally, MRIP staff participate in numerous meetings sponsored by regional fishery management councils and state natural resource agencies to update fishery managers, scientists and stakeholders on program accomplishments and collect feedback about data needs and concerns about the program. Recent feedback and questions resulting from these forums include the following:

- Given the proliferation of caller ID and cellular telephone service, what is MRIP doing to address concerns about the coverage of landline telephone surveys?
- Response: The limitations of RDD telephone surveys were noted in the NRC review, and MRIP has responded by developing and testing data collection designs that sample from alternative frames and utilize alternative data collection modes.
- How did MRIP arrive at the current design for collecting recreational fishing effort data? Response: MRIP implemented a sequential series of pilot studies to develop an alternative to the CHTS. Each methodology that was tested reflected design elements, both positive and negative, from earlier studies. The present design provides complete (or nearly complete) coverage of the population of anglers, incorporates sampling from state angler license databases, as suggested by the NRC, and is less susceptible to nonresponse error than the CHTS.
- MRIP should expand the use of angler registries or license databases to collect information from anglers.
- Response: We agree completely with this comment, and have consistently tried to incorporate angler license databases into sampling designs.
- How complete are angler registries or license databases in terms of covering all recreational fishing activity?
- Response: Coverage of license databases varies by state and type of fishing activity. Previous MRIP pilot studies suggest that coverage ranges from 20%-95% in states where pilot studies have been conducted.

The MFES has been tested broadly in previous MRIP pilot studies (including the current approval for 0648-0652), and the instrument has been evaluated through cognitive testing to ensure that the instructions and questions are clear.

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

The benefits of prepaid cash incentives on improving survey response rates are well documented.

Dillman (2009) describes a small, prepaid cash incentive as a "token of appreciation" that encourages response and brings attention to the survey request. In addition to improving response rates, incentives may reduce nonresponse bias by encouraging participation from individuals with little or no interest in the survey topic (Groves et al., 2006).

Church (1993) presents a meta-analysis of 38 experimental studies testing the impact of cash incentives on mail survey response rates. The incentives, which ranged from $0.01 to $5.00 increased response rates over control groups by an average of 19.1%.

More recently, Trussell and Lavrakas (2004) reported that providing an incentive of at least $1.00 increased response rates and cooperation rates to the second phase of a two-phase, mixed-mode (RDD/mail diary) survey, and that incremental increases in incentive amounts up to $10.00 increased response rates in a linear fashion. These conclusions were consistent even for individuals who initially refused to participate in the second phase of the study.

Similarly, Brick et al. (2011) concluded that a prepaid cash incentive of $15.00 significantly increased response rates to the second phase of a national, two-phase mail survey, and that response rates for a $5.00 incentive treatment, while not significantly different from either a control group or the $15.00 experimental treatment, were in the expected direction. In addition, the effect of the incentives was most pronounced for the initial mailing, which could result in decreased costs for follow-up mailings.
The initial two waves of the 2012-2013 MFES (OMB Control No. 0648-0652) included an experiment to test the impact of cash incentives on response rates, survey measures and cost. Three levels of incentives, $1.00, $2.00 and $5.00, and a zero dollar control were tested. Incentives were included in the initial survey mailing for each wave.

Table 1 provides the response rates, total number of completed surveys and relative cost per completed survey for each incentive treatment. Response rates increased significantly with increasing incentive amounts, and differences in response rates among incentive treatments were highly significant ($p<0.0001$). However, while the $5.00 incentive resulted in the highest response rate, the $1.00 and $2.00 treatments were the most efficient in terms of cost; including a $1.00 or $2.00 cash incentive lowered the cost per completed survey by approximately 15%.

Given the benefits of reduced data collection costs and higher response rates, the MFES will include a $2.00 cash incentive in the initial survey mailings. Based upon the results of previous pilot studies, we anticipate that a $2.00 incentive will result in sufficiently high response rates and minimize overall survey costs by reducing the number of survey mailings.

Table 1. Response rates, number of completed surveys and relative data collection costs for each incentive treatment tested during the first two waves of the MFES.

Incentive Amount	Response Rate	Completed Surveys	Relative Cost per Complete[3]
$0.00	27.0	2,154	1.00
$1.00	37.8	3,065	0.85
$2.00	41.8	3,415	0.87
$5.00	46.7	3,807	1.09

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

As stated on the instruments, responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source. Section 402(b) stipulates that data required to be submitted under an FMP shall be confidential and shall not be released except to Federal employees and Council staff responsible for FMP monitoring and development or when required under court order. Data such as personal addresses and phone numbers will remain confidential.

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

No sensitive questions are asked.

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

The estimated response burden per survey activity and the total response burden are shown in Table 2. The expected number of respondents and number of responses are based on the results of previous MRIP pilot studies, including the current testing of the MFES in MA, NY, NC and FL. The hourly rate of $22.77 is based on the average for all civilian workers from the January 2011 National Compensation Survey (http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/sp/nctb1477.pdf). There are no other costs to respondents. There are also no recordkeeping requirements associated with MRIP Fishing Effort Survey. A total of 25,500 burden hours is anticipated, resulting in a cost to respondents of approximately $580,635.

Table 2. Estimated response burden for the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey

Activity	Sample Size	Expected Response Rate	Estimated Number of Respondents	Estimated Number of Responses	Minutes per Response	Total Time (Hours)
Study Total	354,265		153,000	153,000	10	25,500

[3] Data collection costs include costs associated with printing survey materials, assembling survey packets, postage, receipting and processing completed surveys, and incentives.

Resident Angler Survey	329,192	42[4] %	137,700	137,700	10	22,950
Nonresident Angler Survey	25,073	61[5]%	15,300	15,300	10	2,550

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

These data collections will incur no cost burden on respondents beyond the costs of response time.

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

Annual cost to the Federal government is approximately $3,700,000: $3,500,000 in data collection costs and $200,000 in professional staff, overhead and computing costs.

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

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act mandates that NOAA Fisheries implement an improved data collection program to monitor marine recreational fishing catch and effort. Several pilot studies testing new data collection designs have been successfully completed. This revision is requested to implement, coast-wide, a new methodology for collecting recreational fishing effort data. The proposed design is more efficient and is less susceptible to sources of non-sampling error than the current data collection approach, the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (0648-0052). Results of this data collection effort will be used to calculate bi-monthly estimates of marine recreational fishing participation and effort.

This requested revision results in a net increase of 99,600 respondents and responses and 16,600 hours.

Program Change: Expanding the MFES to 15 additional states results in an **increase of 120,000 respondents and responses and 20,000 hours.**

Adjustments: Adjusting the sample size for the existing MFES states, MA, NY, NC and FL to account for precision requirements and available funding results in a decrease of 19,800 respondents and responses and 3,300 hours. Eliminating the nonresponse follow-up study, which will be completed in 2013, results in a decrease of 600 respondents and responses and 100 hours. **Total adjustments: 20,400 fewer responses and 3,400 fewer hours.**

[4] Response rate rounded up from 41.82969

[5] Response rate rounded up from 61.022

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

All data collected and analyzed will be included in table format available on the Web page of the Fisheries Statistics Division, Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service. The Web site address is http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/index. Data from this survey may support research and analyses to be presented at appropriate professional meetings (e.g., American Fisheries Society, Joint Statistical Meetings) and may be submitted for publication in appropriate statistical or fisheries peer-reviewed journals. Summary marine recreational fishery catch statistics produced using data from this survey are included in the annual publication by NMFS, Fisheries of the United States (e.g. FUS 2010).

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

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

Not Applicable.

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SUPPORTING STATEMENT
MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM FISHING EFFORT SURVEY
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0652

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.

1.1. MRIP Fishing Effort Survey

The MRIP Fishing Effort Survey (MFES) is bi-monthly (wave), cross-sectional mail survey designed to estimate the total number of individuals who participate in marine recreational fishing and the total number of private boat and shore-based recreational fishing trips taken by anglers in the study states. The survey consists of two independent components; 1) the Resident Angler Survey (RAS), which estimates saltwater fishing effort by residents of coastal states, and 2) the Nonresident Angler Survey (NAS), which estimates saltwater fishing effort by residents of non-coastal states. The RAS is an address-based sample (ABS) that covers all residential addresses within the study states. The NAS is a list-based sample that covers individuals who are licensed to participate in saltwater fishing in the study states but reside in a different state.

1.2. Resident Angler Survey

The sample universe for the RAS includes all residential addresses within the study area that are serviced by the United States Postal Service (USPS). Sampling is stratified by coastal state and geographic proximity to the coast within each state. Specifically, counties with any border that is within 25 miles of the coast are in the coastal stratum, and all other counties are in the non-coastal stratum[1]. Geographic stratification within states provides an opportunity to sample different segments of the population at different rates, thereby increasing the efficiency of data collection. For example, historical estimates from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) demonstrate that 65-90% of recreational saltwater fishing trips are taken by residents of coastal counties. Subsequently, addresses in coastal strata are sampled at a higher rate.

Each wave, a representative sample of addresses is selected for each stratum in a single stage from a comprehensive list of residential addresses maintained by a vendor licensed to distribute the USPS Computerized Delivery Sequence File. In each state, sampled addresses are matched, by address and telephone number, to databases of anglers who are licensed to participate in saltwater fishing in the respective state. License databases are provided to NMFS by state

[1] Florida is not stratified due to the relatively high rate of fishing across the state, and Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island are not stratified due to the small geographic areas of the states.

natural resource agencies approximately one month prior to the beginning of data collection for each wave. Prior to matching, addresses within the license databases are formatted to conform to USPS postal addressing standards, and duplicate angler records are identified and removed.

Matching addresses to license databases screens the ABS sample to identify households with (matched) and without (unmatched) licensed anglers, effectively stratifying the sample into matched and unmatched strata (Lohr, 2009). Augmenting the ABS sample in this manner provides an additional opportunity to optimize sampling - previous studies (Andrews et al., 2010, Brick et al., 2012a, MFES pilot study) have demonstrated that residents of households that match to license databases respond to fishing surveys at a higher rate and are more likely to have fished during the reference wave than residents of unmatched households.

Table 1 provides the sample universe, target sample sizes and estimated number of completed household interviews for each stratum within a given reference wave, and **Table 2** provides the annual target sample size and expected number of completed interviews for each state. The target sample size is achieved by retaining all matched addresses from an initial ABS sample, and sub-sampling unmatched addresses at a rate of approximately 30%. Within each state, sample is optimally allocated among strata to maximize the precision of estimates of total fishing effort. The allocation and expected response rates are based upon results of the MFES pilot study and will be reassessed following each wave. Target sample sizes are expected to result in a completed number of household surveys that will achieve a coefficient of variation of 15% on estimates of total fishing effort[2] for each state and wave.

Table 1. Estimated size of the sample universe, target sample sizes, expected response rates and estimated number of completed household interviews per wave for the Resident Angler Survey.

State	Geographic Stratum	Estimated Number of Households	Target ABS Sample Size[3]	Expected Response Rates[4]	Estimated Completed Interviews
AL	Coastal	1,661,055	2,775	43.8%	1,215
AL	Noncoastal	244,831	307	43.8%	135
CT	Coastal	1,376,955	2,842	47.5%	1,350
DE	Coastal	349,794	4,141	32.6%	1,350
FL	Coastal	7,631,375	3,082	43.8%	1,350
GA	Coastal	3,447,326	2,608	46.6%	1,215
GA	Noncoastal	247,113	326	41.2%	135
HI	Coastal	466,705	3,230	41.8%	1,350
LA	Coastal	828,328	2,775	43.8%	1,215
LA	Noncoastal	945,732	307	43.8%	135
MA	Coastal	631,148	2,416	47.5%	1,147

[2] Total fishing effort includes fishing by both resident (RAS) and nonresident anglers (NAS).

[3] Target sample sizes reflect the number of addresses that will be mailed a survey questionnaire and are achieved by retaining all addresses from initial ABS samples that match to a state license database and 30% of addresses that do not match.

[4] Estimated response rates and sampling requirements are based upon results from the MFES pilot study and are assumed to be uniform among states within a region (e.g. New England, Mid Atlantic, South Atlantic and Gulf).

MA	Noncoastal	1,956,720	413	49.1%	203
MD	Coastal	244,923	3,199	32.6%	1,043
MD	Noncoastal	1,954,989	669	45.9%	307
ME	Coastal	97,900	2,415	47.5%	1,147
ME	Noncoastal	462,106	413	49.1%	203
MS	Coastal	948,126	2,775	43.8%	1,215
MS	Noncoastal	180,716	307	43.8%	135
NC	Coastal	3,065,955	2,608	41.1%	1,215
NC	Noncoastal	787,088	327	46.6%	135
NH	Coastal	144,104	2,415	47.5%	1,147
NH	Noncoastal	378,763	413	49.1%	203
NJ	Coastal	142,908	3,199	32.6%	1,043
NJ	Noncoastal	3,095,540	669	45.9%	307
NY	Coastal	2,788,575	3,199	32.6%	1,043
NY	Noncoastal	4,620,155	669	45.9%	307
PR	Coastal	1,181,112	3,230	41.8%	1,350
RI	Coastal	413,196	2,842	47.5%	1,350
SC	Coastal	1,254,690	2,608	41.1%	1,215
SC	Noncoastal	598,096	327	46.6%	135
VA	Coastal	1,744,021	3,199	32.6%	1,043
VA	Noncoastal	1,393,148	669	45.9%	307
Total		45,283,193	61,373	41.8%	25,650

Table 2. Annual target sample sizes and estimated number of completed interviews for the Resident Angler Survey.

State	Target ABS Sample Size	Expected Response Rates	Estimated Completed Interviews
AL	18,492	43.8%	8,100
CT	14,210	47.5%	6,750
DE	20,705	32.6%	6,750
FL	18,492	43.8%	8,100
GA	14,670	46.0%	6,750
HI	19,380	41.8%	8,100
LA	18,492	43.8%	8,100
ME	14,145	47.7%	6,750
MD	19,340	34.9%	6,750
MA	14,145	47.7%	6,750
MS	18,492	43.8%	8,100
NH	14,145	47.7%	6,750
NJ	19,340	34.9%	6,750
NY	19,340	34.9%	6,750

NC	17,604	46.0%	8,100
RI	14,210	47.5%	6,750
SC	14,670	46.0%	6,750
VA	19,340	34.9%	6,750
PR	19,980	40.5%	8,100
Total	329,192	41.8%	137,700

1.3. Nonresident Angler Survey

Non-resident anglers are sampled from lists of individuals who are licensed to participate in saltwater fishing in each study state. The sample frame for each state consists of anglers who were licensed to fish in the state (license state) during the wave but reside in another state. Databases of licensed anglers are provided to NMFS by state natural resource agencies approximately one month prior to the beginning of data collection for each wave. Prior to sampling, addresses within the license databases are formatted to conform to USPS postal addressing standards, and duplicate angler records, as well as records for individuals less than18 years of age are identified and removed.

Each wave, a simple random sample of licensed anglers is selected from each state's license frame. The survey instrument collects information about recent saltwater fishing activity for the sampled angler, as well as any other individuals who reside at the same address as the sampled angler; each sampled angler represents a cluster of anglers who reside at the same address. **Table 3** provides the sample universe, sample size, expected response rates and estimated number of completed surveys for each state within a given reference wave, and **Table 4** provides the annual sample size and expected number of completed interviews for each state.

Table 3. Estimated size of the sample universe, sample sizes, expected response rates and estimated number of completed interviews per wave for the Nonresident Angler Survey.

State	Estimated Number of Nonresident Anglers[5]	Sample Size	Expected Response Rate[6]	Estimated Completed Interviews
AL	341,049	244	61.4%	150
CT	67,024	241	62.2%	150
DE	150,946	279	53.7%	150
FL	2,654,378	244	61.4%	150
GA	72,437	212	70.8%	150
HI	223,717	234	64.1%	150
LA	164,403	244	61.4%	150
ME	126,542	241	62.2%	150
MD	258,122	279	53.7%	150

[5] Based upon participation estimates from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey

[6] Estimated response rates are based upon results from the MFES pilot study and are assumed to be uniform among states within a region.

MA	308,116	241	62.2%	150
MS	91,219	244	61.4%	150
NH	53,958	241	62.2%	150
NJ	431,069	279	53.7%	150
NY	53,123	279	53.7%	150
NC	761,744	212	70.8%	150
PR	13,795	234	64.1%	150
RI	768,799	241	62.2%	150
SC	406,195	212	70.8%	150
VA	193,905	279	53.7%	150
Total	7,140,541	4,683	60.9%	2,850

Table 4. Annual sample sizes and estimated number of completed interviews for the Nonresident Angler Survey.

State	Sample Size	Expected Response Rate	Estimated Completed Interviews
AL	1,466	61.4%	900
CT	1,206	62.2%	750
DE	1,397	53.7%	750
FL	1,466	61.4%	900
GA	1,059	70.8%	750
HI	1,404	64.1%	900
LA	1,466	61.4%	900
ME	1,206	62.2%	750
MD	1,397	53.7%	750
MA	1,206	62.2%	750
MS	1,466	61.4%	900
NH	1,206	62.2%	750
NJ	1,397	53.7%	750
NY	1,397	53.7%	750
NC	1,271	70.8%	900
PR	1,404	64.1%	900
RI	1,206	62.2%	750
SC	1,059	70.8%	750
VA	1,397	53.7%	750
Total	25,073	61.0%	15,300

A resident of a study state who is also licensed to fish in one of the other study states could be sampled for both the RAS and the NAS. However, given the sampling rates, it is extremely unlikely (less than 1/10 of 1%) that the same individual would be sampled from both frames. Each wave, sample from each frame will be cross-checked against the other sample to identify any duplicates. If this situation were to occur, the NAS sample will be withheld and treated as a special case of nonresponse.

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.

2.1. Data Collection Procedures

The RAS and NAS are both single-phase, self-administered mail surveys, and data collection procedures for the two survey components are identical. These data collection procedures have been extensively tested through previous MRIP pilot studies (Andrews et al. 2010, Brick et al.

2012a). Each year, the surveys are administered for six, two-month reference waves. The data collection period for each wave begins one week prior to the end of the wave with an initial survey mailing. The timing of the initial mailing is such that materials are received prior to the end of the reference wave. The initial mailing is delivered by regular first class mail and includes a cover letter stating the purpose of the survey, a survey questionnaire, a post-paid return envelope and a prepaid cash incentive (as described in section A.9).

One week following the initial mailing, a follow-up thank you/reminder contact is initiated. For sample units with an attached landline telephone number (sample units for which a landline telephone number can be found through a lookup service), an automated voice message is delivered to remind sample units to complete and return the questionnaire. Previous studies have demonstrated that varying the delivery mechanism, for example, switching from regular first class mail to telephone or special mail, may improve response rates in mail surveys (Brick et al., 2012b). For sample with no associated landline telephone number, a thank you/reminder postcard is sent via regular fist class mail. We expect to identify landline telephone numbers for approximately 50% of sampled addresses.

Three weeks after the initial survey mailing, a follow-up mailing is delivered to all sample units that have not responded to the survey. The follow-up mailing is delivered via first class mail and includes a nonresponse conversion letter, a second questionnaire and a post-paid return envelope.

2.2. Estimation Procedures

Final sample weights for both the RAS and the NAS are calculated in stages. In the first stage, base sample weights within each stratum are calculated as the inverse of the selection probability ($\omega_i = \pi_i^{-1}$, where π_i is the probability of selecting unit i for the sample). In the RAS, base weights for addresses that cannot be matched to an angler license database (sample units in the unmatched strata), are adjusted to account for subsampling by multiplying the base weight by the inverse of the subsampling rate.

In the second stage, base weights (or adjusted base weights in unmatched RAS strata) are adjusted to account for nonresponse. Specifically, the weights of nonresponding units are increased by the inverse of the weighted response rate within nonresponse adjustment cells

$$\omega_{ci}^{*} = \omega_{ci}\widehat{\emptyset}_c^{-1}$$

where

$$\widehat{\emptyset}_c = \sum^{r} \omega_{ci} / (\sum^{r} \omega_{ci} + \sum^{m} \omega_{ci})$$

and $\sum^{r} \omega_{ci}$ and $\sum^{m} \omega_{ci}$ are the sums of base weights in cell *c* for respondents and nonrespondents, respectively. Weights for all individuals who reside at a sampled address are equal to the final sample weight for the address.

In the RAS, nonresponse adjustment cells will be defined by state or residence, coastal/non-coastal county, matched/unmatched designation, and whether or not the address was successfully

matched to a landline telephone number. In the NAS, adjustment cells will be at the stratum level (license state). Other potential criteria for defining nonresponse adjustment cells will be examined after each wave of data collection and may include demographic information and type of recreational fishing license.

Estimates of total fishing effort, as well as associated estimates of variance, are calculated in SAS Version 9.3 using the surveymeans procedure. For a given coastal state and wave, total effort is the sum of resident angler effort (from RAS) and nonresident angler effort (from NAS), both of which are calculated as weighted sums

$$\hat{Y} = \sum_{h=1}^{H} \sum_{i=1}^{n_h} \sum_{j=1}^{m_{hi}} \omega_{hij}^{*} y_{hij}$$

where ω_{hij}^{*} and y_{hij} are the final weight and reported number of recreational fishing trips, respectfully, for unit *j* at address *i* of stratum *h*.

Variance of the total effort estimate is estimated using the Taylor series method

$$\hat{V}(\hat{Y}) = \sum_{h=1}^{H} \hat{V}_h(\hat{Y})$$

where

$$\hat{V}_h(\hat{Y}) = \frac{n_h(1-f_h)}{n_h - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_h} (y_{hi\cdot} - \bar{y}_{h\cdot\cdot})^2$$

$$y_{hi\cdot} = \sum_{j=1}^{m_{hi}} w_{hij}^{*} \, y_{hij}$$

$$\bar{y}_{h\cdot\cdot} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_h} y_{hi\cdot} \right) / n_h$$

For estimating total fishing effort, we expect stratification to be more effective than simple random sampling due to the higher rate of sampling in coastal strata and of licensed households. Results from the MFES for waves 5-6, 2012 resulted in an overall design effect of 0.72 for estimates of total fishing effort.

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.

Through three waves of the MFES pilot study, response rates for the RAS and NAS are 41.8% and 60.9 %, respectively when a $2.00 cash incentive is included in the initial survey mailing. We expect similar response for the MFES when the survey is expanded to additional states.

The expected response rates will be achieved by using standard mail survey protocols (Dillman et al, 2008). An initial mailing will include an introductory letter stating the purpose of the survey, the survey questionnaire, a business reply envelope, and a prepaid, $2.00 cash incentive. During the initial waves of the MFES pilot study, a $2.00 incentive was found to be optimal in terms of maximizing response and minimizing data collection costs. Either a thank-you/reminder postcard or automated voice message will be administered to all sample units one week following the initial mailing. A final mailing, including a second questionnaire, a nonresponse conversion letter, and a business reply envelope will be sent to all nonrespondents three weeks after the initial mailing.

We will minimize nonresponse bias by using a questionnaire that maximizes responses by the entire sample population, including both anglers and non-anglers. The MFES pilot study tested two versions of the survey instrument. The MFES will utilize the "Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey" instrument, which provided the most representative sample of the general population in the MFES pilot study.

The MFES pilot study included a nonresponse follow-up study to assess nonresponse bias in the data collection design. Each wave, 400 nonrespondents were sampled for the follow-up study. Data collection for the nonresponse study was initiated six weeks after the final contact for the RAS and the NAS with the delivery of an advance letter via regular first-class mail. Five days later, a survey packet, including a cover letter, questionnaire (the same questionnaire used in the RAS and NAS), post-paid return envelope and a $5.00 cash incentive was delivered via FedEx (USPS Priority Mail was used where FedEx is unavailable). A thank you/reminder postcard was delivered eight days after the FedEx.

To date, the nonresponse follow-up study has achieved a 40% response rate, and respondents to the nonresponse follow-up study are not significantly different from RAS and NAS respondents in terms of recreational fishing activity. These findings suggest that nonresponse bias in the RAS and NAS is minimal.

We will continue to assess nonresponse bias as the MFES is expanded to additional states. First, we will compare early and late responders with respect to reported fishing activity. This analysis will identify differences in respondents based upon the level of effort required to solicit a response. Previous studies (Brick et al., 2012, MFES pilot study) demonstrated that early and late responders are similar in terms of reported recreational fishing activity.

We will also utilize information from sample frames to define weighting classes for post survey weighting adjustments. Weighting classes will be defined such that response rates and fishing activity are similar within classes. Nonresponse bias will be measured by comparing unadjusted estimates to estimates that have been adjusted to account for differential nonresponse among weighting classes. Previous studies identified differential nonresponse and reported fishing activity between households with and without licensed anglers and demonstrated that

nonresponse weighting adjustment decreased estimates of fishing effort by 25% over unadjusted estimates (Andrews et al., 2010).

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.

No additional testing is planned.

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.

Statistical support was provided by the following:
Dr. J. Michael Brick, Westat, (301) 294-2004
Dr. Nancy A. Mathiowetz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, (414) 229-2216

Rob Andrews, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology, (301) 427-8105 is the point-of-contact for the Agency.

References

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Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey

OMB Control No. 0648-0652
Expiration Date: 10/31/2015

START HERE

- Please use a black or blue pen to complete this form.
- Mark ☒ to indicate your answer.
- If you want to change your answer, darken the box ▩ and mark the correct answer

1. **How do members of this houshold obtain information about the weather, including current weather conditions, forecasts and warnings?** *Mark all that apply.*
   - ☐ Television
   - ☐ Radio
   - ☐ Newspaper
   - ☐ Internet
   - ☐ Other
2. **During the past 12 months has anyone in this household had to evacuate or seek shelter due to a severe weather event such as a tornado, hurricane, or thunderstorm?**
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
3. **During the past 12 months, has anyone in this household visited a public beach, national seashore, costal state park, or other coastal nature reserve or protected area?**
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
4. **Which category best describes the telephone service for you and members of the household?**
   - ☐ Regular or Landline phone only
   - ☐ Cellular phone only
   - ☐ Both Landline and Cellular phone
   - ☐ No working phone service
5. **Which of the following best describes this house, apartment, or mobile home?**
   - ☐ Owned with a mortgage or loan
   - ☐ Owned {without a mortgage)
   - ☐ Rented
   - ☐ Occupied without payment or rent
6. **How many people, including all adults and children, live in this household?**

   ☐☐ → **Please continue and complete the questions in the next section for EACH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER, whether or not that household member saltwater fishes.**

Please complete for all members of your household. Include those who fish and those who do not fish.

Household Member 1

7. **What is this person's gender?**
   - ☐ Male
   - ☐ Female
8. **How old is this person?** *If less than 1 year, mark 0 years.*

   ☐☐ Age in years
9. **Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**
   - ☐ Yes, of Hispanic origin
   - ☐ No, not of Hispanic origin
10. **What is this person's race?** *Mark one or more boxes.*
    - ☐ White ☐ Black, African American
    - ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
    - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
11. **For each time period below, on how many days did this person go recreational saltwater fishing in Maryland from:**

    a. The shore – include docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks or any other shore-based structure or area. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

    b. A boat – include a private or rental boat that returned to shore in Maryland. Do not include charter boats - rental or commercial boats that include a captain or crew who help locate and catch fish. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

Go to Household Member 2

Household Member 2

7. **What is this person's gender?**
   - ☐ Male
   - ☐ Female
8. **How old is this person?** *If less than 1 year, mark 0 years.*

   ☐☐ Age in years
9. **Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**
   - ☐ Yes, of Hispanic origin
   - ☐ No, not of Hispanic origin
10. **What is this person's race?** *Mark one or more boxes.*
    - ☐ White ☐ Black, African American
    - ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
    - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
11. **For each time period below, on how many days did this person go recreational saltwater fishing in Maryland from:**

    a. The shore – include docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks or any other shore-based structure or area. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

    b. A boat – include a private or rental boat that returned to shore in Maryland. Do not include charter boats - rental or commercial boats that include a captain or crew who help locate and catch fish. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

Go to Household Member 3

Household Member 3

7. **What is this person's gender?**
   - ☐ Male
   - ☐ Female
8. **How old is this person?** *If less than 1 year, mark 0 years.*

   ☐☐ Age in years
9. **Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**
   - ☐ Yes, of Hispanic origin
   - ☐ No, not of Hispanic origin
10. **What is this person's race?** *Mark one or more boxes.*
    - ☐ White ☐ Black, African American
    - ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
    - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
11. **For each time period below, on how many days did this person go recreational saltwater fishing in Maryland from:**

    a. The shore – include docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks or any other shore-based structure or area. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

    b. A boat – include a private or rental boat that returned to shore in Maryland. Do not include charter boats - rental or commercial boats that include a captain or crew who help locate and catch fish. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

Go to Household Member 4

Household Member 4

7. **What is this person's gender?**
   - ☐ Male
   - ☐ Female
8. **How old is this person?** *If less than 1 year, mark 0 years.*

   ☐☐ Age in years
9. **Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**
   - ☐ Yes, of Hispanic origin
   - ☐ No, not of Hispanic origin
10. **What is this person's race?** *Mark one or more boxes.*
    - ☐ White ☐ Black, African American
    - ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
    - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
11. **For each time period below, on how many days did this person go recreational saltwater fishing in Maryland from:**

    a. The shore – include docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks or any other shore-based structure or area. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 20122

    b. A boat – include a private or rental boat that returned to shore in Maryland. Do not include charter boats - rental or commercial boats that include a captain or crew who help locate and catch fish. Enter "0" if none.

    ☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
    ☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
    ☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
    ☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

Go to Household Member 5 on the next page

Please complete for all members of your household. Include those who fish and those who do not fish.

Household Member 5

7. What is this person's gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

8. How old is this person?
If less than 1 year, mark 0 years.

☐☐ Age in years

9. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes, of Hispanic origin
- ☐ No, not of Hispanic origin

10. What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes.

- ☐ White ☐ Black, African American
- ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

11. For each time period below, on how many days did this person go recreational saltwater fishing in Maryland from:

a. The shore – include docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks or any other shore-based structure or area. Enter "0" if none.

☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

b. A boat – include a private or rental boat that returned to shore in Maryland. Do not include charter boats - rental or commercial boats that include a captain or crew who help locate and catch fish. Enter "0" if none.

☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

Go to Household Member 6

Household Member 6

7. What is this person's gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

8. How old is this person?
If less than 1 year, mark 0 years.

☐☐ Age in years

9. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes, of Hispanic origin
- ☐ No, not of Hispanic origin

10. What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes.

- ☐ White ☐ Black, African American
- ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

11. For each time period below, on how many days did this person go recreational saltwater fishing in Maryland from:

a. The shore – include docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks or any other shore-based structure or area. Enter "0" if none.

☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

b. A boat – include a private or rental boat that returned to shore in Maryland. Do not include charter boats - rental or commercial boats that include a captain or crew who help locate and catch fish. Enter "0" if none.

☐☐ Days in Jan., and Feb. 2013
☐☐ Days in Nov., and Dec. 2012
☐☐ Days in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 2012
☐☐ Days in March, April, May, June 2012

Thank You!

Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey

DATE

[State] Resident
(Add 1)
(Add 2)
(City), (State) (Zip)

Dear [State] Resident:

I am writing to ask you for your help in a study being conducted for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This survey collects information about severe weather events and participation in outdoor activities. The findings from this study will be used to improve access to information about the environment and ensure the quality of marine and coastal resources in [State].

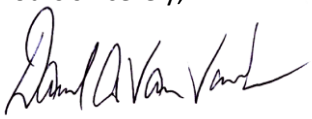
For the results to be representative of households in [state], we need everyone who receives this short questionnaire to complete it and send it back**, even if you don't participate in outdoor activities**. Your address was randomly selected from a list of all addresses in [State], and we cannot replace you with someone else. We have enclosed a small token of appreciation as a way of saying thanks for your help.

This is a voluntary survey. Responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please call 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Thank you very much for your help with this important study. Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage paid envelope provided.

Yours sincerely,



David A. Van Voorhees
Chief, Fisheries Statistics Division
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Science and Technology

DATE

[State] Resident
(Add 1)
(Add 2)
(City), (State) (Zip)

Dear [State] Resident:

A few weeks ago we sent a questionnaire about severe weather events and participation in outdoor activities to your household. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned it, we ask you to please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it as soon as possible. For the results to represent households in [State], we need everyone who receives this short questionnaire to complete it and send it back, even if you do not you participate in outdoor activities.

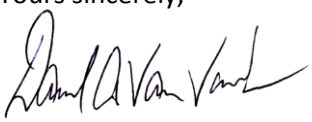
We are very grateful for your help. Your completed questionnaire will contribute to our understanding of the state's access to information about the environment and help ensure the quality of outdoor and coastal resources.

This is a voluntary survey. Responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please call 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Thank you very much for your help with this important study. Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage paid envelope provided.

Yours sincerely,



David A. Van Voorhees
Chief, Fisheries Statistics Division
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Science and Technology

June 6, 2013

Last week we sent you a survey on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. If you have already completed and returned the survey, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, I encourage you to do so today.

Information collected in this study will help us to better understand how people use recreation resources in <<STATE>>. Please know that your answers are completely confidential and will be used only for this study in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

If you did not receive the survey or need another copy, please call XXXXXXXX toll-free at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX.

Sincerely,

Dave Van Voorhees
Chief, Fisheries Statistics Division
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Science and Technology

Weather and Outdoor Activities Survey
7431 College Parkway, Ste A
Fort Myers, FL 33907

<<STATE>> Resident
Add1
Add2
City, St Zip

Hello, I'm calling on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A few days ago we sent you or another adult in your household a Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey. If you have already returned your completed survey, thank you very much. If you haven't, we ask that you complete the survey as soon as possible and return it in the postage-paid envelope we provided. If you have questions about the survey, please call us toll-free at 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx. Thank you again for your help. (This message will repeat.)

DATE

[State] Resident
(Add 1)
(Add 2)
(City), (State) (Zip)

Dear [State] Resident:

I am writing to ask you for your help in a study being conducted for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This survey collects information about severe weather events and participation in outdoor activities. The findings from this study will be used to improve access to information about the environment and ensure the quality of marine and coastal resources in [state].

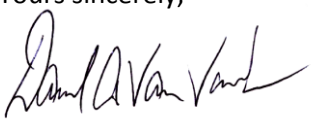
For the results to be representative of households in [state], we need everyone who receives this short questionnaire to complete it and send it back, **even if you do not fish.** Your address was randomly selected from a list of fishing licenses in [State], and we cannot replace you with someone else. We have enclosed a small token of appreciation as a way of saying thanks for your help.

This is a voluntary survey. Responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please call 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Thank you very much for your help with this important study. Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage paid envelope provided.

Yours sincerely,



David A. Van Voorhees
Chief, Fisheries Statistics Division
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Science and Technology

DATE

[State] Resident
(Add 1)
(Add 2)
(City), (State) (Zip)

Dear [State] Resident:

A few weeks ago we sent a questionnaire on severe weather events and participation in outdoor activities to your household. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned it, we ask you to please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it as soon as possible. For the results to be representative of households in [state], we need everyone who receives this short questionnaire to complete it and send it back, even if you don't participate in outdoor activities.

We are very grateful for your help. Your completed questionnaire will contribute to our understanding of the state's access to information about the environment and help ensure the quality of outdoor and coastal resources.

Your address was randomly selected from a list of households who hold fishing licenses in the State of <License State>. This is a voluntary survey. Responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please call 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Thank you very much for your help with this important study. Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage paid envelope provided.

Yours sincerely,

David A. Van Voorhees
Chief, Fisheries Statistics Division
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Science and Technology

106 E. 6th Street
Suite 400
Austin, TX 78701

Ocean Conservancy
Start a Sea Change

512.542.3331 Telephone
512.542.3332 Facsimilie
www.oceanconservancy.org

May 28, 2013

Jennifer Jessup
Department of Paperwork Clearance Office
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

RE: 28 FR 20296: Proposed Information Collection: Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey

Dear Ms. Jessup:

Ocean Conservancy[1] appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed Information Collection: Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey to be performed by National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology (NMFS OST).[2] We are encouraged that NMFS OST is actively testing new and innovative methods to better capture and characterize marine recreational fishing effort through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). These data are critical to calculation of recreational fishery estimates and successful fishery management.

Ocean Conservancy supports the efforts of MRIP; the proposed information collection tool is warranted and necessary to better inform fishery managers, scientists and stakeholders regarding effort of the marine recreational fishery.

The Federal Register notice invited comment on four topics: (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.

[1] Ocean Conservancy is a non-profit organization that educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean. From the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico to the halls of Congress, Ocean Conservancy brings people together to find solutions for our water planet. Informed by science, our work guides policy and engages people in protecting the ocean and its wildlife for future generations.
[2] 78 Fed. Reg. 20296 (April 4, 2013).

Summary Recommendations:

(a) The proposed collection of information is essential to the proper performance of agency functions and integral to increased understanding of angler attitudes and preferences.
(b) The proposed survey instrument is sufficiently concise and should allow for respondents to complete the survey in the estimated time.
(c) NMFS should consider adding questions relating to angler effort from private access points, such as private docks and marinas.
(d) Efficiency and reduction of costs could be achieved if the survey were electronic.

Detailed Recommendations:

Item (a)
Sections 303 and 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require collection of catch and effort data from the marine recreational fishery.[3] The effectiveness and efficiency of the Coastal Household Telephone Survey, used to collect fishing effort data for MRIP, is questionable due to concerns such as non-response and of cell phone-only households whose numbers are not published.[4] The National Research Council's (NRC) 2006 Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods issued several recommendations to enhance efficiency and reduce bias to the telephone survey.[5] As indicated in several MRIP pilot projects, the use of a mail based survey for effort has a higher response rate than does the traditional telephone survey.[6,7] Exploration of new methods to increase marine recreational angler effort survey efficiency and completion rates is critical to success of MRIP. Additionally, this new tactic to gather angler effort data addresses recommendations in the NRC Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods.[8] New and innovative approaches to collect effort data are a distinct need for MRIP and may serve to increase survey participation, reduce non-response and increase estimate precision.

Item (b)
The survey is sufficiently succinct and easy to complete. Respondents should be able to finish the questionnaire with little difficultly in the estimated time noted in the Federal Register notice.[9] However, Ocean Conservancy is concerned that the survey may under-represent non-English speaking households, as the questionnaire appears to be available only in English.

Item (c)
The scope the mail-based survey is well thought out. The survey itself is simple and concise, and respondents should not feel overburdened to complete it.

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[3] 16 U.S.C. §§ 1853, 1881.
[4] Brick, J. M., et al. 2012. A Comparison of Recreational Fishing Effort Survey Designs. Retrieved from https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mdms/public/finalReport.jsp?ReportID=362
[5] National Research Council. 2006. Review of recreational fisheries survey methods. Committee on the Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods, National Research Council. The National Academies Press. 187p.
[6] Andrews, W.R. et al. 2010. Pilot test of a dual frame two-phase mail survey of anglers in North Carolina. Retrieved from http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/projects/downloads/Final_Report%20NC%202009%20Dual%20Frame%20Two%20Phase%20Experiment.pdf
[7] Brick, J. M., et al. 2012. A Comparison of Recreational Fishing Effort Survey Designs. Retrieved from https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mdms/public/finalReport.jsp?ReportID=362
[8] National Research Council. 2006. Review of recreational fisheries survey methods. Committee on the Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods, National Research Council. The National Academies Press. 187p.
[9] 78 Fed. Reg. 20296 (April 4, 2013).

As this survey does not present too much burden on anglers, Ocean Conservancy suggests MRIP consider add-on questions to better identify anglers who fish also in private access modes. Private docks and marina angler effort is difficult to quantify, and few studies have characterized catch and effort in these modes. We feel more attention should be paid to these modes; potentially through add-on surveys in future iterations of this effort survey. The NRC's 2006 review recommended that add-on surveys be more tightly focused to create a better sampling frame.[10] The proposed survey could be modified to ask a questions relating to whether angler fishing trips originated from private or public access and the number of days fished. This information could, at minimum, be used to better characterize private access effort, from which a potential MRIP pilot could be developed so we may better understand this unsampled mode.

Item (d)

One concern with mail-based surveys is response time, most notably delays related to return via United States Postal Service (USPS) and data processing. If transit of the data from respondent to NMFS OST is in any way interrupted (e.g. weather, facility sorting, etc.), delays can accrue in data entry time. An additional concern relating to timely submission is the added time required for data entry. To increase timeliness and help encourage efficiency, we suggest offering respondents the option of completing the survey on-line. Use of an electronic, internet-based survey would reduce operational costs and cut down on time loss due to data entry. While we understand the initial phase of the survey will not include this option, the internet is a viable option for completion and transmission of this survey and the NRC report recommended internet based surveys as a method for anglers to submit data.[11] We recommend MRIP investigate internet based submission as an alternative or a means to replace the return of this survey via USPS.

We thank NMFS and the Department of Commerce for allowing Ocean Conservancy to comment on this forthcoming survey. Angler attitudes and preference data is intrinsic to better management of the resource and will allow managers to make better decisions regarding our nations fishery resources.

Sincerely,

Todd Phillips
Fishery Monitoring Specialist
Ocean Conservancy
106 E 6th Street, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78701

cc: Rob Andrews

[10] National Research Council. 2006. Review of recreational fisheries survey methods. Committee on the Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods, National Research Council. The National Academies Press. 187p.
[11] *Id.*

Marine Recreational Information Program

Fishing Effort Survey

Experimental Testing

9/26/2013

The MRIP Fishing Effort Survey (MFES) was implemented in Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina and Florida in October, 2012 to test a revised data collection design for monitoring marine recreational fishing effort. The survey, which collects information for two-month reference waves, included two experiments during the first two study waves, wave 5 (Sept-Oct 2012) and wave 6 (Nov-Dec, 2012), to test different survey design features aimed at maximizing efficiency and minimizing nonresponse error. Specifically, the experiments tested two versions of the survey instrument and four levels of cash incentives. Details of the experiments are provided below.

Instrument Testing

The MFES included an experiment to test two versions of the survey instrument. The objective of the experiment was to identify the instrument that maximized overall response rates while minimizing the potential for nonresponse bias resulting from differential nonresponse between anglers and non-anglers. One version of the instrument (Saltwater Fishing Survey) utilized a "screen out" approach that quickly identifies anglers (and non-anglers) and encourages participation by minimizing the number of survey questions, particularly for non-anglers. Person-level information, including details about recent fishing activity and limited demographic information, is collected for all household residents, but only if someone in the household reported fishing during the reference wave. The second version (Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey) utilized an "engaging" approach that encourages response by broadening the scope of the questions to include both fishing and non-fishing questions. This version collects person-level information for all residents of sampled households, regardless of whether or not household residents participated in saltwater fishing. Each wave, sampled addresses were randomly assigned to one of the two questionnaire types, which were evaluated in terms of response rates and reported fishing activity.

Table 1 provides the weighted response rates (AAPOR RR1 after excluding undeliverable addresses) and estimated fishing prevalence (percentage of households with residents who reported fishing during the wave) for the two versions of the instrument. Overall, the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey achieved a significantly higher response rate than the Saltwater Fishing Survey, and there was no significant difference between instruments in estimated prevalence. The lack of a significant difference between instruments for estimated prevalence suggests that the gain in response for the engaging instrument cannot be attributed to increased survey participation by either anglers or non-anglers, but that both groups are more likely to respond to the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey than the Saltwater Fishing Survey.

We also compared response rates and prevalence between instruments both among and within subpopulations defined by whether or not sampled addresses could be matched to state databases of licensed saltwater anglers – subpopulations expected to distinguish between households with anglers and households with no anglers or less avid anglers. As expected, both response rates and estimated prevalence were higher in the matched subpopulation than the unmatched subpopulation, confirming that a population expected to be interested in the survey topic - households with licensed anglers - is more likely to respond to a fishing survey and report fishing

activity than a population that excludes licensed anglers[1]. Because we can identify household license status prior to data collection, we can account for differential nonresponse between matched and unmatched households in the estimation design by treating matched an unmatched domains as strata (Lohr, 2009).

Table 1. Weighted response rates and estimated prevalence overall and by domain for two versions of the survey instrument.

	Saltwater Fishing Survey		Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey	
	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)
Response Rate				
Overall	31.1 (0.4)	17,511	34.7 (0.4)*	17,510
Matched	45.4 (1.1)	3,160	45.0 (1.0)	3,247
Unmatched	30.3 (0.4)	14,351	34.0 (0.5)*	14,263
Prevalence				
Overall	13.4 (0.5)	5,943	14.1 (0.5)	6,498
Matched	49.9 (1.7)	1,491	48.5 (1.6)	1,552
Unmatched	11.2 (0.6)	4,452	12.2 (0.6)	4,946

Notes – (1) standard errors are in parentheses. (2) Domains are defined by matching ABS samples to state databases of licensed saltwater anglers.
*Significantly different from Saltwater Fishing Survey ($p<0.05$).

There were no significant differences between instruments for either response rate or prevalence within the matched domain, suggesting that the inclusion of non-fishing questions in the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey did not have an impact on response by either anglers or non-anglers. In the unmatched domain, the response rate was significantly higher for the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey than the Saltwater Fishing Survey. However, the higher response rate did not translate to lower or higher estimates of prevalence; estimates of prevalence were not significantly different between instruments within the domain. This suggests that the engaging instrument uniformly increased the probability of response for anglers and non-anglers within the unmatched domain.

Differential nonresponse to a survey request between subpopulations will result in nonresponse bias if the subpopulations are different with respect to the survey topic. In the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey, we account for differential nonresponse between matched and unmatched households during sampling – matched and unmatched subpopulations are treated as independent

[1] The classification of sample into domains is dependent upon matching ABS sample to license databases by address and telephone number. This process is unlikely to be 100% accurate, so the unmatched domain is likely to include some households with licensed anglers. The unmatched domain also includes households with residents who fish without a license.

strata. Subsequently, the potential for nonresponse bias is limited to differential nonresponse between anglers and non-anglers within the matched and unmatched subpopulations. While the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey achieved a higher response rate than the Saltwater Fishing Survey, both overall and within the unmatched subpopulation, the gains in response do not appear to result from a higher propensity to respond to the survey by either anglers or non-anglers. As a result, we cannot conclude that one of the instruments is more or less likely to minimize differential nonresponse between anglers and non-anglers. However, higher response rates decrease the risk for nonresponse bias and either lower data collection costs (for a fixed sample size) or increase the precision of estimates (for a fixed cost)[2]. Consequently, we conclude that the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey is superior to the Saltwater Fishing Survey and recommend that the instrument be utilized for subsequent survey waves. Because it collects person-level information for all residents of all sampled households, the Weather and Outdoor Activity Survey also supports post-stratification of survey weights to population controls, which is an additional benefit of this recommendation.

Incentive Testing

The MRIP Fishing Effort Survey included an experiment to test the impact of modest, prepaid cash incentives on survey response and survey measures. Each wave, sampled addresses were randomly allocated to incentive treatment groups of $1, $2, and $5, as well as a non-incentive control group. Incentives were only included in the initial survey mailing. As in the instrument experiment, the objective of the incentive testing was to identify an optimum level of incentive that maximizes overall response while controlling costs and minimizes the potential for nonresponse bias resulting from differential nonresponse between anglers and non-anglers. Response rates, estimated fishing prevalence and relative costs of completing an interview were compared among incentive treatments to quantify the impacts of incentives.

Table 2 shows weighted response rates and the results of a logistic regression model predicting the effects of incentives on the odds of obtaining a completed survey. Including an incentive in the initial survey mailing significantly increased the odds of receiving a completed survey, and the odds increased significantly as the incentive amount increased. Cash incentives of $1, $2, and $5 increased the odds of receiving a completed survey by 63%, 93% and 137%, respectively.

Table 2. Weighted response rates and odds of receiving a completed survey by incentive amount.

Incentive	Response Rate (%)	n	Odds Ratio	95 % CI
$0	22.6	8,760	1.00	
$1	32.2	8,737	1.63*	(1.51, 1.77)
$2	36	8,738	1.93*	(1.78, 2.09)
$5	40.8	8,786	2.37*	(2.18, 2.56)

*Significantly different from the $0 control ($p<0.05$). Results of pairwise comparisons are as follows: $1>$0 ($p<0.05$), $2>$1 ($p<0.05$), $5>$2 ($p<0.05$).

[2] Assuming that fixed costs are the same for the two instruments, which was the case in the experiment.

Previous studies (Groves et al., 2006) have demonstrated that prepaid cash incentives can motivate individuals with little or no interest in a survey topic to respond to a survey request. Subsequently, we hypothesized that incentives would have a larger impact on non-anglers than anglers, minimizing differential nonresponse between the two populations. We initially explored this hypothesis by comparing estimated fishing prevalence among incentive conditions, expecting that gains in response in the incentive conditions would translate to lower estimates of fishing prevalence. The results do not support this hypothesis; there were no significant differences in prevalence among incentive conditions (Table 3).

Table 3. Overall estimated fishing prevalence by incentive amount.

Incentive	Prevalence (%)	n
$0	12.8	2,154
$1	14.1	3,065
$2	13.6	3,415
$5	14.1	3,807

Note – Differences in prevalence among treatments are not significant (p=0.05)

We further explored the interaction of topic salience and incentives by examining response rates and estimated fishing prevalence for the incentive conditions within domains defined by whether or not sampled addresses could be matched to databases of licensed saltwater anglers. We expected incentives to have a more pronounced effect in the unmatched domain, a population less likely to have an interest in the survey topic, than in the matched domain. Table 4 shows that incentives increased the odds of receiving a completed survey in both the matched and unmatched subpopulations. However, the value of the incentive seems to be more important in the unmatched domain, where the odds of receiving a completed survey increased uniformly and significantly as the value of the incentive increased ($0<$1<$2<$5). In contrast, the incentive amount was less significant in the matched domain, where the odds of receiving a completed survey were relatively flat among incentive conditions. These results are consistent with our expectations and suggest that a population with a low propensity to respond to a fishing survey can be motivated to participate by cash incentives, and that the motivation may increase as the incentive amount increases.

Table 4. Odds of receiving a completed survey by level of incentive for sample that could and could not be matched to state databases of licensed anglers.

Comparison Pair	Subpopulation Matched OR	Subpopulation Unmatched OR
$1 vs. $0	1.75**	1.63**
$2 vs. $0	2.01**	1.93**
$5 vs. $0	2.11**	2.39**
$2 vs. $1	1.15	1.18**
$5 vs. $1	1.21*	1.46**
$5 vs. $2	1.05	1.24**

Notes – The second value in the comparison pair is the reference value.
Significance: *p<0.05, **p<0.0001

As noted previously, we expected that the gains in response in the incentive conditions would translate to lower estimates of fishing prevalence, particularly in the unmatched subpopulation. Once again, the results are not consistent with expectations; differences in fishing prevalence among treatments were not significant in either the matched or unmatched domain (Table 5). The lack of an effect of incentives on fishing prevalence suggests that the gains in response associated with increasing incentive amounts are uniform between anglers and non-anglers.

Table 5. Estimated fishing prevalence by incentive amount for a population of anglers (matched) and non-anglers (unmatched).

	Subpopulation			
	Matched		Unmatched	
Incentive	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)
$0	49.2	533	10.7	1,621
$1	50.3	779	12	2,286
$2	48.6	837	11.6	2,578
$5	48.2	894	12.4	2,913

Note – Within subpopulations differences in prevalence among treatments are not significant (p=0.05)

We also examined the effect of cash incentives on overall data collection costs, specifically the direct costs of printing, postage, and the cash incentives themselves. Table 6 shows that the $5 incentive provided the largest gain in response, but the gain came at a relative cost of approximately $0.15 per completed interview. In contrast, the additional costs of the $1 and $2 incentives (20% and 38% higher cost than the $0 control, respectively) are more than offset by the associated gains in the number of completed surveys (42% and 58%, respectively). In other words, including a $1 or $2 cash incentive in the initial survey mailing actually decreased the cost of receiving a completed survey by 22% and 20%, respectively. These cost savings, which

are conservative[3], could be used to lower overall data collection costs (for a fixed sample size) or increase the precision of survey estimates (for a fixed cost).

Table 6. Effect of incentives on data collection costs

Incentive Amount	Relative Cost Difference	Relative Difference in Completed Surveys	Relative Cost per Completed Survey
$0	1.00	1	$1.00
$1	1.20	1.42	$0.78
$2	1.38	1.58	$0.80
$5	1.90	1.75	$1.15

Note – relative differences reflect the ratio of quantities (cost, completes) in the experimental treatments to the zero dollar control.

Including a modest prepaid cash incentive in survey mailings clearly has a positive effect on survey response rates; the odds of receiving a completed survey increased significantly as the incentive amount increased. We expected the incentives to have a greater effect on non-anglers than anglers and decrease the potential for nonresponse bias by minimizing differential nonresponse between these two populations. However, the results of the experiment suggest that incentives increase response propensities for non-anglers and anglers equally. While this result does not support our hypothesis, it does demonstrate that incentives can increase the quantity of data without having a negative impact on survey measures. The experiment also demonstrated that incentives can decrease overall data collection costs. Based upon these findings, we conclude that a $2 incentive is optimal in terms of both maximizing response rates and minimizing data collection costs.

[3] The cost comparison assumes that the non-incentive direct costs (postage and printing) are the same for all survey treatments and does not reflect the fact that incentive conditions may not require as many follow-up mailings.

References

Groves, R.M., M.P. Couper, S. Presser, E. Singer, R. Tourangeau, G.P. Piani, N. Lindsay. 2006. Experiments in producing nonresponse bias. Public Opinion Quarterly, 70: 720-736.

Lohr, S. 2009. Multiple Frame Surveys. Chapter 4 in Pfeffermann, D. (Ed.) *Handbook of Statistics: Sample Surveys Design, Methods and Applications* (vol. 29A). Elsevier, Amsterdam.

Marine Recreational Information Program

Fishing Effort Survey

Nonresponse Follow-up Study

9/26/2013

The MRIP Fishing Effort Survey (MFES) was implemented in Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina and Florida in October, 2012 to test a revised data collection design for monitoring marine recreational fishing effort. The survey, which collects information for two-month reference waves, included a follow-up study to assess nonresponse bias in the MFES. We also assessed nonresponse bias by comparing survey measures between early and late responders. Details of these assessments are provided below.

Nonresponse Follow-up Study

Each wave, 400 total nonrespondents, 320 from the Resident Angler Survey (RAS) and 80 from the Non-Resident Angler Survey (NAS), were sampled for the Non-Response Follow-Up study (NRFU). Data collection for the study was initiated six weeks after the final contact for the MFES with the delivery of an advanced letter via regular first-class mail. Five days later, a survey packet, including a cover letter, questionnaire, post-paid return envelope and a $5.00 cash incentive was delivered via FedEx. A thank you/reminder postcard was delivered eight days after the FedEx. The NRFU survey instruments were identical to the instruments used for the MFES. To date, four waves of the NRFU have been completed (Wave 5, 2012 – Wave 2, 2013).

Table 1 provides the initial sample sizes, number of completed interviews and response rates for the NRFU. Overall, 474 nonresponse interviews were completed for the RAS and 124 for NAS, resulting in unweighted response rates (AAPOR RR1) of 37% and 38.8% for the respective samples.

Table 1. Sample sizes, completed interviews and response rates by wave for the RAS and the NAS.

	Resident Angler Survey			Non-Resident Angler Survey		
State	Sample Size (n)	Complete Interviews (n)	Response Rate (%)	Sample Size (n)	Complete Interviews (n)	Response Rate (%)
MA	293	119	40.6%	80	35	43.8%
NY	270	88	32.6%	80	26	32.5%
NC	359	149	41.5%	80	35	43.8%
FL	358	118	33.0%	80	28	35.0%
Overall	1280	474	37.0%	320	124	38.8%

We assessed nonresponse bias by comparing estimated fishing prevalence (percent of households that reported fishing during the wave) between the initial MFES and NRFU samples. Differences between MFES and NRFU estimates would suggest that MFES and NRFU samples are different with respect to recreational fishing activity, resulting in biased MFES estimates.

Table 2 shows that differences in estimated fishing prevalence between initial samples and NRFU samples are neither significant nor systematic for either the RAS or NAS, demonstrating that MFES respondents and nonrespondents are not significantly different with respect to

saltwater fishing activity. This suggests that nonresponse is not a significant source of bias in the MFES.

Table 2. Estimated fishing prevalence for the full sample and nonresponse follow-up sample for the (a) Resident Angler Survey and the (b) Non-Resident Angler Survey.

(a)

State	Estimated Prevalence				*p*-value
	Full Sample (RAS)		NRFU Sample (RAS)		
	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	
MA	9.4%	6424	8.2%	119	0.667
NY	7.2%	4864	13.9%	88	0.230
NC	10.5%	7921	7.1%	149	0.100
FL	20.9%	6767	23.3%	118	0.682

(b)

State	Estimated Prevalence				*p*-value
	Full Sample (NAS)		NRFU Sample (NAS)		
	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	
MA	55.3%	745	63.3%	35	0.322
NY	43.5%	649	30.1%	26	0.342
NC	29.5%	609	44.2%	35	0.472
FL	43.5%	589	37.1%	28	0.418

Notes – Comparisons between full sample data and NRFU include four waves of data collection, wave 5, 2012 – wave 2, 2013.

Early vs. Late Responders

We also assessed nonresponse bias by comparing final prevalence estimates, generated from complete sample data[1], to preliminary prevalence estimates, derived from survey data collected within three weeks of the conclusion of each wave.

Table 3 shows that there are no significant differences between preliminary and final estimates for either the RAS or NAS, verifying the results from the NRFU.

[1] Complete sample data includes surveys returned within 12 weeks of the end of the reference wave.

Table 3. Final and preliminary fishing prevalence estimates for the (a) Resident Angler Survey and the (b) Non-Resident Angler Survey.

(a)

Estimated Fishing Prevalence (RAS)					
State	Final Estimate		Preliminary Estimate		*p*-value
	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	
MA	10.1%	7982	9.8%	5811	0.610
NY	8.1%	6183	7.9%	4532	0.689
NC	11.1%	9839	11.0%	7413	0.944
FL	22.0%	8342	22.6%	6197	0.384

(b)

Estimated Fishing Prevalence (NAS)					
State	Final Estimate		Preliminary Estimate		*p*-value
	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	
MA	47.6%	905	47.4%	699	0.944
NY	32.4%	802	32.8%	615	0.920
NC	47.0%	760	45.8%	580	0.667
FL	52.3%	723	50.9%	526	0.631

Notes – Comparisons between preliminary and final estimates include 5 waves of data collection, wave 5, 2012 – wave 3, 2013.

Nonresponse will result in biased estimates if respondents and nonrespondents are different with respect to survey measures. In the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey, estimates of fishing prevalence will be biased if respondents are more or less likely to participate in recreational fishing than nonrespondents. We tested for nonresponse bias in the MFES by comparing preliminary and final survey data and by conducting a nonresponse follow-up study. Neither assessment demonstrated that MFES estimates are biased as a result of nonresponse.

designated on the records of the Board as Foreign-Trade Zone No. 286, as described in the application, and subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.13, to the Board's standard 2,000-acre activation limit, and to ASF sunset provisions for magnet sites that would terminate authority for Sites 1 and 3 if not activated by March 31, 2018 and for usage-driven sites that would terminate authority for Site 4 if no foreign-status merchandise is admitted for a *bona fide* customs purpose by March 31, 2016.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 22nd day of March 2013.

Rebecca Blank,

Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Chairman and Executive Officer, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–07868 Filed 4–3–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1891]

Reorganization and Expansion of Foreign-Trade Zone 35 under Alternative Site Framework; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Board adopted the alternative site framework (ASF) (15 CFR 400.2(c)) as an option for the establishment or reorganization of zones;

Whereas, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 35, submitted an application to the Board (FTZ Docket B–75–2012, docketed 10/19/2012) for authority to reorganize under the ASF with a service area of Philadelphia, Delaware, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Lancaster and Berks Counties, Pennsylvania, in and adjacent to the Philadelphia Customs and Border Protection port of entry, FTZ 35's existing Sites 1–4, 6, 10 and 12 would be categorized as magnet sites, existing Sites 7, 8 and 11 as usage-driven sites and the grantee proposes three additional usage-driven sites (Sites 13–15);

Whereas, notice inviting public comment was given in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 64953, 10/24/2012) and the application has been processed pursuant to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations; and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations are satisfied;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby orders:

The application to reorganize and expand FTZ 35 under the ASF is approved, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.13, to the Board's standard 2,000-acre activation limit for the zone, to a five-year ASF sunset provision for magnet sites that would terminate authority for Sites 1–4, 6, 10 and 12 if not activated by March 31, 2018, and to a three-year ASF sunset provision for usage-driven sites that would terminate authority for Sites 7, 8, 11, and 13–15 if no foreign-status merchandise is admitted for a *bona fide* customs purpose by March 31, 2016.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 27th day of March 2013.

Paul Piquado,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Alternate Chairman, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

ATTEST:

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–07757 Filed 4–3–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Purdue University et al.; Notice of Consolidated Decision on Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Electron Microscope

This is a decision consolidated pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89–651, as amended by Pub. L. 106–36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Room 3720, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 12–060. *Applicant:* Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope. *Manufacturer:* FEI Company, the Netherlands. *Intended Use:* See notice at 78 FR 2659, January 14, 2013.

Docket Number: 12–061. *Applicant:* Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907–2024. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope. *Manufacturer:* FEI Company, the Netherlands. *Intended Use:* See notice at 78 FR 2659, January 14, 2013.

Docket Number: 12–067. *Applicant:* University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope. *Manufacturer:* JEOL Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* See notice at 78 FR 2659, January 14, 2013.

Docket Number: 12–068. *Applicant:* National Center for Toxicological Research, USFDA, Jefferson, AK 72079. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope. *Manufacturer:* Carl Zeiss, Germany. *Intended Use:* See notice at 78 FR 2659, January 14, 2013.

Docket Number: 12–069. *Applicant:* Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope. *Manufacturer:* FEI Company, Czech Republic. *Intended Use:* See notice at 78 FR 2659, January 14, 2013.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as this instrument is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States at the time the instrument was ordered. *Reasons:* Each foreign instrument is an electron microscope and is intended for research or scientific educational uses requiring an electron microscope. We know of no electron microscope, or any other instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of each instrument.

Dated: March 28, 2013.

Gregory W. Campbell,

Director, Subsidies Enforcement Office, Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 2013–07871 Filed 4–3–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey

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 June 3, 2013.

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(s) and instructions should be directed to Rob Andrews, (301) 427–8105 or *Rob.Andrews@NOAA.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for revision of a current information collection. The title will be changed from ''Marine Recreational Information Program'' to ''Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey''.

Marine recreational anglers are surveyed to collect catch and effort data, fish biology data, and angler socioeconomic characteristics. These data are required to carry out provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as amended, regarding conservation and management of fishery resources.

Marine recreational fishing effort data have traditionally been collected through the Coastal Household Telephone Survey, a random-digit-dial telephone survey of coastal county residences. Amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) require the development of an improved data collection program for recreational fisheries. To meet these requirements, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Fisheries has designed and tested new approaches for sampling and surveying recreational anglers. Revision: A mail survey that samples from residential address frames and collects information on the number of marine recreational anglers and the number of recreational fishing trips is currently being tested in MA, NY, NC and FL. The survey will be expanded to all Atlantic and Gulf coast states (except TX), HI and Puerto Rico.

II. Method of Collection

Information will be collected through mail surveys.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0652.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (revision of a current information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 153,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 25,500 (16,600 new).

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information;

(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: April 1, 2013.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013–07833 Filed 4–3–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The ONMS is seeking applications for the following vacant seats on the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council: Community-at-Large: Tutuila East Side, and Community-at-Large: Manu'a Area. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 3-year terms, pursuant to the council's charter.

DATES: Applications are due by May 2, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Veronika Mata'utia Mortenson in the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center in Utulei, American Samoa. Completed applications should be submitted to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Veronika Mata'utia Mortenson, Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center in Utulei, American Samoa, American Samoa, 684–633–6500 ext. 229, *veronika.mortenson@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council was established in 2005 pursuant to Federal law to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The Sanctuary Advisory Council brings members of a diverse community together to provide advice to the Sanctuary Manager (delegated from the Secretary of Commerce and the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere) on the management and protection of the Sanctuary, or to assist the National Marine Sanctuary Program in guiding a proposed site through the designation or the periodic management plan review process.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Sections 1431, et seq.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: March 28, 2013.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2013–07823 Filed 4–3–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–NK–M