NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 01/15/2014

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 10/21/2013

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201309-0648-002
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Socio-Economic Assessment of Gulf of Mexico (SAGM) Fisheries Under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0688
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 01/31/2017 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	334	334	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	334	334	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change due to PRA Violation	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Dominic J. Mancini
Acting Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Survey of Participants in the Gulf of Mexico GT-IFQ Program, 2014	NA	Survey of Participants in the Gulf of Mexico GT-IGQ Program, 2014	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Title
Socio-Economic Assessment of Gulf of Mexico (SAGM) Fisheries Under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program

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

9. Keywords
Fisher, Fishery, Fishing

10. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes a one-time data collection of demographic, economic, and social information about the grouper-tilefish component of the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program. The proposed data collection also inquires about the industry's perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs about the performance of the IFQ program.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms
b. P 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 334
b. Total annual responses 334
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 50 %
c. Total annual hours requested 334
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference 334
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change 334
2. Adjustment _____

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

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

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: Larry Perruso
Phone: (305) 361-4278

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 Kelly Denit for Emily Menashes (A)	Date 08/30/2013
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Digitally signed by BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=OTHER, cn=BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Date: 2014.01.15 15:51:37 -05'00'	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF GULF OF MEXICO (SAGM) FISHERIES UNDER THE GROUPER-TILEFISH INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA PROGRAM
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-XXXX

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes a one-time data collection of demographic, economic, and social information about the grouper-tilefish component of the commercial Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program.[1] The proposed data collection also inquires about the industry's perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs about the performance of the IFQ program. According to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, (MSRA), IFQs fall under the umbrella of Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs).

The population of interest consists of approximately 997 individuals. These individuals are past participants in the GT-IFQ Program since its inception in 2010. The survey strategy calls for a census of this potential respondent universe. With the inclusion of online reporting capability, our goal is to achieve an unweighted response rate of 70%, resulting in approximately 700 completed surveys or sufficient partials.

The data collection is necessary to satisfy the requirements of the MSRA (16 U.S.C. 1853a *et seq.),* which mandates that LAPPs submitted by a Council or approved by the Secretary shall "include provisions for the regular monitoring and review by the Council and the Secretary of the operations of the program, including determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals, with a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the program, and thereafter to coincide with scheduled Council review of the relevant fishery management plan (but no less frequently than once every 7 years)."

Moreover, the MSRA states that collection of reliable data is essential to the effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the fishery resources of the United States (U.S.). The nation's fisheries should be "conserved and maintained so as to provide optimal yield (OY) on a continuing basis." Furthermore, the MSRA requires that fishery management plans include a Fishery Impact Statement (FIS), which assesses, specifies, and describes the likely effects of the conservation and management measures on participants in the

[1] IFQ programs provide fishermen with an exclusive harvesting privilege, which permits them to land a share of the total allowable quota. Granting a secure harvesting privilege mitigates the race to fish because fishermen no longer have to compete for a share of the stock. Thus, fishermen can devote their efforts to maximizing profits by harvesting, processing, and marketing their catch more efficiently. Depending on the characteristics of the program, shares may be sold or leased among fishermen. The presence of transferable privileges allows the creation of a market, where trading can take place. In well-behaved markets, privileges will gravitate towards the most efficient producers; thereby, allowing the less efficient producers to exit the fishery with some compensation.

fisheries being managed, fishing communities dependent on these fisheries, and participants in fisheries in adjacent areas.

Additionally, Amendment 29 to the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which in 2010 implemented the GT-IFQ Program to reduce overcapitalization and the incentives for derby fishing conditions, mandates a 5-year review of the IFQ program. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) is expected to conduct its 5-year review of the GT-IFQ Program in 2015 to meet the MSRA requirements. The proposed data collection will provide vital information to assess the economic and social effects of the IFQ program on individual fishing enterprises, fishing communities, and the nation as whole. Presently, only catch, effort, and share (and lease) prices are consistently collected from industry participants, limiting the NMFS' ability to assess the full impacts of the program. Unfortunately, the quality of the share and lease prices data is suspect given (a) the large percentage of zero transaction prices posted, and (b) the large percentage of transfers that are conducted at 'arm's length.'

In addition to the needs of the MSRA and Amendment 29 to the Reef fish FMP, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4372 *et seq.*), and Executive Order (EO) 12866 also require socio-economic data collections. Under the RFA, the Small Business Administration needs a determination of whether a proposed rule has a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities that are to be directly regulated. For RFA purposes, one of the criteria to determine significant economic impact involves an assessment of the change in short-term accounting profits for small entities. The NEPA requires a determination of whether Federal actions significantly affect the human environment. This requires a number of economic analyses including the impact on entities that are directly regulated and those that are indirectly affected. Lastly, EO 12866 mandates an economic analysis of the benefits and costs to society of each regulatory alternative considered by the fishery management councils, and a determination of whether the rule is significant.

In addition to satisfying the needs of statutory requirements and pending regulations, fishery management councils' interest in expanding IFQ programs into other fisheries offers a unique opportunity to learn from the experience of the Gulf of Mexico GT-IFQ Program. For example, the GMFMC is interested in expanding their use into other components of the reef fish and mackerel fisheries, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) is considering their use in the snapper-grouper and mackerel fisheries. Since most IFQ programs in the U.S. are relatively new and differ widely in their characteristics and impacts, a careful review of existing programs will assist in the adjustment of changing or unforeseen circumstances and will also aid in the planning and design of new programs.

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

Combined with catch and effort data from existing collections, the information sought will be utilized for descriptive and analytical purposes. Social scientists from the NMFS will create descriptive reports of the fishery and develop models to evaluate the socio-economic impacts of the GT-IFQ Program. These products will be used to support the GMFMC's pending 5-year

review of the IFQ program. In addition, the information collected will be used for the development of natural resource plans. The survey will collect demographic, cultural, economic, and social information, which otherwise would be unavailable. The data will also be used by the academic community studying the performance of LAPPs.

QuanTech, Inc. of Arlington, VA has been contracted to conduct a one-time data collection. The proposed questionnaire was developed in consultation with Walter Keithly of Louisiana State University and NMFS staff. The proposed questionnaire will collect demographic, social, and economic information on past and present shareholders and their experiences with IFQs. This data collection effort will use self-administered online and mailed surveys as well as in-person interviews. The title of the survey is "Survey of Participants in the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program – 2014."

The instrument has six sections: 1) background information; 2) attitudes and perceptions concerning the GT-IFQ Program; 3) socio-economic assessment of the GT-IFQ Program, 4) transfer of GT-IFQ allocation and shares; 5) social well-being and demographic information, and 6) other issues.

Section 1: The 'background information' section first identifies GT-IFQ account holders with multiple accounts in order to reduce redundant survey submissions. Respondents are given the opportunity to use one survey for all accounts if the answers provided are representative of the different accounts. Also, the respondent is asked about their experience in the Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial fishery.

Section 2: The 'attitudes and perceptions concerning the GT-IFQ Program' section inquires whether GT-IFQ Program participants supported and currently support the IFQ program and whether they believe that the program achieved various biological and socio-economic objectives set in the fishery management plan (e.g., reducing derby fishing, increasing ex-vessel prices, decreasing fishing capacity, reducing by-catch, etc.). This information is necessary to ascertain participant's views about the effectiveness of the program which may vary from community to community. This information will be coupled with landings and effort data to substantiate any reported changes in fishing practices brought about by the IFQ program, and help evaluate the performance of the program.

Section 3: The 'socio-economic assessment of the GT-IFQ Program' section asks about the changes brought about by the IFQ program in: a) capital stock (e.g., investments and disinvestments in fishing vessels, gear, and equipment) and b) crew and captain usage, remuneration arrangements, and dynamics.

Section 4: The 'transfer of GT-IFQ allocation and shares' section asks participants about allocation and share leasing and sale arrangements, and reasons for expanding or limiting their participation in the fishery (e.g., reasons for buying or selling allocation and/or shares). This information will enable the development of quantitative economic models to investigate changes in overcapacity, 'cost savings,' and other efficiencies brought about by the reduction of incentives for overcapitalization and derby fishing. Similarly, the information of leasing and sale arrangements will help fishery managers better understand the reasons behind certain suspicious

trades (e.g., "low" allocation and sale prices). Lastly, participants are asked about changes in their relationships with dealers as well as the current market value of capital investments.

Section 5: The 'social well-being and demographic information' section is designed to gauge the attitudes of fishermen who harvest grouper-tilefish species. The questions focus on general attitudes toward commercial fishing and IFQ programs. Additionally, questions about demographic information, such as age, income, marital status, and race, are asked. The information in this section is intended to aid in the determination of social and community impacts resulting from the GT-IFQ Program for the planned 5-year program review.

Section 6: The 'other issues' section elicits information about IFQ participants' satisfaction with the IFQ online system, customer service, landings notification protocol, and enforcement. These questions seek to provide feedback on the quality of the day-to-day services provided by the Limited Access Privilege Programs/Data Management Branch of the NMFS' Southeast Regional Office (SERO).

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. NOAA Fisheries Service 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 #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

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 proposed data collection will utilize voluntary, self-administered online and mail surveys and in-person interviews. Each IFQ account holder will be prompted to fill out an online version of the survey when they log into the IFQ Online System after January 1, 2014. Each account holder must log into the online system to validate their account for the 2014 fishing season. In-person interviews will focus on relatively large entities that opt not to fill out the online survey. Self-administered mail surveys will be sent to account holders and past program participants that do not participate in the online survey or in-person interviews.

The proposed approach is as follows. Initially, all potential respondents will be contacted via an introductory letter to inform them about the upcoming data collection. When each current account holder performs the mandatory login to the IFQ Online System after January 1, 2014, they will receive a prompt regarding the online version of the survey. Online respondents will have the opportunity to save partial surveys and return to fill out the rest at a later date. After February 1, 2014, relatively large entities that have not filled out the online survey will be contacted for an in-person interview. After March 1, 2014, any account holders that have not completed the online survey or scheduled an in-person interview, as well as past participants without a current IFQ account, will be provided with the self-administered mail survey, and

asked to complete and return it using an enclosed postage pre-paid envelope. If no response is received, then three further letters will be sent (including additional surveys). Finally, the remaining non-respondents will be contacted by phone and urged to return the completed survey (if they are large entities then the contractor will attempt to set up in-person interviews at times and places convenient to them).

The contractor does not anticipate interviewers using laptops or other computers to directly enter the answers being provided since some of the questions are open ended. Thus, writing verbatim responses could extend the length of the interview, which would further burden the interviewees and result in incomplete surveys. In the case of lengthy open-ended responses, the interviewer will take notes, review the notes with the respondent for accuracy, and then may summarize or paraphrase the response.

The data collected will not be available to the public over the internet given its confidential nature. However, analytical results of studies based on this data will be disseminated to management agencies and peer-reviewed publications. Some of these studies will likely be available online.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

We are not aware of other federal or state efforts to collect similar socio-economic information from participants in the Gulf of Mexico GT-IFQ Program. However, researchers from the University of Florida (UF) are planning on interviewing Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial fishermen in 2014 for a study to examine social networks. The UF study will not collect the same type of information as our survey although some fishermen are likely to be asked to participate in both endeavors. Our proposed data collection focuses specifically on the grouper-tilefish component of the reef fish fishery and is an ex-post evaluation of the GT-IFQ Program, which is required by MSRA statues.

To minimize the potential of duplicate data collections, we informed industry representatives from the grouper-tilefish component of the reef fishery, the NMFS' SERO, several universities in the southeast region, and the GMFMC about our upcoming data collection. The membership of the GMFMC is made up of representatives from all Gulf States resource management agencies.

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

Many commercial fishing operations are owner or family-operated small businesses. We have taken several steps to minimize the burden to these small businesses. First, we designed the survey instrument so that only the minimum data requirements for present and future management needs are collected. Second, responses to the survey will be voluntary. IFQ participants, who do not wish to participate in the survey, can choose not to partake. Third, in-person surveys will be conducted at times and places that are convenient to respondents. Also, the online mode will allow participants to complete the survey at their own leisure. This will minimize any potential disruption to fishermen's fishing practices. Last, respondents who receive

the self-administered survey will be provided with postage-paid return envelopes to spare them from having to go to the post office to mail back the survey instrument.

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

If these data were collected less frequently or not at all, then the legal requirements set forth by the MSRA, NEPA, and EO 12898 would not be met. For example, the MSRA requires a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the IFQ program. The review to be conducted by the GMFMC and Secretary of Commerce must determine whether the program is satisfying the stated goals in the FMP. If current and accurate data are not available then social and economic assessments of management actions will be potentially inaccurate, thereby leading the GMFMC and NMFS to make poor management decisions. The MSRA requires the establishment of conservation and management measures to protect the resource, increase social and economic benefits, and increase safety using the best available scientific information. Moreover, the GMFMC's interest in expanding IFQ programs into other fisheries managed under its authority offers a unique opportunity to learn from past design and implementation mistakes and successes. The GMFMC is interested in expanding their use into other components of the reef fish and mackerel fisheries. Similarly, the SAFMC is exploring their use in their snapper-grouper and mackerel fisheries. Since most IFQs programs in the U.S. are relatively new and differ widely in their characteristics and impacts, a careful review of existing programs will assist in the adjustment of changing or unforeseen circumstances and will also aid in the planning and design of new programs. Lastly, an unintended consequence of not having the appropriate socio-economic data could be court challenges on the grounds of inadequate analysis as occurred in the South Atlantic summer flounder case (e.g., North Carolina Fisheries Association vs. Daley).

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

There are no special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent 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 Monday, June 18, 2012 (Vol. 77, No. 117, p. 36261) solicited public comment. No comments were received.

Results of consultations with persons outside the agency:

In 2010, a series of exchanges were conducted between Dr. Keithly (contractor) and members of

the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance, an association in which many of the largest grouper-tilefish IFQ shareholders are members, and GMFMC staff to describe need and content of the survey and to obtain their views on the clarity of the instructions and data elements to be recorded. Moreover, the survey will be pre-tested by industry representatives.

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

No payments or gifts will be provided to questionnaire respondents.

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

Survey respondents will be advised that any information provided will be considered private and will be treated as confidential in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidential Fisheries Statistics and section 402(b) of the MSRA (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*).

It is the NMFS' policy not to release confidential data, other than in aggregate form, as the MSRA protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those submitting data. Whenever data are requested, the Agency will ensure that information identifying the pecuniary business activity of a particular individual is not identified. Only group averages or group totals will be presented in any reports, publications, or oral presentations of the study's results.

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

No questions will be asked about sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, or other similar matters of a personal and sensitive nature.

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

It is estimated that the number of respondents will be 700 of a population of 997, due to an anticipated response rate of 70%. 997The time per response will be approximately 1 hour, for a total burden of 7000 hours (annualized to 234 respondents, responses and hours). The one hour per response burden, includes the time for reading the instructions, reviewing the questions, and completing (and mailing, if necessary) the survey instrument. This estimate is based on the type of questions asked, length of the survey instrument, and the contractor's past experience conducting similar surveys.

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

There will be no financial cost to the public to participate in this study.

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

A fixed price contract of $ 98,608 was awarded to QuanTech, Inc. The contractor is responsible for the development of survey instrument, training interviewers, printing of forms, data collection and processing, quality control, data entry and supervision. Additional federal costs include the time of NMFS staff. The NMFS staff will be responsible for developing and administering the contract, collaborating with the development of the survey, development of the online survey, and reporting the results. The cost of NMFS staff time is estimated at $18,000. A purchase of an upgrade for Survey Monkey software is $850. Thus, the total annualized cost (over the 3-year approval period) to the federal government would be $39,153.

Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

This is a new collection of socio-economic data.

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

Data collected will be used to assess the performance of the GT-IFQ Program. Descriptive and analytical reports will include summaries of data. These reports will not release or reveal confidential information. Depending on the availability of funds, we anticipate that reports will be available by April 2015. These reports will likely be available in *pdf* format on the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's (NOAA Fisheries) web sites.

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 OMB control number and expiration date will be displayed.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF GULF OF MEXICO (SAGM) FISHERIES UNDER THE GROUPER-TILEFISH INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA PROGRAM
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 population of interest consists of 997 entities. These entities are mainly past participants in the GT-IFQ Program since its inception in 2010; however 65 of these accounts were never activated. The survey strategy calls for a census of this potential respondent universe. With the inclusion of online reporting capability, our goal is to achieve an unweighted response rate of 70%, resulting in approximately 700 completed surveys or sufficient partials.

In a similar study conducted by Knapp, the researchers garnered only a 43% response rate; however, they did not have online capabilities.[1] The study by Knapp surveyed 129 Alaska halibut IFQ shareholders to assess their perceptions about the performance of the program. Table 1 summarizes the key statistics about the proposed sampling strategy. Total burden hours are estimated to be 700 hours, representing one hour per 700 anticipated responses.

Table 1: Sampling strategy for participants in the GT-IFQ Program.

Population Size	Target Sample	Expected Response Rate	Anticipated Sample
997	997	0.70	700

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.

One time, voluntary surveys will be used to elicit information on the performance of the GT-IFQ Program. The list of participants will be provided by NMFS to the contractor. The contractor anticipates interviewing the entire universe of 997 participants using a self-administered online questionnaire and conducting in-person interviews with non-respondent large entities. Other non-responders would be targeted with a self-administered mail survey.

[1] Knapp, G., 1997. Initial Effects of the Alaska Halibut IFQ Program: Survey Comments of Alaska Fishermen. *Marine Resource Economics*, Volume 12, pp. 239–248

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.

Following Dillman (2007)[2] we plan to adopt the following plan to achieve high response rates.

First, we have drafted a respondent-friendly questionnaire and will alert potential respondents of the impending data collection via a mailed "pre-notice letter."

Second, we will use the mandatory reporting mechanism to the Online IFQ System to notify all current account holders of the availability of the online questionnaire. NMFS will provide information on past participants that do not have a current account.

Third, for relatively large entities that do not respond online, we will attempt to make an appointment for an in-person interview. The tentative criterion for a large entity is approximately 20,000 pounds of grouper-tilefish landed annually. However, the number of field interviews will be more a function of who does not respond online, their geographic dispersion, and travel funds in early 2014.

Fourth, for current account holders that do not respond online or to in-person interviews, as well as past participants that do not have active accounts, we will target them with a self-administered mail survey. Of the 997 accounts that comprise the population of interest, 219 (or 22%) did not have active accounts on 1/1/14. This could be for a number of reasons including no longer fishing, created a new corporation, never logged into the system since initial share distribution, and not providing an updated affirmation of U.S. citizenship. These 219 accounts represent an upper ceiling of possible entities that were allocated initial share at the start of the GT-IFQ Program and are now inactive in the G-T component of the Gulf reef fish fishery. We do have contact information for these accounts; however, 15 addresses have been deemed unreachable.

We plan to make four contacts by first class mail, with an additional contact (if necessary). These contacts will include: a) a 'pre-notice letter' to alert the respondent about the impending questionnaire; b) a 'thank you postcard' sent to the respondent a few days after mailing the survey expressing appreciation for taking the time to respond to the survey and indicating that the completed instrument was not received; c) if the completed survey instrument was not received within a few weeks of the earlier mailing, then a letter and replacement questionnaire will be mailed to the respondents urging them to collaborate with the data collection; and d) a 'final letter or phone call' within a week of sending the replacement questionnaire asking the respondent to complete the survey form, will also be conducted to increase the response rate to the mailed survey form.

If the IFQ program participant declines to participate in the survey effort, then the contractor will not attempt further contacts. In the event we receive less than an 80% response rate, we plan to

[2] Dillman, D. A., 2007. Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method 2007 Update with New Internet, Visual, and Mixed-Mode Guide. 2nd Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Hoboken, NJ.

incorporate a weighting adjustment method (e.g., post-stratification) to deal with unit non-response. We plan to utilize a non-interview adjustment method to give a higher weight to interviewed IFQ program participants. The characteristics readily available to us to use in post-stratification will be amount of shares owned, years of participation in the GT-IFQ Program, and mailing address.

Fifth, respondents will be provided first class pre-paid envelopes so that they may easily return their completed questionnaires.

Lastly, the contractor will personalize the correspondence. Dillman (2007) notes that personalized mailings increase responses rates by 5-11% in four-contact general public surveys.

Sampling of the entire universe will provide for valid generalizations of the population. If non-response biases are detected, then standard methods described in statistical textbooks such as Cochran[3] and Lohr [4] will be employed.

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.

In addition to sharing the survey instrument with NMFS and GMFMC staff, as well as experts in academia, the attached survey was pre-tested with industry. Members of NMFS, GMFMC and industry will provide suggestions to improve the content and clarity of the final survey.

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.

Dr. David Cox is the President of QuanTech, Inc. and has extensive experience with survey design and implementation. For this project, he has supervised all aspects of survey design and planning for its implementation. He will also supervise the collection, storage, and synthesis of the collected information into a final deliverable product to the NMFS. Dr. Cox can be reached at (703) 312-7831.

Dr. Walter Keithly from Louisiana State University was hired by QuanTech, Inc. to design the survey instrument. Dr. Keithly can be reached at (225) 578-6296.

Dr. Assane Diagne is a staff economist for the GMFMC. He has reviewed the final questionnaire. He can be reached at (813) 348-1630.

Drs. Larry Perruso, Michael Travis, and Michael Jepson, social scientists employed by the NMFS, were consulted on the statistical design. NMFS social scientists and GMFMC staff will

[3] Cochran, W. 1977. *Sampling Techniques*. 3rd Edition. Toronto. John Wiley and Sons.

[4] Lohr, S., 1998. Sampling: Design and Analysis. Duxbury Press.

also use the data for regulatory analysis. Drs. Perruso, Travis, and Jepson can be reached at (305) 361-4278, (301) 427-8549, and (727) 551-5756, respectively.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Dr.
Miami, Florida 33149

August 28, 2013

«fullname»
«address»
«city», «state» «zip»

Dear «PREFIX» «SURNAME2»:

We hope you will participate in the Survey of Participants in the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program being conducted for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) by QuanTech. NMFS needs to assess the impacts of management actions on commercial fisheries. This survey is being conducted as part of the five-year evaluation of the GT-IFQ Program. It is very important that we hear from everyone selected for this survey. Your participation is critical to ensuring success.

To complete the survey online, please log into the NMFS IFQ Gulf Reef Fish System and click on the link for the "Survey of Participants in the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program".

If you prefer not to complete the survey online, enclosed please find a paper questionnaire and postage paid return envelope.

Thank you very much for your help with this important study. We will take all appropriate steps to protect your privacy. Your responses will be held strictly confidential. We know your time is valuable, but hope you will participate and be part of the fisheries management process.

If you would like more information about the study, please contact:

Larry Perruso
Economist, NMFS
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Office: 305-361-4278
Email: larry.perruso@noaa.gov

Daemian Schreiber
Program Manager, Fisheries Research Group
QuanTech, Inc., Arlington, Virginia
Office: 703-312-7831
Email: dschreiber@quantech.com

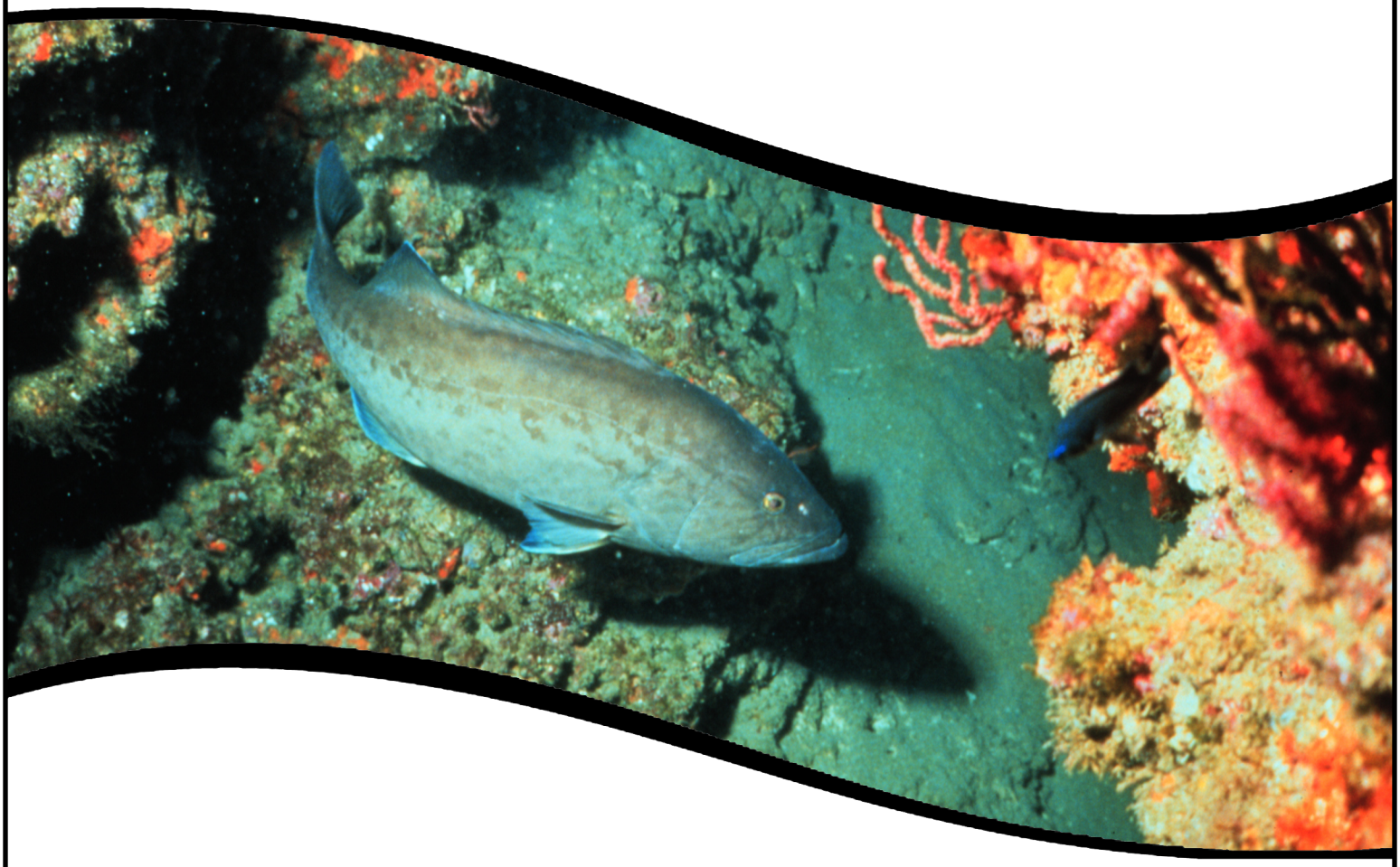
Thanking you in advance,

David C. Cox

Dr. David C. Cox
President, QuanTech

OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Survey of Participants in the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program - 2014



QuanTech
Quantitative Technologies for Research and Analysis

Section 1: Background Information

You have been identified as a past or current participant in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program. This questionnaire is intended for the following account holder(s) and IFQ UserID:

Account Holder(s): [insert Account Holder here]

IFQ UserID: [insert IFQ UserID here]

1. a) Is the account holder associated with other IFQ accounts in addition to the one listed above?

☐ Yes ☐ No → Skip to Q2

↓

b) If 'yes', please list the IFQ UserIDs assigned to these other IFQ accounts. Please indicate whether or not a GT-IFQ Program participant survey has already been completed for these other IFQ accounts.

UserID	Was a GT-IFQ Program participant survey already completed for this account?	
_____	☐ Yes	☐ No
_____	☐ Yes	☐ No
_____	☐ Yes	☐ No
_____	☐ Yes	☐ No

c) If GT-IFQ Program participant surveys were already completed for any of the above IFQ account UserIDs, are the answers you provided in those surveys consistent with answers you would provide for this IFQ account?

☐ Yes ↓

If you answered 'Yes' to question 1(c), you do not need to complete the remainder of this survey. Please return this survey to:

QuanTech, Inc.
6110 Executive Blvd, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20852

☐ No ↓

If you answered 'No' to question 1(c), please proceed to Question 1(d) and complete the remainder of this survey.

↓

d) Would you like to use this survey for the IFQ accounts listed in question 1(b) for which no surveys have been completed, in addition to the selected IFQ UserID for this survey?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. In which year did you first become involved in the commercial GOM reef fish fishery?

Year: _____

Section 2: Attitudes and Perceptions Concerning the GT-IFQ Program

3. Did you vote in the GT-IFQ referendum?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Did you support the GT-IFQ Program at the time of its implementation on January 1, 2010?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐ Not applicable

5. Do you support the GT-IFQ Program NOW?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

6. a) Overall, how satisfied are you with the GT-IFQ Program?

Highly Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	No Opinion
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) What do you consider to be the most positive outcomes of the GT-IFQ Program on your fishing operations?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

c) What do you consider to be the most negative outcomes of the GT-IFQ Program on your fishing operations?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

7. For each potential GT-IFQ outcome below, please indicate your opinion by checking the appropriate box.

Outcomes from the GT-IFQ Program	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Opinion
Improved the profitability of the grouper-tilefish (G-T) component of my business by:						
(a) increasing ex-vessel prices	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
(b) reducing operating expenses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
More flexible timing for conducting commercial fishing trips	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduced regulatory discards of G-T species	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduced incidental catch of non-targeted species	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduced the loss of gear	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduced derby-fishing conditions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Decreased crowding on fishing grounds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improved safety at sea	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increased consolidation in the G-T sector	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Made it harder for people to enter the G-T sector	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improved compliance with regulations associated with G-T species	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section 3: Socioeconomic Assessment of the GT-IFQ Program

8. a) Since the implementation of the GT-IFQ Program, have you made any major changes in capital (i.e., vessels, harvesting equipment, permits, shares) that you would consider to be the result of the program?

		Major Changes		**Was this major change a result of the GT-IFQ Program?**	
	No Major Changes	***Bought ($ Value)***	***Sold ($ Value)***	***Yes***	***No***
Vessels	☐	$_____	$_____	☐	☐
Equipment/Engines	☐	$_____	$_____	☐	☐
Permits	☐	$_____	$_____	☐	☐
Shares	☐	$_____	$_____	☐	☐

b) If you indicated that you made changes in **vessels and equipment** as a result of the program, please briefly explain the changes (e.g., bought or sold vessel, upgraded equipment/engine) and why these changes were made. _____

_____

_____

_____

c) If you indicated that you bought or sold **permits or shares** as a result of the program, please briefly explain why these transactions were made. _____

_____

_____

_____

9. Please check the box on the scale below that best indicates your experience maintaining and hiring crew PRE- and POST-IFQ IMPLEMENTATION. If you don't know (e.g., your captain hires crew), check the No Opinion box.

Maintaining Skilled Crew						
	Very Difficult	Difficult	Neutral	Easy	Very Easy	No Opinion
Pre-IFQ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Post-IFQ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Hiring Skilled Replacement Crew						
	Very Difficult	Difficult	Neutral	Easy	Very Easy	No Opinion
Pre-IFQ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Post-IFQ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Questions 10-12 ask about changes in pay to captain, crew, and vessel owner since the GT-IFQ Program began.

10. a) Have you generally hired a captain to fish some/all of your annual GT-IFQ allocation?

☐ Yes → Go to Q10(b)
☐ No → Skip to Q11

b) If you answered yes to hiring a captain to fish some/all of your annual allocation, how was the captain generally paid?

(*check only one box for **Before GT-IFQ** and only one box for **After GT-IFQ***)

Before GT-IFQ	After GT-IFQ	
☐	☐	Share of total revenues without any deductions
☐	☐	Share of total revenues after deductions
☐	☐	Flat rate per day, trip, or season
☐	☐	Other (please explain):

_____

_____

_____

_____

c) If you deduct expenses from total revenues before paying the captain, which of the following expenses have you normally deducted?

(*check all that apply*)

Before GT-IFQ	After GT-IFQ	
☐	☐	IFQ allocation
☐	☐	Fuel expenses
☐	☐	Bait expenses
☐	☐	Grocery expenses
☐	☐	Payments to crew
☐	☐	Other expenses (list expenses)

_____

_____

_____

_____

11. a) Have you generally employed crew when fishing your annual GT-IFQ allocation?

☐ Yes → Go to Q11(b)
☐ No → Skip to Q12

b) If you answered yes to employing crew, how were crew generally paid?

(*check only one box for **Before GT-IFQ** and only one box for **After GT-IFQ***)

Before GT-IFQ	After GT-IFQ	
☐	☐	Share of total revenues without any deductions
☐	☐	Share of total revenues after deductions
☐	☐	Flat rate per day, trip, or season
☐	☐	Other (please explain):

_____

_____

_____

_____

c) If you deduct expenses from total revenues before paying crew, which of the following expenses have you normally deducted?

(*check all that apply*)

Before GT-IFQ	After GT-IFQ	
☐	☐	IFQ allocation
☐	☐	Fuel expenses
☐	☐	Bait expenses
☐	☐	Grocery expenses
☐	☐	Payment to a captain
☐	☐	Other expenses (list expenses)

_____

_____

_____

_____

12. Prior to the GT-IFQ Program, the distribution of payments described in questions 10 and 11 was approximately:

Vessel Owner _____% + Captain _____% + Crew _____% = 100%

After implementation of the GT-IFQ Program, the distribution of payments was approximately:

Vessel Owner _____% + Captain _____% + Crew _____% = 100%

If the payments above do not add up to 100%, please briefly explain why:

_____

_____

_____

13. What is your primary business plan with respect to your activities in the GT-IFQ Program over the next five years?

(*check all that apply*)

- ☐ I plan to sell (or give away) my shares TO others.
- ☐ I plan to sell (or give away) my allocation TO others.
- ☐ I plan to keep my activities at approximately the same level.
- ☐ I plan to obtain (e.g., buy) shares FROM others.
- ☐ I plan to obtain (e.g., lease) allocation FROM others.
- ☐ Other (please explain): _____

_____

_____

With respect to the activity that you checked above, would you please elaborate as to why you selected that item:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Section 4: Transfer of GT-IFQ Allocation or Shares

14. Do you think CURRENT **allocation** prices for the following GT-IFQ categories are low, about right, or high? What do you consider to be a FAIR IFQ **allocation** price?

GT-IFQ Category	Don't Know Price/No Opinion	Low	About Right	High	FAIR IFQ **Allocation** Price
Deep-Water Grouper	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Gag/Gag-Multi	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Red Grouper	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Shallow-Water Grouper	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Tilefishes	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb

15. Do you think CURRENT **share** prices for the following IFQ categories are low, about right, or high? What do you consider to be a FAIR IFQ **share** price?

GT-IFQ Category	Don't Know Price/No Opinion	Low	About Right	High	FAIR IFQ **Share** Price
Deep-Water Grouper	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Gag	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Red Grouper	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Shallow-Water Grouper	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb
Tilefishes	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/lb

When answering questions 16-25, we are interested in your perceptions about the GT-IFQ Program since its implementation in January 2010.

16. Have you received transferred allocation **FROM** another IFQ account?

☐ Yes → Go to Q17 ☐ No → Skip to Q19

17. **If you received (e.g., leased, gifted) transferred GT-IFQ allocation FROM another IFQ account**, how important were the following reasons for doing so? Please check the appropriate box for each statement.

Reasons for RECEIVING TRANSFERRED GT-IFQ allocation FROM another IFQ account	**Not Important**	**Somewhat Important**	**Very Important**
I did not have the financial resources at the time to purchase IFQ shares.	☐	☐	☐
I only need (additional) allocation for a relatively short period of time (e.g., a single fishing year).	☐	☐	☐
I want to be able to retain grouper-tilefish species which I would have otherwise discarded.	☐	☐	☐
Over the long run, I believe that buying allocation on an annual basis will be less expensive than purchasing an equivalent amount of shares.	☐	☐	☐
Purchasing annual allocation provides greater flexibility than owning IFQ shares.	☐	☐	☐
I consider the buying of additional IFQ shares as too risky due to uncertainty in:			
(a) future ex-vessel prices	☐	☐	☐
(b) future commercial quotas due to changes in stock assessments or modifications to the commercial/recreational allocation	☐	☐	☐
(c) future harvesting costs	☐	☐	☐
(d) the duration of the GT-IFQ Program	☐	☐	☐
(e) other (please specify): _____ _____	☐	☐	☐
I bought allocation to sell or give to other fishermen.	☐	☐	☐
Other (please explain): _____ _____	☐	☐	☐

18. Please indicate the TRANSFER arrangement between you and the IFQ account seller.

(*please check all that apply*)

☐ I RECEIVED allocation with no other arrangements/restrictions being placed on the allocation that I received **FROM** the IFQ account seller.

☐ I RECEIVED allocation with an arrangement that I sell my catch to a specified dealer.

☐ I RECEIVED allocation with other arrangements. Please explain these arrangements:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

_____

19. Have you transferred allocation **TO** another IFQ account?

☐ Yes → Go to Q20 ☐ No → Skip to Q22

20. **If you transferred GT-IFQ allocation TO another IFQ Account,** how important were the following reasons for doing so? Please check the appropriate box for each statement.

Reasons for TRANSFERRING GT-IFQ allocation TO another IFQ account	**Not Important**	**Somewhat Important**	**Very Important**
I received a higher return from TRANSFERRING allocation than from fishing it.	☐	☐	☐
Reduced financial uncertainty.	☐	☐	☐
Illness or health issues prevented me from fishing.	☐	☐	☐
Vessel repairs prevented me from fishing.	☐	☐	☐
My allocation from shares is too small to be worth harvesting.	☐	☐	☐
The vessel fishing capacity availability that I have is insufficient to allow for the harvest of my allocation.	☐	☐	☐
The amount of labor (captain and crew) that I have is insufficient to allow for the harvest of my allocation.	☐	☐	☐
I TRANSFERRED allocation as barter for red snapper or other species IFQ allocation/shares.	☐	☐	☐
I no longer have a Gulf of Mexico reef fish permit.	☐	☐	☐
I transferred allocation to my other IFQ account(s).	☐	☐	☐
Other (please explain): _____ _____	☐	☐	☐

21. Please indicate the TRANSFER arrangement between you and the IFQ account to which you TRANSFERRED allocation.

(*please check all that apply*)

☐ I TRANSFERRED allocation **TO** another IFQ account with no other arrangements/ restrictions being placed on the transferred allocation.

☐ I TRANSFERRED allocation with an arrangement that the IFQ account to which the transfer was made would deliver the catch to a specified dealer.

☐ I TRANSFERRED allocation with other arrangements. Please explain these arrangements:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

22. Have you **purchased GT-IFQ shares**?

☐ Yes → Go to Q23 ☐ No → Skip to Q24

23. If you **purchased GT-IFQ shares**, how important were the following reasons for doing so? Please check the appropriate box for each statement.

Reasons for PURCHASING GT-IFQ shares	**Not Important**	**Somewhat Important**	**Very Important**
The asking price for the purchased shares was reasonable compared to the financial return I anticipated from fishing the additional shares.	☐	☐	☐
The asking price for the purchased shares was reasonable compared to what I anticipate I will be able to sell the shares.	☐	☐	☐
The asking price for the purchased shares was reasonable relative to the return I anticipated from selling the related annual allocation.	☐	☐	☐
I believed that the additional shares would allow me to fish at a more efficient level.	☐	☐	☐
I needed additional shares because I wanted to retain the grouper-tilefish I land as bycatch.	☐	☐	☐
I anticipated that Total Allowable Catch (TAC) will increase after the next stock assessment.	☐	☐	☐
Other (please explain): _____ _____ _____	☐	☐	☐

24. Have you **sold GT-IFQ shares**?

☐ Yes → Go to Q25 ☐ No → Skip to Q26

25. If you **sold GT-IFQ shares**, how important were the following reasons for doing so? Please check the appropriate box for each statement.

Reasons for SELLING GT-IFQ shares	**Not Important**	**Somewhat Important**	**Very Important**
The selling price was high relative to the expected financial returns I anticipated from fishing the shares.	☐	☐	☐
The selling price was higher than what I anticipated receiving for the shares in the future.	☐	☐	☐
I had more shares than necessary for an efficient level of production.	☐	☐	☐
I anticipated that the value of my shares would decrease after the next stock assessment.	☐	☐	☐
I felt uncertain about the duration of the GT-IFQ Program and that led me to sell shares.	☐	☐	☐
I wanted to leave the fishery.	☐	☐	☐
I TRANSFERRED all/some of my shares as barter for red snapper or other species IFQ allocation/ shares.	☐	☐	☐
Other (please explain): _____ _____ _____	☐	☐	☐

26. Have you experienced any changes in your relationship with dealers since the GT-IFQ Program began?

☐ I have not experienced significant changes in my relationship with dealers.

☐ I have experienced significant changes in my relationship with dealers. Please explain what these changes are:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

27. Please estimate the current market value of your vessels, gear, and equipment (excluding permits and shares) used to harvest grouper and tilefishes?

$ _____

a) In your opinion, has the GT-IFQ Program resulted in a change in the current market value of your vessels, gear, and equipment?

☐ Yes → Go to Q27(b) ☐ No → Skip to Q28

b) Does this change represent an increase or a decrease in the current market value of your vessels, gear, and equipment?

☐ Increase ☐ Decrease

c) What would you estimate to be the change in the current market value of your vessels, gear, and equipment that resulted from the GT-IFQ Program?

± $ _____

Section 5: Social Well-Being and Demographic Information

28. The following set of questions is designed to evaluate the well-being of fishermen who harvest grouper and tilefish species, including your views of fishing as a job and way of life. If you did not fish or if you hire a captain to fish your allocation in the GT-IFQ Program, please proceed to Question 29.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please check the appropriate box for each statement.

	Strongly Disagree	**Disagree**	**Neutral**	**Agree**	**Strongly Agree**	**No Opinion**
"Fishing is hard work" is less true now than prior to the GT-IFQ Program.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is easier for people to get started in fishing now than prior to the IFQ Program.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I enjoy fishing more now than prior to the IFQ Program.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fishing is just one of many jobs I could be happy doing.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Young people should be encouraged to pursue a career in commercial fishing.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My primary motivation for fishing is financial.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would choose to be a commercial fisherman if I had my life to live over again.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Overall, IFQ programs have made commercial fishing a better industry to be a part of.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

29. Are you male or female?

☐ Male ☐ Female

30. In what year were you born?

19_____

31. How many people in the following age groups live in your household?

_____ Under 18 _____ 18 to 35 _____ 36 to 60 _____Over 60

32. What is your marital status?

- ☐ Never married
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed

33. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

☐ Yes ☐ No

34. What is your race? (check one or more boxes)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Some other race – Please print race below

_____

35. What is the highest level of education that you have attained (check only one box)?

- ☐ Not a high school graduate
- ☐ High school graduate or Certificate of High School Equivalency
- ☐ Some college or post-secondary training, but no degree
- ☐ Associate or vocational degree
- ☐ Bachelor degree
- ☐ Advanced degree

36. What was your <u>household</u> income in 2013 (before taxes)?

- ☐ Under $15,000
- ☐ $15,000 to $24,999
- ☐ $25,000 to $34,999
- ☐ $35,000 to $49,999
- ☐ $50,000 to $74,999
- ☐ $75,000 to $99,999
- ☐ $100,000 and over

Section 6: Other Issues

For each question, please check the box on the scale below that best indicates your level of satisfaction. If the question does not apply, please check the N/A box.

37. a) How satisfied are you with the IFQ Online System for managing share and allocation and completing landing transactions?

Highly Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	No Opinion
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) What improvements would you suggest to the IFQ Online System?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

38. a) How satisfied are you with the customer service you receive when contacting NOAA Fisheries Service regarding questions about the IFQ Program?

Highly Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	No Opinion
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) What improvements would you suggest to IFQ customer service?

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39. a) How satisfied are you with the customer service you receive when making a landing notification via phone?

Highly Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	No Opinion
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) What improvements would you suggest to the landing notification system?

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40. a) How satisfied are you with enforcement of the IFQ Program?

Highly Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	No Opinion
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) What improvements would you suggest to the enforcement of the IFQ Program?

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PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching the 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 aspects of this burden to Larry Perruso National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149. This reporting is authorized under 50 CFR 622.5(a)(1)(v). Information submitted will be treated as confidential in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The NMFS requires this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. These data will be used to evaluate the economic effects of proposed regulations in the fishery.

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: June 13, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–14802 Filed 6–15–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Socioeconomic Assessment of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program

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 August 17, 2012.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Dr. Larry Perruso, (305) 361–4278 or *Larry.perruso@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to collect demographic, cultural, economic and social information about Gulf of Mexico fisheries managed under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program. The survey also intends to inquire about the industry's perceptions, attitudes and beliefs about the performance of the Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program. The data gathered will be used to describe the social and economic changes brought about by the Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program, assess the economic performance of the industry under the Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program, and evaluate the socioeconomic impacts of future federal regulatory actions. In addition, the information will be used to strengthen and improve fishery management decision-making, satisfy legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, and other pertinent statues.

II. Method of Collection

The socioeconomic information sought will be collected via in-person surveys.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 120.

Estimated Time per Response: 2 hrs.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 240.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0.

IV. Request for Comments

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

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

Dated: June 13, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–14770 Filed 6–15–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has submitted a public information collection request (ICR) entitled Senior Corps Performance Measurement Surveys Parts A, B, and C for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Corporation for National and Community Service, Angela Roberts, at (202) 606–6822 or email to *aroberts@cns.gov.* Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY–TDD) may call 1–800–833–3722 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted, identified by the title of the information collection activity, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Ms. Sharon Mar, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service, by any of the following two methods within 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**: