NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 10/25/2013

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 07/03/2013

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201306-0648-004
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Pilot Project Assessing Economic Benefits of Marine Debris Removal
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0681
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: 10/31/2014 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	1,320	410	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	1,320	410	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change due to PRA Violation	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: The results of this study should not be extrapolated to geographical areas outside the study area.

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
Primary Survey	NA, NA	Primary survey, Southern California Beach Survey	
Nonresponse survey	NA	No title (non-response 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/NOS/ORR

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

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

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

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

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

7. Title Preliminary Case Study Assessing Economic Benefits of Marine Debris Removal

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

9. Keywords

10. Abstract

The submission is for conducting a general population mail survey of households in Orange County, California. The survey will collect data on day trips to local beaches which, when combined with marine debris measurements at these beaches, will be used in a pilot study designed to assess the economic benefits of reductions in marine debris to beach visitors. The pilot study results will be used to develop and refine NOAA's future research efforts related to the economic impact of marine debris. The Marine Debris Program requires this information to adequately address the requirements of the Marine Debris Act that are related to the economy and tourism.

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 1,320
b. Total annual responses 1,320
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 0 %
c. Total annual hours requested 410
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change
2. Adjustment

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

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management
b. ___ Program evaluation f. P Research
c. ___ 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) One time only

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: Jason Landrum
Phone: 301-713-2989 x161

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

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

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

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

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

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

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

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

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

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

- (i) Why the information is being collected;
- (ii) Use of information;
- (iii) Burden estimate;
- (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
- (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
- (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

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

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

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

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

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature signed by Hugh Johnson	Date 6/3/2013
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature Final version as approved 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: 2013.10.25 16:53:16 -04'00'	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

PRELIMINARY CASE STUDY ASSESSING ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF MARINE DEBRIS REDUCTION

OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is requesting approval for a new information collection to conduct a general population mail survey of households in Orange County, California. The survey will collect data on day trips to local beaches which, when combined with marine debris measurements at these beaches, will be used to assess the degree to which marine debris impacts beach visitation decisions. This issue has not been addressed in the economics literature, and the study will allow NOAA to assess the potential utility of revealed preference models in assessing the economic benefits of reductions in marine debris to beach visitors. Lessons learned through the study will guide future efforts by NOAA to assess the economic benefits associated with reductions in marine debris at beaches.[1]

The Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006 ((33 U.S.C. §§ 1951 et seq.), together with the Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2012, established NOAA's Marine Debris Program (hereafter referred to as "the Program") to "identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris and address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the economy of the United States, the marine environment, and navigation safety." Marine debris is defined as "Any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes." The Act directs the Program to "undertake outreach and education activities for the public and other stakeholders on sources of marine debris…and its adverse impacts on the United States economy…" The Act also directs the Program to "estimate the potential impacts of a severe marine debris event, including economic impacts on…tourism."

The Program requires information on the impact of marine debris on beach visitors to adequately address the requirements of the Marine Debris Act that are related to the economy and tourism and to assess the benefit of restoration projects related to marine debris removal within the context of natural resource damage assessments conducted by NOAA under the Oil Pollution Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 2701 et seq.).

The economic benefits of reductions in marine debris accrue to multiple parties, including those who actively use and derive direct benefit from beaches and those members of the general population who simply care about clean beaches whether they use the beach or not. Potential direct beneficiaries of reductions in marine debris—those who receive values from the direct use

[1] While reductions in marine debris may reduce marine debris removal costs incurred by local municipalities (e.g., beach raking costs), reductions in these costs could not be used to assess benefits, as (1) some beaches are not cleaned at all by local municipalities and (2) the behavior of these municipalities will not necessarily reflect the preferences of beach visitors.

of the resource—include beach visitors and local property owners. Passive use value (also known as non-use or existence value) "is the willingness to pay for the preservation or improvement of natural resources, without any prospect or intention of direct or in-situ use of the resource" (Haab and McConnell 2002, p. 16). Because use and non-use values accrue to different segments of the population, different methods are necessary to evaluate changes in use and non-use values due to changes in marine debris. Further, because use values accrue to different user populations (for example, beach visitors and property owners), different studies and methods are necessary to estimate use values for each sub-population.

The current study uses a revealed preference valuation method to estimate the changes in use values that accrue to beach visitors in Orange County, California due to changes in marine debris. The study does not estimate non-use values and it does not use stated preference methods.

The proposed information collection will allow NOAA to implement a preliminary study focused on the impact of marine debris on beach visitors in Orange County, California. The study results will be used to develop and refine NOAA's future efforts to assess the overall economic impacts of marine debris. These future efforts may include revealed preference valuation studies focused on beach visitation in other coastal areas of the United States.

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

Overview

The survey data will be used by the Marine Debris Program in a study designed to estimate the economic benefits of reductions in marine debris to Orange County beach visitors. Data on survey respondents' trips to local beaches will be combined with data on travel costs and beach characteristics to estimate the parameters of a random utility maximization (RUM) travel cost model. The beach characteristics data will be gathered outside of the survey effort and will include on-site, quantitative measurements of marine debris. RUM travel cost models are a type of discrete choice model frequently used by economists to describe recreation site choice decisions and to assess the economic gains (losses) associated with improvements (declines) in the quality of specific recreation sites (see Haab and McConnell 2002).[2] The RUM model will be used to estimate welfare gains to beach visitors associated with reductions in marine debris concentrations. Marine debris can lead to welfare losses for beach visitors by diminishing the quality of their visits to the beach, by causing them to travel to less desirable alternative beaches, or by causing them to pursue alternative activities.

The RUM travel cost model is a revealed preference valuation approach, relying on individuals' actual behavior (i.e., selecting beaches to visit and incurring the associated travel costs) to make inferences about willingness to pay (WTP). Individuals may be willing to pay for reductions in marine debris on beaches that they visit for a variety of reasons, including aesthetic concerns and concerns about potential health effects. The RUM model does not distinguish among these

[2] Additional details regarding the RUM model are provided in Part B of the Supporting Statement.

various motivations; it simply uses data on beach choices to estimate WTP for reductions in marine debris at beaches.

Background

Marine debris is widely acknowledged to be a persistent problem in many coastal areas of the United States. There are a variety of potential economic losses associated with marine debris including, costs incurred by local governments and volunteer organizations to remove and dispose of marine debris, impacts on waterfront property values due to diminished aesthetic appeal, and potential effects on recreational and commercial fisheries.

One of the more significant potential economic losses is that suffered by beach visitors due to the presence of marine debris on beaches. Beach visitors are likely to be concerned about marine debris both because it poses potential physical harm due to lacerations, bacterial infections, or entanglements during swimming, and because it may detract from the perceived natural beauty of an area. In contrast to debris or litter along the roadside or in parks, there is a high potential for dermal contact with marine debris on beaches as visitors frequently go barefoot, lie directly on the sand, and dig in the sand. The existence of numerous volunteer efforts to remove debris from beaches and the fact that many municipalities regularly rake beaches to remove debris is an indication that beach visitors are negatively impacted by the presence of marine debris.

Orange County, California was selected for the study because it has numerous well-defined, popular beaches located very close to a large urban area. As beaches are closely linked to the culture of the local area, visitation rates are likely to be reasonably high, which will facilitate the collection of data on beach trips from the general population. In addition, there appears to be sufficient variation in factors potentially associated with marine debris (e.g., population densities, local land use, frequency of beach cleaning, locations of river mouths, etc.) that it seems reasonable to expect marine debris levels to vary across sites (Moore et al. 2001). The presence of a variety of local beaches provides an opportunity to determine, through statistical modeling of beach choices, whether residents choose to travel farther from their homes or to visit beaches that are less desirable in other respects, in order to recreate at beaches that have lower densities of marine debris.

Details and Purpose of Information Collection

The Orange County study will provide an important contribution to the empirical literature on RUM travel cost models. There are currently no published RUM travel cost models that attempt to link beach trip choices with physical measurements of marine debris at individual beaches. While Parsons et al. (2009) include indicators of beach cleaning activities in a RUM model focused on Texas Gulf Coast beaches, they do not obtain objective measurements of the amount of debris at each beach. Other recent beach recreation models do not address marine debris at all, including the Southern California beach model (Hanemann et al. 2004), a model focused on visits to New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland beaches (Parsons and Massey 2003), and a model focused on visits to San Diego County beaches (Lew and Larson 2005). Thus, while the literature has demonstrated the importance of beach characteristics such as width, length, and various amenities, the presence of marine debris hasn't been considered.

The primary research goal of the study is to use revealed preference data on beach trips to

quantify the relationship between marine debris (number of items per square meter) and beach visitation choices, while controlling for a variety of factors that may impact these choices, such as travel cost, beach width, beach length, and available amenities. That is, the data will allow us to assess whether or not the quantity of marine debris on a beach has a statistically significant impact on the utility that an individual receives from a beach visit, and it will allow us to estimate the magnitude of that impact.

Within the framework of this primary goal and contingent on finding an impact, we will explore a number of additional research questions, including:

- What specific *types* of marine debris have the greatest impact on beach choices (e.g., plastic, metal, glass etc.)?
- Does the impact of marine debris on beach choice vary in a systematic way across respondents (e.g., are visitors with children more sensitive to marine debris levels)?
- Does the impact of marine debris on beach choices depend on the location of the debris on the beach (e.g., within the wrack line, on the foreshore, or on the backshore)?
- Is there a threshold above which marine debris seems to influence beach choices and below which it does not?
- What is the relationship between respondents' perceptions of marine debris and actual marine debris levels?

These secondary research questions have not been addressed in the economics literature, as researchers have not had access to the type of data that will be collected in this study: data on beach choices combined with detailed data on marine debris.

As discussed in Part B, focus groups recently conducted in Orange County indicate that some residents are concerned about the presence of marine debris on local beaches and would refrain from visiting specific local beaches as a result of these concerns. Furthermore, all participants indicated that they had actually observed marine debris at local beaches. These findings, although derived from a small sample of residents, suggest that a revealed preference model (e.g., a RUM model) may indeed be successful in quantifying the relationship between marine debris and beach visitation choices.

In addition to contributing to the RUM literature, the Orange County study will allow NOAA to assess the potential utility of this type of model in assessing the economic benefits of reductions in marine debris; lessons learned through the study will guide future efforts by NOAA to assess the economic benefits associated with reductions in marine debris at beaches. A specific research agenda for these future efforts has not yet been established, as it is partially contingent on the results of the current study. NOAA does *not* plan to simply scale up the current study to a larger geographic region. However, because future research efforts may also apply a similar methodology, an assessment of its usefulness is required. In particular, this study will help NOAA determine whether or not individuals living near the coast are generally aware of marine debris levels and whether or not they consider these levels when selecting a beach. These are necessary conditions for the use of RUM travel cost models to assess WTP for reductions in marine debris.

The data collection consists of two surveys: a primary survey and a non-respondent follow-up survey. The primary survey will be implemented by mail in November/December 2013 using address-based sampling (Link et al. 2008; Brick, Williams, and Montaquila 2011; Iannacchione 2011). The primary survey includes questions that focus on beach day trips, beach activities, marine debris at local beaches, and demographic characteristics (see below for a description of each survey question). With regard to beach day trips, the respondent is asked to indicate the specific local beaches that he or she visited over the past three months and the number of day trips taken, by month, to each beach.

The implementation sequence for the mail survey will be as follows:

> **Day 1:** An advance letter will be sent to all sampled households via first class mail. The letter will notify the household that a survey is on the way, describe the purpose of the survey, and encourage the individual to respond.
>
> **Day 5:** The primary survey will be mailed to all sampled households via first class mail. The survey instrument will include a $2 cash response incentive, a letter, a color map of local beaches, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
>
> **Day 12:** A thank you/reminder postcard will be mailed to <u>all</u> sampled households thanking them for responding and encouraging them to complete the survey if they haven't already.
>
> **Day 26:** A replacement survey instrument will be sent to all sampled households who have not yet responded via first class mail. The replacement survey will include a letter, a color map, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The non-respondent follow-up survey will be conducted with a sub-sample of an estimated 600 individuals who do not respond after the first two survey mailings in order to investigate the potential for nonresponse bias. The non-respondent follow-up survey will be sent via two-day FedEx and will consist of a letter, a five-question survey, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The nonresponse follow-up survey will be implemented four weeks after the replacement survey has been mailed.

The questions in the non-respondent follow-up survey are a subset of the questions from the main survey. The wording of the questions is identical across the two surveys in order to facilitate comparisons and the potential development of adjustment weights. The first two questions focus on the frequency with which the individual visits beaches in the local area: Question 1 asks about trips over the past 12 months, while Question 2 asks about trips over the past summer (June, July, and August). By comparing responses to these two questions with responses to identical questions in the main survey, we will be able to assess whether respondents take more trips to local beaches than non-respondents.

The second two questions in the non-respondent follow-up survey focus on the extent to which the individual is concerned about marine debris on local beaches: Question 3 asks directly about the individual's level of concern about marine debris (on a 1 to 5 scale), while Question 4 asks about the individual's participation in beach cleanup efforts. By comparing responses to these two questions with responses to identical questions in the main survey, we will be able to assess whether respondents are more concerned about marine debris than non-respondents.

If respondents differ from non-respondents in either of these two ways (number of beach trips and level of concern about marine debris), then a RUM model that relies entirely on data from respondents may produce biased estimates of WTP for reductions in marine debris. If substantial differences between respondents and non-respondents are observed, the non-respondent follow-up survey results can be used to develop non-response adjustment classes for re-weighting the respondent data (see, e.g., Lohr 1999 or Groves et al. 2004). The non-respondent follow-up survey furthers the research goals of the current study by assessing the potential for non-response bias so that it may be addressed in future efforts, if necessary.

An alternative approach to assessing potential non-response bias is to incorporate questions in the survey instrument that are identical to questions that have been included in large scale, high quality social science survey efforts (i.e., "benchmarking"). For example, questions about the respondent's opinion regarding government spending on the environment ("Too little", "About the right amount," or "Too much") have frequently been included in the National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey (GSS). When an identical question is added to a survey instrument in a study that focuses on environmental issues, one can compare the responses with the GSS responses to determine whether individuals who are more inclined to favor government spending on environmental issues are also more likely to respond to the survey.

We do not use a benchmarking approach in the current survey effort because the current survey focuses on a relatively small geographic area, Orange County, California. The GSS and other social science surveys do not have large enough sample sizes at the county level for comparisons that would have any reasonable level of statistical power. Furthermore, using state-level data for comparisons would not be informative as a sample of Orange County residents could not be considered to be representative of the state of California.

The content and specific purpose of each question is described below.

Primary Survey:

- Question 1 asks if the respondent has ever visited a local beach. This question simply allows respondents to skip the initial questions about beach trips if they do not visit local beaches at all.

- Question 2 asks about the number of trips taken to local beaches over the past year. This question provides annual trip data that can potentially be used in transferring benefit estimates for the three-month study period (which will be used in the RUM model) to an entire year.

- Question 3 asks about activities that the respondent participates in at local beaches. This question provides information that will be useful in determining the model structure, as respondents' beach choices may depend on the types of activities they would like to pursue.

- Question 4 asks about the typical transportation mode that the respondent uses when visiting local beaches. For respondents using vehicles to access the beach, there is a follow-up question about the number of adults and children typically in the vehicle.

These questions will be used in calculating travel costs for the beach choice model.

- Questions 5 and 6 ask about beach characteristics that are important to the respondent. This will be useful in determining which beach attributes to include in the choice model and in assessing the importance of marine debris relative to other beach characteristics.

- Questions 7 and 8 ask about awareness of local beaches and whether there are certain beaches that the respondent would never consider visiting. These questions will be used in developing the "choice set" for the RUM model, or the set of beaches that the respondent considers visiting.

- Questions 9 and 10a ask about the specific destinations of trips taken to local beaches during the previous three months (June, July, and August). This question will provide the beach trip data necessary to estimate the choice model.

- Question 10b asks about the amount of marine debris observed at each beach that the respondent visited. This question provides data that will allow for an investigation of the relationship between perceived and actual marine debris concentrations at each beach (with actual concentrations measured on site).

- Question 11 asks about the extent to which the respondent is concerned about marine debris in general. Responses to this question could be used to develop models that allow for marine debris preferences to vary across respondents.

- Question 12 asks about the extent to which the respondent is concerned about various types of marine debris. This provides information that can be used in constructing the marine debris variable for the choice model from on-site data on marine debris (which will be classified by type).

- Questions 13, 14, and 15 ask about the types of marine debris that the respondent has actually seen at local beaches. These questions will help in interpreting responses to Question 12, as respondents' beach choices are not likely to be influenced by a particular type of marine debris if they never actually observed it at local beaches.

- Question 16 asks the respondent to indicate the local beaches where they think marine debris is a problem. This question, like Question 10b, provides data that will allow for an investigation of the relationship between perceived and actual marine debris levels. This question is included *in addition to* Question 10b because Question 10b focuses only on the beaches that respondents actually visited.

- Question 17 asks about the respondents' perception of the source of marine debris. This will potentially be used in specifying the choice model, as visitors' may have heterogeneous behavioral responses to marine debris depending on where they believe it originated.

- Question 18 asks about the respondents' participation in beach cleanups. This

question is included to assess potential nonresponse bias. An identical question is included on the non-respondent follow-up survey.

- Question 19 asks the respondent to indicate the local beaches where they think crowding is a problem. This question will be used to develop measures of crowding that can be used in the site choice model.

- Question 20 asks about the number of adults and children in the household. The number of adults will be used (together with household income, Question 26) to determine the approximate wage rate for calculating the opportunity cost of time in the RUM model. In addition, responses will be used in developing weights that account for differing selection probabilities across households due to differences in the number of adults.

- Questions 21 to 26 ask for demographic details, including gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and household income. The responses to these questions will allow us to assess the representativeness of the survey respondents through comparisons with census data for Orange County.

Non-Respondent Follow-Up Survey:

- Questions 1 and 2 ask about the number of trips taken to beaches in the local area over the last year and over the last three months. These questions will allow us to assess any potential avidity bias in the primary survey. Responses to Question 1 will be compared with responses to Question 2 from the primary survey, and responses to Question 2 will be compared with responses to Question 10a from the primary survey.

- Questions 3 and 4 ask about concern about marine debris (Question 3) and participation in beach cleanups (Question 4). These questions will allow us to assess whether respondents tend to care more about marine debris issues than non-respondents. Responses to Question 3 will be compared with responses to Question 12 on the primary survey, and responses to Question 4 will be compared with responses to Question 18 on the primary survey.

- Question 5 asks about the number of adults and children in the household. Responses to this question will be used in developing weights that account for differing selection probabilities across households due to differences in the number of adults.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program 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. Although the information collected is not expected to be disseminated directly to the public, results may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications. Should NOAA Marine Debris Program decide to disseminate the information, it 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 data will be collected via a mail survey using address-based sampling. The data collection does not use automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The research team believes that a mail-only survey mode offers the best opportunity for obtaining a high response rate at a reasonable cost, while allowing for the use of visual aids (i.e., a map of local beaches). Potential alternatives modes include a web-based survey and an in-person survey. However, existing probability-based web panels (e.g., GfK Knowledge Networks) would have inadequate sample sizes at the county level, and the cost associated with fielding an in-person survey would be unreasonable for an exploratory effort. While it would be possible to provide a Web URL that allows mail survey respondents to complete the survey over the internet, recent research has found that providing an internet option in a mail survey does not improve response rates relative to a mail-only approach (Messer and Dillman, 2011; Medway and Fulton 2012).

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

A review of the literature did not identify any existing research on the economic impact of marine debris on beach visitors that relied on actual measurements of the quantity of marine debris. While Parsons et al. (2009) include "manual cleaning" and "machine cleaning" variables in a RUM model focused on Texas Gulf Coast beaches, they do not obtain objective measurements of the amount of debris at each beach. Other recent beach recreation models include no measure of marine debris at all, including the Southern California beach model (Hanemann et al. 2004), a model focused on visits to New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland beaches (Parsons and Massey 2003), and a model focused on visits to San Diego County beaches (Lew and Larson 2005).

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

The proposed information collection will focus on households and will not impact small businesses or other small entities.

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

If the information collection is not conducted, then the Program will have difficulty moving forward with a research program aimed at advancing our knowledge concerning the economic impacts of marine debris on the United States economy. The studyis a necessary step towards this goal, as it allows the Program to assess strengths and weaknesses of using a RUM travel cost

model to estimate economic gains and losses for beach visitors.

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

The proposed information collection will be conducted in a manner that 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 March 11, 2013 (78 FR 15355) solicited public comment. Only one comment was received: an individual requested a draft version of the survey instrument, and a draft was provided to that individual.

In addition to the Federal Register notice, comments on the survey materials were solicited from the following persons outside the agency:

1. Dr. Timothy Haab, Professor and Chair, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University.
2. Dr. Christopher Leggett, consultant to Industrial Economics, Incorporated, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
3. Nine residents of Orange County, who were interviewed during two focus group discussions (total of nine participants across both groups) conducted in Irvine, California in February 2013 (see details in Part B, Question 4).

Each person was asked to provide feedback on survey design, including length and clarity of instructions.

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

A monetary incentive of $2 will be provided with the survey materials. Previous survey research (Dillman 2009) suggests prepaid financial tokens are one of the greatest contributions to an increased response rate. It has been demonstrated that a financial token may pull in responders that may otherwise not be interested in participating in the survey (Groves et al. 2006); an issue that is of particular relevance to non-response bias. Moreover, Dillman explains (2009, p 241) that a financial token paid upfront rather than after survey completion turns the action from financial exchange to a social exchange, overcoming the problem of establishing a price point for completion of a survey. Two dollars has been shown to be one of the most effective levels of incentive and are widely used in survey implementation (Lesser et al. 2001). Therefore the mailing will include $2 in cash as an unconditional incentive for completion of the short questionnaire to encourage response from this population.

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

NOAA will not collect any identifying information about survey respondents other than a household address. All addresses will be removed from the database (with the exception of zip code) after NOAA has calculated, for every household, the driving distance to every beach in the local area. These distance calculations are necessary for the estimation of the RUM travel cost model. All travel distances will be rounded to the nearest half-mile so that individual households cannot be identified ex post through trilateration-type procedures.

The survey materials will include a statement that the respondent's name will be removed from NOAA's database after NOAA receives the completed questionnaire. In addition, the survey materials will state that all information provided "will remain confidential to the extent permitted by law." No other confidentiality assurances will be provided to the respondent.

11. <u>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</u>.

No questions of a sensitive nature will be asked.

12. <u>Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information</u>.

The proposed collection involves two one-time surveys: the primary survey and the non-respondent follow-up survey.

- *Primary Survey***:** This is a general population mail survey will be sent to 4,000 households. Assuming a 30 percent response rate, there will be 1,200 respondents and 2,800 non-respondents.[3]
- *Non-respondent Follow-Up Survey***:** This survey will be mailed to a sample of 600 households that did not respond to the primary survey. Assuming a 20 percent response rate, this survey will have 120 respondents and 480 non-respondents.

Based on focus groups, we assume that each respondent will spend 20 minutes completing the primary survey, and that non-respondents will spend five minutes completing the non-respondent follow-up survey. Thus, we estimate the total burden of this collection to be 410 hours (Table 1). This is a one-time data collection, so there will be no additional costs expected for respondents.

[3] Link et al. (2008) achieved response rates of approximately 20 to 37 percent in an address-based mail survey using the CDSF.

Table 1. Total Estimated Burden

Survey	Responses	Completion Time	Burden Hours
Primary Survey	1,200	20 minutes	400
Non-respondent Follow-Up Survey	120	5 minutes	10
		TOTAL	410

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a mean hourly wage for all occupations for the Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, California Metropolitan Division of $24.81 (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2013). Multiplying the 410 burden hours by this mean hourly wage yields a total labor cost of $10,172.10 (Table 2).

Table 2. Total Estimated Labor Cost

Activity	Sector	Annual Number of Responses	Total Annual Burden Hours	Dollar Value Per Burden Hour	Total Labor Cost
Completing Survey	Private Individuals	1,320	410	$24.81	$10,172.10

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

There will be no recordkeeping/reporting costs resulting from the collection.

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

The total annualized cost to the Federal Government is $291,284.48. This total cost is comprised of two components:

(1) *Operational Expenses*: All operational costs will be incurred by the contractor, Industrial Economics, Incorporated. The contract with Industrial Economics is for $285,004.48, which includes survey design and testing, survey implementation, data analysis, and reporting.

(2) *Labor Costs for Staff*: The estimated time required for Marine Debris Program staff to oversee the information collection is 80 hours at a Grade/Step of AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow and an hourly rate of $78.50 (including overhead), resulting in total labor costs for staff of $6,280.

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

This is a new program.

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

Statistical summaries of responses to all survey questions will be developed, including the mean, minimum, maximum, and standard deviation for questions with numerical responses; and response frequencies for questions with categorical response options. In addition, responses related to beach visits will be analyzed within the context of a RUM travel cost model as described in detail in Part B of this supporting statement.

The overall schedule for the study is as follows:

- Measure marine debris at beaches — July and August 2013
- Print and coordinate survey materials — August 2013
- Implement survey — November 2013 to December 2013
- Analyze results and develop report — January 2013 to March 2014

The project report will be posted online on the NOAA marine debris program website (http://marinedebris/noaa.gov) in pdf format.

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.

The expiration date for OMB approval will be displayed on all surveys associated with this information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

PRELIMINARY CASE STUDY ASSESSING ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF MARINE DEBRIS REDUCTION

OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

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

The potential respondent universe consists of residents of Orange County, California who are 18 years old or older and living in non-institutional households that are listed in the United States Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence File (CDSF). In 2010, there were an estimated 2,273,573 adults living in Orange County, California.[1]

For the primary survey, a simple random sample of 4,000 non-institutional residential addresses will be drawn from the CDSF. Within each selected household, a single adult will be randomly selected to complete the survey using the next birthday method (Oldendick et al. 1988). The next birthday method involves including a statement in the cover letter that the survey should be completed by the adult living in the household whose birthday will be the next to occur after a particular date (in this case, September 1st). The anticipated response rate for the survey is 30 percent using the "RR3" response rate formula defined by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR 2011), resulting in approximately 1,200 completed surveys.[2] Link et al. (2008) achieved response rates of approximately 20 to 37 percent in an address-based mail survey using the CDSF.[3]

For the non-respondent follow-up survey, a simple random sample of 600 addresses will be drawn from the primary survey non-respondents. The anticipated response rate for the non-

[1] U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

[2] AAPOR defines RR3 as I/(I+P+R+NC+O+e(UH+UO)) where: I is the number of completed surveys, P is the number of partially completed surveys, R is the number of refusals (e.g., household returns a blank survey or a refusal note), NC is the number of non-contacts (e.g., household provides notification that the respondent is temporarily unavailable), O is the number of other households (e.g., household provides indication of a language difficulty, literacy issue, or illness), e is the estimated proportion of households of unknown eligibility that are eligible, UH is the number of households with unknown occupancy status (e.g., no returned survey or other communication from the household), and UO is the number of other households where eligibility is unknown (e.g., mailing returned as "refused by addressee") (AAPOR 2011).

[3] Ideally, the anticipated response rate would be based on mail surveys that sample from the CDSF and focus on beach visitation. However, recent general population surveys that focus on beach visitation (including the surveys described in Parsons et al. 2009, Hanemann et al. 2004, and Lew and Larson 2005) recruited participants via telephone or did not sample from the CDSF (e.g., Parsons, Massey, and Tomasi 2000).

respondent follow-up survey is 20 percent (AAPOR RR3), resulting in approximately 120 completed surveys.

Table 3: Population and Sample Details: Primary Survey

Number of persons in universe:	2,273,573 adults
Number of persons in sample:	4,000 adults
Anticipated response rate:	30 percent (AAPOR RR3)
Anticipated number of completed surveys:	1,200 surveys

Table 4: Population and Sample Details: Non-Respondent Follow-Up Survey

Number of persons in universe:	6,412 adults[4]
Number of persons in sample:	600 adults
Anticipated response rate:	20 percent (AAPOR RR3)
Anticipated number of completed surveys:	120 surveys

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.

Sampling
Households will be selected using simple random sampling (no stratification) from the U.S. Postal Service's CDSF. Within each selected household, a single adult will be randomly selected to complete the survey using the next birthday method (Oldendick et al. 1988).

As discussed in Part A, the primary research goal is to quantify the relationship between marine debris and beach visitation choices. Within the framework of this goal and contingent on finding an impact, a number of secondary research questions may be explored, including:

- What specific *types* of marine debris have the greatest impact on beach choices (e.g., plastic, metal, glass etc.)?
- Does the impact of marine debris on beach choices vary in a systematic way across respondents (e.g., are visitors with children more sensitive to marine debris levels)?
- Does the impact of marine debris on beach choices depend on the location of the debris on the beach (e.g., within the wrack line, on the foreshore, or on the backshore)?
- Is there a threshold above which marine debris seems to influence beach choices and below which it does not?
- What is the relationship between respondents' perceptions of marine debris and actual marine debris levels?

[4] Assumes 2,800 non-respondents and 2.29 adults per non-respondent household.

The primary research goal will be accomplished by estimating the magnitude of the RUM model coefficient associated with marine debris. As no RUM studies in the literature have addressed this particular issue, a meaningful power analysis cannot be conducted: there are no available empirical data that provide information about the potential variance of the coefficient of interest.The sample size of 1,200 was selected using professional judgment after reviewing sample sizes from recently published beach visitation RUM models. Parsons et al. (2009) recruited 1,012 respondents for a repeat-contact panel of beach visitors with 601 participating in all waves of the survey; Parsons, Massey, and Tomasi (2000) used 565 responses from a general population mail survey of Delaware households to estimate a RUM model of beach visitation; and Hanemann et al. (2004) used data from 1,182 respondents (823 of whom reported taking beach trips) to estimate a RUM model of beach visitation in southern California.

The sample size was selected with the goal of answering the primary research question only. As the additional research questions are secondary, and as they are contingent upon finding an impact of marine debris on beach choice, they were not considered in selecting the sample size for the study.

Estimation and Modeling

Data on survey respondents' trips to local beaches will be combined with data on travel costs and beach characteristics to estimate the parameters of a random utility maximization (RUM) model. Data on characteristics of local beaches will be gathered outside of the survey effort and include: actual marine debris measurements, beach width, beach length, beach amenities (including the presence/absence of volleyball nets, fire pits, piers, bike path/boardwalk, food concessions, and playgrounds), type of neighborhood, parking cost, presence/absence of cobbles, and beach raking. The model will be used to estimate the benefits to Orange County residents associated with reductions in marine debris at local beaches.

Following Haab and McConnell (2002), the utility an individual receives from visiting a particular site (call it site *j*) is a function of the full opportunity cost of visiting the site (c_j) the non-debris related attributes of the site (x_j), and the amount of marine debris at the site (dj). The utility of visiting site *j* can then be written as:

$$V(y\text{-}c_j,x_j,d_j)$$

where *y* is the individual's income.

The value of a reduction in debris from the current level (d^0) to a reduced level (d^1) is the amount of income the individual would be willing to pay (*WTP*), or give up, in the improved state of the world, to be indifferent between a world with less debris, but less income, and a state of the world with no improvement in debris but current income. Because we cannot observe the beach choice after a hypothetical change in quality, the appropriate welfare measure is that amount of income (*WTP*) that equates the expected maximum utility (E_{max}) across all sites in the two states of the world:

$$E_{max}\mathrm{V}(y\text{-}c_j,\mathrm{x_j},d^0) = E_{max}\mathrm{V}(y\text{-}c_j\text{-}WTP,\ \mathrm{x_j},d^1)$$

As the desire to recreate at debris-free beaches may vary across individuals, models will also be estimated that allow for preference heterogeneity. This can be accomplished by interacting individual characteristics (e.g., age, gender, number of children) with the debris variable, or by

estimating mixed logit (McFadden and Train, 1999) or latent class models (Boxall and Adamowicz, 2002).

There are hundreds of beach access points in the Orange County area. In order to make the research manageable, the study will focus on modeling trips to sandy public beaches that have clear public access, lifeguards, restrooms, shower facilities, and dedicated parking areas. Thirty-one such beaches were identified during a site reconnaissance in February 2013, ranging from Zuma Beach in the north (within Los Angeles County) to San Onofre Beach in the south (within San Diego County).

Marine Debris Measurements

Marine debris data will be obtained through detailed measurements at each site conducted using methods similar to those specified in NOAA's Marine Debris Shoreline Survey Field Guide (Opfer et al. 2012) for standing stock studies. This field guide has been developed specifically to provide standardized methods that can be employed to estimate the distribution and concentration of marine debris at beach sites. These sampling methods have been previously used at numerous sites along the coastlines of the United States through many different groups engaging in marine debris monitoring and assessment efforts (MD-MAP.net; www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/projects/monitoring.html). Two assessments will be completed at each beach: one in mid-July and one in mid-August.

Briefly, during each assessment, field personnel will count and categorize all observed macro-debris (debris larger than 2.5 cm on the longest dimension) along four randomly selected 5m wide transects within a 100m segment of beach. Macro-debris represents the size of debris that can be most easily observed by beach visitors, where 2.5 cm represents the length measurement distinguishing between micro- and macro-debris (Arthur et al., 2009; Opfer et al., 2012). Transects will be selected randomly in order to eliminate any bias in selecting sampling locations at individual beach sites. Four random transects have been previously established to be the optimal number of replicates needed to provide a representative sample of marine debris concentrations across the entire area of an individual beach site (Versar, 2012; Opfer et al. 2012). Each transect will span the beach from water's edge to approximately 20m past mean high tide. The endpoints of the 100m segment and the four transects will be marked with flags and the coordinates will be recorded using a GPS device. Any unusual or unidentifiable debris will be photographed. The counts will provide a measure of marine debris concentration (number of items per square meter) that can be broken down by type of debris (e.g., separate concentration measures for plastic, metal, glass, rubber, processed lumber, and cloth/fabric).

Recall Period for Beach Trips

As discussed in Part A, survey respondents will be asked to provide information about beach day trips taken during a three-month period, from June to August, 2013. While many past surveys designed to collect data on outdoor recreation activities have used recall periods as long as one year, recent government-sponsored survey efforts have typically used recall periods that range between two and four months in length. For example, the National Marine Fisheries Service's ongoing Marine Recreational Information Program uses a two-month recall period for gathering data on saltwater angling trips, while the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation uses a four-month recall period. The Department of the Interior moved from an annual recall to a four-month recall period in 1991

because “Research found that the amount of activity and expenditures reported in 12-month recall surveys was overestimated in comparison with that reported using shorter recall periods (pg. vii, Department of the Interior, 2013).” As discussed below, results from the focus group discussions indicate that a three-month recall period will be reasonable for the current study.

Minor amounts of recall bias would be unlikely to have any impact on NOAA’s ability to use the study to evaluate the potential usefulness of RUM travel cost models in assessing benefits from reductions in marine debris, as any bias would likely impact reported trips to all sites in a similar manner (e.g., a small increase in reported trips to all sites). A proportional increase in trips to all sites would not impact the significance of the RUM parameter associated with marine debris.

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.

A number of measures will be implemented to maximize the response rate, including:

- An advance letter will be sent to all sampled households. The letter will notify the household that a survey is on the way, describe the purpose of the survey, and encourage the individual to respond.
- All letters will include the NOAA logo and will be signed by the director of the Program.
- The survey will be sent via first-class mail and will include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to facilitate response.
- A $2 cash response incentive will be mailed with the initial survey.
- One week after sending the initial survey, a thank you/reminder postcard will be mailed to all sampled households thanking them for responding and encouraging them to complete the survey if they haven’t already.
- Three weeks after sending the initial survey, a replacement survey will be mailed to all sampled households who have not yet responded. The replacement survey will include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to facilitate response.
- All survey materials were carefully crafted to provide a pleasing appearance that encourages response. Questions were kept short and the total number of questions was minimized, given the research needs. An attractive, color map of local beaches will be included with each survey instrument.

A non-respondent follow-up mail survey will be conducted with a sub-sample of 600 individuals who do not respond after the first two survey mailings in order to investigate the potential for non-response bias. The size of this sub-sample was selected based on professional judgment, given the anticipated project budget. To maximize the likelihood of response, the non-respondent follow-up survey will be extremely short (five questions) and it will be sent via two-day Federal Express. The questions in the non-respondent follow-up survey are a subset of the questions from the main survey, selected to characterize non-respondents with respect to number of beach trips and attitude towards marine debris. The potential for nonresponse bias will be assessed by comparing responses from this follow-up survey with the responses from the primary survey.

In addition, the potential for nonresponse bias will be assessed by comparing the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents with the demographic characteristics of the population of Orange County residents using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS). Specifically, comparisons will be conducted for age, ethnicity, race, gender, and income. If substantial differences are observed, sampling weights will be developed through sequential post-stratification (e.g., raking), so that the weighted demographic totals for the survey data align with corresponding totals for the CPS (Battaglia et al. 2004).

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.

Two focus group discussions (total of nine participants across both groups) were held on February 6th and 7th, 2013 in Irvine, California to discuss topics related to beach visitation and to pretest a draft version of the survey instrument. The focus groups were moderated by Dr. Christopher Leggett. Participants were recruited by Adler Weiner Research, Inc., using demographic specifications that ensured diversity with respect to age, gender, and frequency of beach visitation. In addition, all participants were 18 years old or older and had lived in Orange County for at least four years. Each participant was provided an $85 honorarium for participation.

The focus groups were designed to gather information about respondents' experiences at local beaches, including specific beaches frequented, desirable and undesirable beach characteristics, and potential concerns about marine debris on beaches. Throughout each discussion, the moderator followed a written outline, or script, that provided a structure for the discussion. The following topics were covered by the moderator, in sequence, during each focus group:

1. Introduction
2. Visits to local beaches
3. Undesirable local beaches
4. Characteristics of local beaches
5. Garbage and manmade debris on local beaches
6. Beaches known for garbage and manmade debris

The focus groups used a funneling technique: the initial topics were broad, and the topics gradually became narrower and more focused on marine debris on beaches. For each topic, the moderator began by having the participants provide written responses to a set of targeted questions in the discussion guide. He then asked each participant to describe his/her response to the questions verbally, using additional probes for clarification where necessary. This approach stimulated discussion while at the same time preserving participants' initial reaction to each question. After completing the discussion guide, the participants were asked to review selected questions from a draft version of the survey instrument.

The following conclusions were drawn from the Irvine focus groups:

- Many participants indicated that they were concerned about the presence of marine debris on beaches in the local area, and some participants indicated that they would refrain from visiting specific beaches due to concerns about marine debris. Participants indicated that they had observed marine debris on the sand and in the water at numerous local beaches.
- Participants singled out cigarette butts as a particular concern. Other items observed on local beaches that were of concern to participants included plastic bottles; plastic bags; glass bottles; cans; six-pack rings; bottle caps; plastic cups; abandoned clothes, coolers, towels, and chairs; condoms; animal feces; and fast-food bags.
- Two beach characteristics that were very important to many respondents were parking (availability and cost) and crowding, particularly during the summer months. In addition, several participants mentioned three beach activities that were not included in the draft survey questions: beach volleyball, partying (bonfires), and biking.
- Participants generally seemed confident that they would be able to recall the number and destination of day trips taken to local beaches over a three-month period.
- The list of potential beach destinations appeared to be comprehensive; participants did not mention local beaches that had been excluded from the list.
- The wording of several survey questions were changed in response to comments from focus group participants, including a question about number of persons per vehicle on a typical beach trip (some participants said they walked or biked to the beach), a question about familiarity with specifically named beaches in the local area (participants indicated that it would be better to ask if they had "heard of" the beaches), and a yes/no question about whether or not observing marine debris on local beaches bothered the respondent (this was changed to a 1-5 scale, and the wording was changed to ask how "concerned" the respondent would be to observe marine debris on local beaches.)

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

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

1. Dr. Timothy Haab, Department Chair and Professor, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University.
2. Dr. Christopher Leggett, Consultant to Industrial Economics, Incorporated, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
3. Dr. Adam Domanski, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Industrial Economics, Incorporated will collect and analyze the information for the Marine Debris Program.

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Letter #1: Pre-Notification

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
United States Department of Commerce

August 26, 2013

Dear Orange County Resident,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is conducting a study in Orange County to learn about residents' opinions of local beaches and to better understand the types of things that people want when they visit these beaches. The study will provide information that will help NOAA in developing management strategies for coastal areas. We are working with <<SURVEY ORGANIZATION>> on the study.

Your household is one of a small number of Orange County households that were randomly selected to participate in this study. In about a week, you will receive a short questionnaire in the mail from <<SURVEY ORGANIZATION>>. When you receive the questionnaire, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it in the included pre-paid envelope. Please complete the questionnaire *even if you rarely visit local beaches*. This will allow us to obtain responses from a representative group of residents.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to assist NOAA in this research effort. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call <<SURVEY ORGANIZATION>>'s toll-free number at <<PHONE>> and ask for <<CONTACT>>.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wallace,
Director, Marine Debris Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Letter #2: First Copy of Survey

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
United States Department of Commerce

September 1, 2013

Dear Orange County Resident,

As you may recall, I wrote to you last week about participating in a survey of Orange County residents. The questionnaire that I wrote to you about is enclosed. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) needs your help in understanding residents' opinions of local beaches and the types of things that people want when they visit these beaches. This information will help NOAA in developing effective management strategies for coastal areas.

Your household is one of a small number of Orange County households that were randomly selected to participate in this study. In order for the results to be truly representative of Orange County residents, it is important that each questionnaire be completed and returned. We have enclosed a small token of appreciation as our way of saying thank you for completing the questionnaire.

There are a few things that you should note:

- The questionnaire should be completed by the adult (18 years of age or older) who lives in your household whose birthday will be the first to occur after today. Please have this person complete the questionnaire *even if he or she rarely visits local beaches*. This will allow us to obtain responses from a representative group of residents.
- The questionnaire should be returned in the pre-paid reply envelope that we have included here.
- The questionnaire has an identification number for mailing purposes only. Your address will be removed from our database after we receive your completed questionnaire.

We are extremely grateful for your willingness to assist NOAA in this research effort. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call <<SURVEY ORGANIZATIONS>>'s toll-free number at <<PHONE>> and ask for <<CONTACT>>.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wallace,
Director, Marine Debris Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Letter #3: Reminder Postcard

Last week I mailed you a questionnaire seeking your opinion about local beaches. If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere thanks.

We know your time is valuable, but if you have not completed and returned the questionnaire, we hope that you can do so today. You are one of a small number of households in Orange County randomly selected to provide opinions on this matter. It is extremely important that we hear from you so that our results accurately represent the opinions of Orange County residents.

If you need another copy of the questionnaire, please call <<CONTACT>> at <<SURVEY ORGANIZATION>> at <<PHONE>> and a questionnaire will be mailed to you today.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Nancy Wallace,
Director, Marine Debris Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Letter #4: Second Copy of Survey

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
United States Department of Commerce

September 22, 2013

Dear Orange County Resident,

About three weeks ago I wrote to you seeking your opinions on local beaches. As of today we have not received your completed questionnaire.

I am writing to you again because of the significance each questionnaire has to the usefulness of our study. Our program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is undertaking this study in order to learn what people care about when they choose to visit a beach in the local area. This is extremely important, as it will help NOAA in developing effective management strategies for coastal areas.

Your household was selected through a scientific sampling process in which every household in Orange County had an equal chance of being selected. Only about one out of every 250 households is being asked to complete this questionnaire. In order for the results of our study to be truly representative of the opinions of Orange County residents, it is essential that each household in the sample return their questionnaire.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, the questionnaire should be completed by the adult (18 years of age or older) who lives in your household whose birthday is the first to occur after September 1st. Please have this person complete the questionnaire even if he or she rarely visits local beaches. This will allow us to obtain responses from a representative group of residents. The questionnaire should be returned in the pre-paid reply envelope that we have included here. Your address will be removed from our database after we receive your completed questionnaire.

We are extremely grateful for your willingness to assist NOAA in this research effort. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call <<SURVEY ORGANIZATION>>'s toll-free number at <<NUMBER>> and ask for <<CONTACT>>.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wallace,
Director, Marine Debris Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Letter #5: Non-Respondent Follow-Up Survey

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
United States Department of Commerce

October 20, 2013

Dear Orange County Resident,

You recently received a survey from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration asking for your opinions about local beaches. Your household was one of a small number in Orange County randomly selected to provide opinions on this subject.

- If you already completed the questionnaire that we sent earlier, thank you very much. You do not need to respond to this letter.
- If you have decided not to complete the questionnaire, please consider completing the enclosed follow-up survey. This follow-up survey is very brief, and it is extremely important in helping us to understand the overall results.

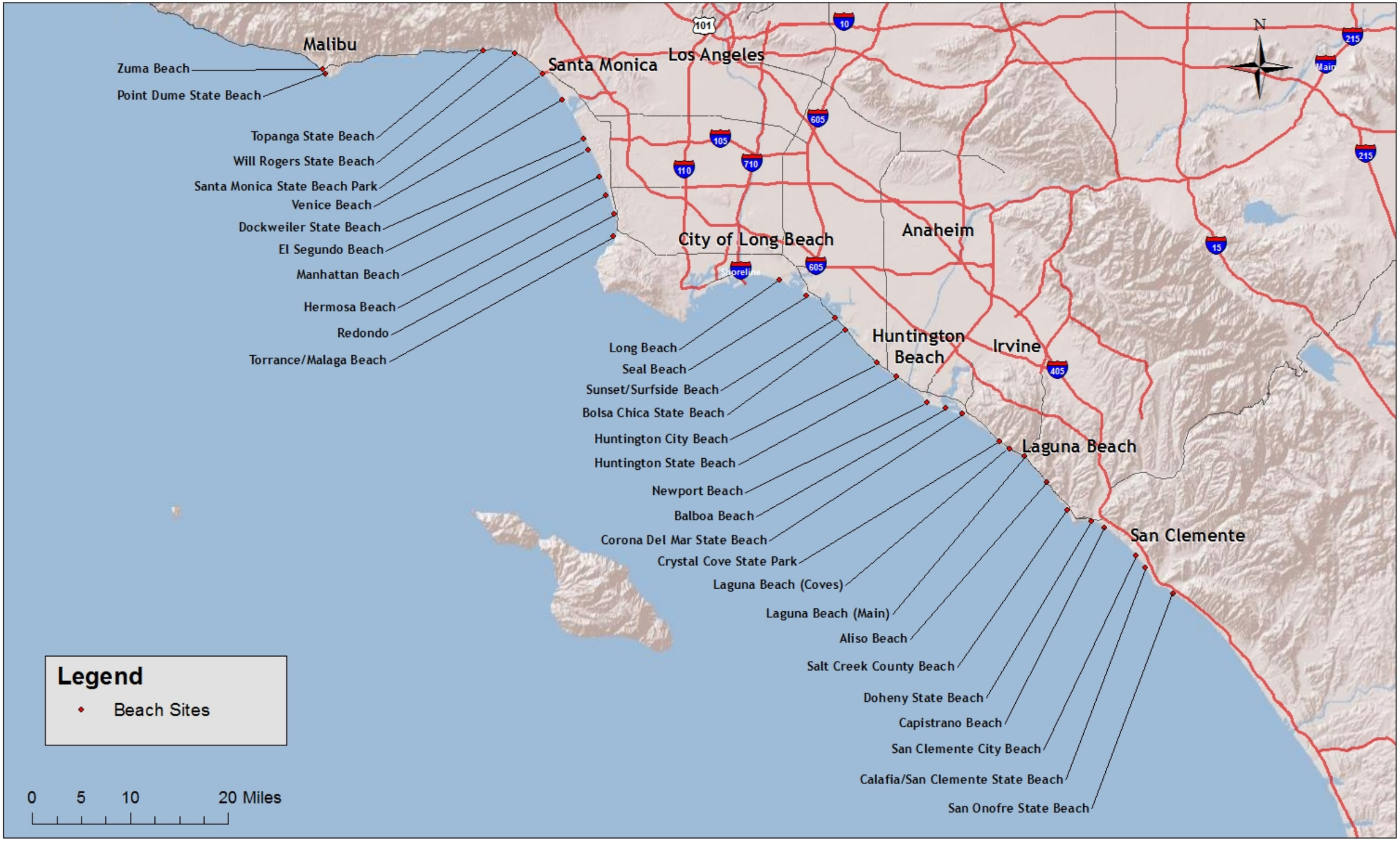
The survey should be completed by the adult (18 years of age or older) who lives in your household whose birthday is the first to occur after September 1st. Please have this person complete the survey *even if he or she rarely visits local beaches*. The survey can be returned in the pre-paid reply envelope that we have included here. Your address will be removed from our database after we receive your completed survey.

We are extremely grateful for your willingness to assist NOAA in this research effort. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call <<SURVEY ORGANIZATION>>'s toll-free number at <<PHONE>> and ask for <<CONTACT>>.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wallace,
Director, Marine Debris Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Beach Study Sites



Southern California Beach Survey

To start, we'd like to THANK YOU for taking the time to participate in this VOLUNTARY survey! Your responses will help government officials understand the types of things that people want to see/experience when they visit the beach in the local area.

Throughout the survey, when we ask questions about beaches in the "local area," we are referring to ocean beaches in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties.

❶ Have you ever visited an ocean beach in the local area? (Circle one number.)

1 Yes
2 No ➡ *Skip to Question* ⓫

❷ Over the past year, how many day trips would you say you've taken to ocean beaches in the local area? When we say "day trip" we mean any trip to the beach where you left home and returned home within the same day. (Circle one response.)

1 None
2 1 – 5 Day Trips
3 6 – 10 Day Trips
4 11 – 15 Day Trips
5 16 – 20 Day Trips
6 21 – 30 Day Trips
7 31 – 40 Day Trips
8 41 – 50 Day Trips
9 51 – 75 Day Trips
10 76 – 100 Day Trips
11 More Than 100 Day Trips

❸ Which of the following activities do you typically participate in when you visit a beach in the local area? (Check all that apply.)

___ Sunbathing
___ Wading
___ Swimming
___ Bodysurfing
___ Volleyball
___ Partying/Bonfires
___ Surfing
___ Picnicking
___ Fishing
___ Walking/Running
___ Biking

Other? _____

❹ What type of transportation do you typically use to get to the beach?

1 I walk or bike
2 I take a bus
3 I drive ➡ How many adults and children would typically be in your vehicle?

_____ Adults (18 Or Older)

_____ Children (Under 18)

❺ Please tell us how important the following characteristics are to you when you decide which local beach to visit. (Circle one number for each characteristic.)

	NOT IMPORTANT				VERY IMPORTANT
Scenic beauty or view	1	2	3	4	5
Good water quality	1	2	3	4	5
Close to home	1	2	3	4	5
Parking is convenient	1	2	3	4	5
Parking is free or inexpensive	1	2	3	4	5
Good surfing available	1	2	3	4	5
Sandy (rather than rocky)	1	2	3	4	5
Not crowded	1	2	3	4	5
Long enough to go for a walk/run	1	2	3	4	5
Bike path available	1	2	3	4	5
Fishing opportunities available	1	2	3	4	5
No garbage or manmade debris on the sand or in the surf	1	2	3	4	5
No natural debris like kelp orseaweed on the sand or in the surf	1	2	3	4	5

❻ Are there any other characteristics that are important to you when deciding which local beach to visit?

1 Yes ➡ Please Describe_____

2 No

❼ Which beaches in the local area have you heard of? From the list below, please circle the names of all local beaches that you have heard of.

Zuma	Torrance/Malaga	Laguna Beach (Main)
Point Dume	Long Beach	Laguna Beach (Coves)
Topanga	Seal Beach	Aliso Beach
Will Rogers	Sunset/Surfside	Salt Creek
Santa Monica	Bolsa Chica	Doheny
Venice Beach	Huntington City	Capistrano
Dockweiler	Huntington State	San Clemente Pier
El Segundo	Newport Beach	Calafia/San Clemente
Manhattan	Balboa	San Onofre
Hermosa	Corona Del Mar	

Redondo Crystal Cove

❽ Please cross out any beaches in the list that you would absolutely never consider visiting.

❾ Did you take any day trips to beaches in the local area in June, July, or August of 2013?

1 Yes
2 No ➡ Skip to Question ⓫

❿ (a) In the table below, please write the names of the local beaches that you visited in June/July/August of 2013, along with the number of day trips you took to each beach.

(b) To the left of each beach that you visited, write a number between 1 and 5 that indicates the amount of garbage or manmade debris that you saw on the sand or in the surf. Writing a "1" indicates that you didn't see any, while writing a "5" indicates that you saw a lot.

HOW MUCH GARBAGE OR MANMADE DEBRIS DID YOU SEE ON THE SAND OR IN THE SURF? (1 = NONE) (5 = A LOT)	BEACH NAME	NUMBER OF DAY TRIPS		
		JUNE 2013	JULY 2013	AUGUST 2013
3	Bolsa Chica	0	5	2
3	Huntington	1	3	0

Example

⓫ In general, how concerned would you be to see garbage or manmade debris on the sand or in the surf while visiting a local beach? (Circle one number.)

NOT AT ALL CONCERNED				VERY CONCERNED
1	2	3	4	5

⓬ How concerned would you be to see the following types of garbage or manmade debris on the sand or in the surf while visiting a local beach? (Circle one number for each item)

	NOT AT ALL CONCERNED				VERY CONCERNED
Plastic items or bottles	1	2	3	4	5
Styrofoam	1	2	3	4	5
Paper products	1	2	3	4	5
Wooden items	1	2	3	4	5
Metal items or cans	1	2	3	4	5
Glass	1	2	3	4	5
Rubber items	1	2	3	4	5
Cloth or clothing	1	2	3	4	5
Cigarette butts	1	2	3	4	5
Fishing gear	1	2	3	4	5
Medical wastes	1	2	3	4	5
Animal wastes	1	2	3	4	5

⓭ Please look again at the list in Question 12 and circle the types of garbage or manmade debris that you have actually seen on the sand or in the surf at local beaches.

⓮ Have you noticed any other types of garbage or manmade debris on the sand or in the surf at local beaches?

1 Yes
2 No ➡ *Skip to Question* ⓰

⓯ What other types of garbage or manmade debris have you noticed?

_____

_____

❶❻ Please look at the beaches in the list below and circle any beaches where you think garbage or manmade debris on the sand or in the surf is a problem.

Zuma	Torrance/Malaga	Laguna Beach (Main)
Point Dume	Long Beach	Laguna Beach (Coves)
Topanga	Seal Beach	Aliso Beach
Will Rogers	Sunset/Surfside	Salt Creek
Santa Monica	Bolsa Chica	Doheny
Venice Beach	Huntington City	Capistrano
Dockweiler	Huntington State	San Clemente Pier
El Segundo	Newport Beach	Calafia/San Clemente
Manhattan	Balboa	San Onofre
Hermosa	Corona Del Mar	
Redondo	Crystal Cove	

❶❼ To the best of your knowledge, what do you think is the largest source of garbage and manmade debris found on the sand or in the surf at local beaches? (Circle one number.)

1 Left by beach visitors
2 Blown to the beach from nearby areas on land
3 Washed ashore from the ocean
4 Washed ashore from nearby rivers or storm drains
5 Other (please specify) _____

❶❽ Have you participated in any beach cleanups within the last three years?

1 Yes
2 No

⓳ Please look at the beaches in the list below and circle any beaches that you think are frequently too crowded.

Zuma	Torrance/Malaga	Laguna Beach (Main)
Point Dume	Long Beach	Laguna Beach (Coves)
Topanga	Seal Beach	Aliso Beach
Will Rogers	Sunset/Surfside	Salt Creek
Santa Monica	Bolsa Chica	Doheny
Venice Beach	Huntington City	Capistrano
Dockweiler	Huntington State	San Clemente Pier
El Segundo	Newport Beach	Calafia/San Clemente
Manhattan	Balboa	San Onofre
Hermosa	Corona Del Mar	
Redondo	Crystal Cove	

Finally, we have just a few questions about you and your household for statistical purposes.

20 How many adults and children live in your household?

_____ Adults (18 or older)

_____ Children (under 18)

21 What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1 Male
2 Female

22 What is your age?

_____ Years

23 Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin? (Circle one number)

1 Yes
2 No

24 What is your race? (You may select more than one.)

1 American Indian or Alaskan Native
2 Asian
3 Black or African American
4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
5 White
6 Some other race (please specify) _____

25 What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1 No schooling
2 Some schooling less than grade 12
3 High school graduate
4 Some college
5 Associate's Degree
6 Bachelor's Degree
7 Master's Degree
8 Professional Degree beyond a Bachelor's
9 Doctoral Degree

❷❺ Which of the following income categories best describes your household income last year, before taxes? (Circle one number.)

1	$10,000 or less	7	$60,001 - $75,000
2	$10,001 - $20,000	8	$75,001 - $100,000
3	$20,001 - $30,000	9	$100,001 - $125,000
4	$30,001 - $40,000	10	$125,001 - $150,000
5	$40,001 - $50,000	11	$150,001 or more
6	$50,001 - $60,000		

Thank you for participating!

Please return your survey in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is authorized by 33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq. to conduct this survey. The information collected will be used by NOAA to estimate economic impacts associated with marine debris on beaches.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Jason Landrum, NOAA NOS, 1305 East-West Hwy, SSMC4, Room 10239, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The questionnaire has an identification number for mailing purposes only. Your name and address will be deleted after we receive your completed questionnaire. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control Number XXXX –XXXX | Current Expiration Date: XX/XX/XXXX

products and/or services, primary market objectives, and goals for participation. If the DOC receives an incomplete application, the DOC may reject the application, request additional information, or take the lack of information into account in its evaluation.

Each applicant also must certify that the products or services it seeks to export through the mission are either produced in the United States, or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have demonstrable U.S. content of the value of the finished product or service. In the case of a trade association or trade organization, the applicant must certify that, for each company to be represented by the trade association or trade organization, the products and services the represented company seeks to export are either produced in the United States, or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have demonstrable U.S. content.

Selection Criteria

Preference will be given to applicants who plan to participate in both the Vietnam and China mission stops. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of the company's (or, in the case of a trade association, represented companies') products or services to each of the markets the company or trade association has expressed an interest in visiting as part of this trade mission.
- The company's (or, in the case of a trade association, represented companies') potential for business in the region and in each of the markets the company or trade association has expressed an interest in visiting as part of this trade mission, including likelihood of exports resulting from the mission.
- Consistency of the applicant company's (or, in the case of a trade association, represented companies') goals and objectives with the stated mission scope.

Diversity of company size, sector or subsector, and location also may be considered in the review process.

Referrals from political organizations and any documents containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and will not be considered.

Timeline for Recruitment and Application

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the **Federal Register**, posting on the DOC trade mission calendar (*http://export.gov/trademissions*) and other Internet Web sites (including the Civil Nuclear Exporters Portal at *www.export.gov/civilnuclear*), press releases to general and trade media, direct mail, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows. Recruitment will begin immediately and conclude no later than April 15, 2013. The DOC will review applications and make selection decisions on a rolling basis by April 20, 2013. Applications received after April 15, 2013 will be considered only if space and scheduling permits.

Contacts

David Kincaid, Manufacturing and Services, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries, Washington, DC, Tel: (202) 482–1706, Email: *David.Kincaid@trade.gov.*

Jonathan Chesebro, Manufacturing and Services, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries, Washington, DC, Tel: (202) 482–1297, Email: *Jonathan.Chesebro@trade.gov.*

Elnora Moye,

Trade Program Assistant.

[FR Doc. 2013–05521 Filed 3–8–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–FP–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Pilot Project Assessing Economic Benefits of Marine Debris Removal

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 May 10, 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 and instructions should be directed to Jason Landrum, (301) 713–2989 or *Jason.Landrum@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

Under the authority of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (Marine Debris Act of 2012, 33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq., as amended by Title VI of Public Law 112–213), NOAA's Marine Debris Division (MDD) is conducting a pilot project designed to assess the economic benefits to beach visitors of marine debris removal. The project will use a revealed preference valuation approach (a random utility travel cost model) to assess benefits associated with marine debris removal at selected beaches in Southern California. The MDD intends to conduct a mail survey of Orange County, California households in order to gather beach trip data required to estimate the model. The pilot project will provide information for use in assessing and prioritizing future efforts to reduce or remove marine debris. The project will also lay the groundwork for additional research related to economic benefits, providing information about the types of marine debris that beach visitors are concerned about and about potential economic modeling challenges.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents will provide information on paper forms, which will be transmitted by mail.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: Primary survey, 1,200 respondents; non-respondent follow-up survey, 120 respondents.

Estimated Time per Response: Primary survey, 20 minutes; non-respondent follow-up survey, 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 410 hours.

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

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information

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

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

Dated: March 6, 2013.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013–05551 Filed 3–8–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–JE–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC534

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Administrative Committee will hold meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on March 26–27, 2013. The Council will convene on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Administrative Committee will meet from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Council will reconvene on Wednesday, March 27, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Buccaneer Hotel, 7 Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix U.S.V.I.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918, telephone: (787) 766–5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 145th regular Council Meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

March 26, 2013, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Consideration of 144th Council Meeting Verbatim Transcriptions
- Executive Director's Report
- Fishery Management Plan for Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands: Compatibility of Trip and Bag Limits
  - —Summary of Public Hearings
  - —Public Comment Period (30 minutes, additional time could be allowed by the Chairperson)
  - —Council Decision
  - —Final Action
- Development of Island-Based Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) in the U.S. Caribbean: Transition from Species-Based FMPs to Island-Based FMPs
  - —Presentation on Issues, e.g., OY/MSY, Among Others—Graciela García-Moliner/Bill Arnold
  - —Next Steps
- Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Report
  - —Puerto Rico
  - —U.S.V.I
- Addressing Compatibility Issues for Bajo de Sico-Abrir La Sierra-Tourmaline off the West Coast of Puerto Rico—Graciela García-Moliner/Bill Arnold
  - —Shared Jurisdictions: Bajo de Sico and Tourmaline
  - —Seasonal Area Closures Differences in Months
- SEFSC Queen Snapper and Red Hind Data Evaluation Update
- SEDAR Update: Red Hind and White Grunt

Public Comment Period (5-Minutes Presentations)

March 26, 2013, 5:15 p.m.–6 p.m.

- Administrative Committee Meeting
  - —Budget Update FY 2013/14
  - —SSC/AP Memberships
  - —Other Business

March 27, 2013, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

- Essential Fish Habitat Update—Graciela García-Moliner
- Scientific and Statistical Committee Report—Barbara Kojis
  - —Research Priorities
  - —Scientific Strategic Plan Update
- Presentation on Regulatory Reorganization (SERO)—Bill Arnold/Phil Steele
- Trap Reduction Project Report
  - —USVI Trap Fishery Control Date
- Report on Trap Vents—David Olsen
- Spiny Lobster Project Update—David Olsen
- Electronic Reporting for Fish Dealers U.S. Caribbean
- Enforcement Issues:
  - —Follow up on Outreach and Education Enforcement
  - —Reports:
  - —Puerto Rico—DNER
  - —Commercial-Recreational Fishing Licenses/Permits
  - —Letter from Victor Padilla Re: Trap Poaching in the EEZ and Local Waters
  - —U.S. Virgin Islands—DPNR
  - —NOAA/NMFS
  - —U.S. Coast Guard
- Administrative Committee Recommendations
- Meetings Attended by Council Members and Staff

Public Comment Period (5-Minute Presentations)

- Other Business
- Next Council Meeting

The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. To further accommodate discussion and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

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

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918, telephone (787) 766–5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.