

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 01/15/2016

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Jennifer Jessup

FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 10/23/2015

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201510-0648-012

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: Socioeconomics of Guided Wildlife Viewing Operations in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0726

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: 01/31/2019

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	56	140	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	56	140	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
Owner/operator survey	NA, NA	MBNMS whale watching survey, MBNMS Wildlife Viewing 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	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

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

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

SOCIOECONOMICS OF GUIDED WILDLIFE VIEWING OPERATIONS IN THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OMB CONTROL No. 0648-XXXX

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This request is for a new information collection to benefit natural resource managers in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The National Ocean Service (NOS) proposes to collect information from wildlife watching operations to ascertain the market value of marine wildlife via the ocean recreational industry in the Monterey Bay region.

Up-to-date socioeconomic data is needed to support the conservation and management goals of MBNMS to strengthen and improve conservation of marine wildlife, including whales, pinnipeds, sea otters, and seabirds within the jurisdiction of the sanctuary and to satisfy legal mandates under the [National Marine Sanctuaries Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq), [Endangered Species Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq), [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (42 U.S.C. 4321), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other pertinent statutes.

MBNMS is currently in the process of updating the 2008 Management Plan, and has identified a lack of baseline socioeconomic information on ocean recreation businesses. The information is not available to assess the possible economic benefits of marine wildlife protection to the local economy, or the potential impact on ocean recreation businesses. The type of data targeted for this collection; that is, information on costs and earnings from the marine wildlife watching industry, are only currently available for recreational and commercial fishing. Thus, current economic information on the importance of marine wildlife to the local tourism industry is required. **The primary focus for the survey will be to gather data on the non-consumptive, market value of marine wildlife.** Specifically, researchers will collect data to determine the contribution of marine wildlife watching operations to the economy in the Monterey Bay region.

Secondarily, during the process of updating the 2008 Management Plan, MBNMS may consider new approaches to reduce wildlife disturbance occurring as a result of close public interaction with the marine wildlife in the Monterey Bay region. Collaborating with the wildlife viewing industry, MBNMS will work with the Sanctuary Advisory Council to explore options for reducing disturbance to whales, pinnipeds, sea otters and seabirds, while minimizing the economic impact on industry. Achieving this requires that we also collect spatial data of the operations wildlife viewings. Ocean recreation businesses include whale watching, seabird charters, kayaking, SCUBA diving, and

paddleboarding. A non-regulatory approach to reducing disturbance to marine wildlife could include increased education, outreach and interpretive enforcement programming provided to work more directly with wildlife viewing businesses and the general public. A regulatory approach could include establishing an “approach distance” for encounters with whales, which could require a new prohibition for spectators to remain a defined stand-off distance from particular whales species. Large whales such as humpbacks, grays and blues, as well as orcas, tend to attract spectators who may approach whales during feeding, resting and/or transiting. The latter approach may be explored for implementation on a voluntary basis or for future regulatory action by MBNMS. MBNMS management plan update process will identify alternatives that offer the most logical approach for protecting marine wildlife, while fostering robust, sustainable ocean recreation businesses in the region.

Collection of this data will provide estimates of the potential economic benefits of the diversity of marine wildlife in this region and the spatial use of operations. Additionally, should MBNMS choose to move forward with a regulatory approach to establish an approach distance between wildlife and operators, the information and tools developed from this data collection would be required before conducting a socioeconomic impact analyses under the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA), [Executive Order 12866](#) (Regulatory Impact Review) and an Initial and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analyses (impacts on small businesses).

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.

General Overview

The purpose of this information collection is to obtain the information necessary to calculate estimates and build tools that can be used by natural resource managers at the MBNMS to evaluate the value of whales, pinnipeds, sea otters, and seabirds within the sanctuary, as well as estimating potential impacts of alternative management options on the local tourism industry. Socioeconomic data will be gathered from commercial whale and marine wildlife observation operations and will be used to develop social and demographic profiles of business owners/operators. Cost and earnings data will be gathered to develop estimates of the value of these businesses to the local economy. Spatial data documenting, where commercial, non-consumptive marine wildlife viewing activities occur in the region, will be used to assess the cost or benefit of alternative management scenarios to the whale and marine wildlife watching industry.

The unit of measurement is the operation. The interviewer doesn’t select the appropriate person to interview. Instead, the business owner selects the appropriate person (i.e. most knowledgeable) for each type of information. This is a records based data collection where we send out a team to the business establishment and obtain the majority of information from their records. The only

information that is tied to a particular person in the operation is the demographics. Demographic information applies to the business owner. This is done so we can meet the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (impacts on small entities—primarily small businesses) in analyzing the socioeconomic impacts of regulations.

Who will use this information?

Data gathered during this collection will be used by MBNMS and, more generally, the Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries. The surveys will be conducted by staff and graduate students at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California at Santa Barbara. MBNMS will use this data to inform their upcoming management plan update.

How frequently will this information be used?

This one-time collection will last one to two months. It is anticipated that the data gathered from this collection will be used on an as-needed basis. Some of the elements of this submission may be replicated to support socioeconomic monitoring in future years.

For what purpose will the information be used?

Data gathered during this collection will be used by MBNMS and, more generally, the Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries, to support a stakeholder outreach process conducted in and by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Completing this information collection will give MBNMS stakeholders fair representation in the design of management strategies by providing information to support the assessment of socioeconomic impacts of management alternatives. The data may potentially be used for conduct of socioeconomic impact analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Impact Review) and an Initial and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analyses (impacts on small businesses). Finally, the information collected also has potential to be used by resource managers for outreach and education purposes.

Summary of Survey Questions and Mapping Activity

The questions that will be included in this collection are similar to those submitted under OMB Control Number 0648-0408, Expiration Date: 6/30/2003 for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and OMB Control Number 0648-0717 for CINMS approved 7/1/2015. The questions have been slightly modified to meet the data requirement for the present management purpose. The survey items can be categorized into two primary components: general information and economic information. Below is a discussion of type of information that is being collected and its importance for the study.

General Information

Respondent ID Number

A respondent identification number will be assigned to each operator for data collection purposes.

All questions should be answered by the business owner, unless the owner has specified someone better suited to provide a response.

Questions 1-5 are regarding the business owner.

1. Which of the following includes your age?

2. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

3. What is your race? (Mark one or more)

4. What is your gender?

These four demographic questions will be used to develop profiles of the wildlife viewing tour operators in the Monterey Bay region. The race and ethnicity questions are written per guidelines issued by OMB. The demographics are specifically for the owner of the business to support socioeconomic impacts of regulations on small entities (primarily small businesses) under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

5. How many family members do you support (including yourself)?

In combination with economic information gathered, this question will provide information on the degree to which operators (business owners) are dependent upon whale watching as their primary source of income for supporting their household and their vulnerability if this income were to decline.

6. What is your primary port/marina/location?

7. Do you have a secondary port/marina/location from where you operate part of the year?

7a. If YES, which one? _____

Questions 6 and 7 ask about the primary and secondary ports and/or marinas that the wildlife viewing operation utilizes. This information is important for assessing the region of operation as well as travel distance and resulting expenses.

8. How many years have you been an ocean recreation business operator?

This information will help determine how established and dependent the operation is in the local whale watching and marine wildlife viewing industry and may explain differences in attitudes and perceptions of management strategies and regulations.

9. How many years have you been an ocean recreation business operator in the Monterey Bay region?

Question 9 is similar to the prior question in terms of purpose, but collects information regarding the Monterey Bay region, specifically.

10. Do you visit state marine protected areas (reserves/conservation areas) specifically during your tours? (Interviewer—Please show map to identify specific quadrants)

10a. Why or why not?

10b. How often?

10c. If YES, how many years have you conducted guided wildlife tours in state marine protected areas?

This information is important for understanding visitation rates to, as well as the importance of, the state marine protected areas and sanctuaries to business operations. Also asked is why and how often they visit the state MPAs. This qualitative information is important to ascertain their reasons for visiting the state MPAs, which will be of use to sanctuary managers.

Question 11 is for whale watching operators only:

11. Do you currently have a naturalist on board during whale watching trips?

11a. If NO, would you be interested in having one on board if you had more information about the role they play with whale watching operators?

In the Monterey Bay region, naturalists will often come aboard for whale watching trips to talk with customers and collect data on the location and species of whales seen per trip. Question 11 asks if operators participate in this naturalist program, meaning that they allow naturalists on board during whale watching trips. This question will help researchers and sanctuary workers better understand the participation rate of operators in the naturalist program, as well as interest among operators for program expansion.

12. Are customers asking to see specific wildlife species when they go on a guided tour?

12a. If YES, please list:

This information will allow researchers to roughly ascertain the species of viewing preference among whale/marine wildlife watching customers in the region.

13. How would you describe the wildlife viewing operation? (Mark one or more)

Full-time whale watching operation Part-time whale watching operation

Seasonal whale watching operation

Full-time kayaking operation Part-time whale watching operation

Seasonal kayaking operation

Full-time dive/snorkeling operation Part-time whale watching operation

Seasonal dive/snorkeling operation

Full-time seabird viewing operation Part-time whale watching operation

Seasonal seabird viewing operation

Full-time sailing/boating operation Part-time whale watching operation

Seasonal sailing/boating operation

Full-time recreational fishing operation Part-time whale watching operation

___ Seasonal recreational fishing operation

___ Full-time combination whale watching, recreational cruises, kayaking, diving/snorkeling, and wildlife observation operation

___ Part-time combination whale watching, recreational cruises, kayaking, diving/snorkeling, and wildlife observation

___ Seasonal combination whale watching, recreational cruises, kayaking, diving/snorkeling, and wildlife observation.

13a. If part time or seasonal, which months?

14. Number of boats/vessels at the operation: _____ (number of vessels)

Questions 13 and 14 ascertain the type and size of the operation. This information will be used to develop a profile of the business, which will inform cost and earnings calculations.

Question 15-19 are for specific types of operators:

15. Average number of whale watching participants per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ___ watchers Vessel 2: ___ watchers

Vessel 3: ___ watchers Vessel 4: ___ watchers

16. Average number of participants per vessel in recreational fishing cruise operation:

Vessel 1: ___ participants Vessel 2: ___ participants

Vessel 3: ___ participants Vessel 4: ___ participants

17. Average number of kayakers and kayaks per guided tour:

___ kayakers ___ kayaks

18. Average number of divers/snorkelers per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ___ divers/snorkelers Vessel 2: ___ divers/snorkelers

Vessel 3: ___ divers/snorkelers Vessel 4: ___ divers/snorkelers

19. Average number of wildlife observers (seabirds and other) per vessel in operation (capacity):

Vessel 1: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers

Vessel 2: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers

Vessel 3: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers

Vessel 4: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers

Questions 15-19 ask about the capacity of vessels in terms of the number of participants for each of the operator's different vessels for each activity. This information will help assess supply capacity and will be used in cost/earnings calculations.

20. Number of employees at the operation:

Full time _____

Part time _____

Seasonal _____

Question 20 will gather data on the number of employees at the operation. Employee numbers and status will help determine the size of the operation and costs.

21. *Number of vessel trips/guided tours per day (primary purpose):*

Whale watching _____

Recreational cruise (sailing, boating) _____

Fishing _____

Kayaking _____

Diving/snorkeling _____

Seabird viewing _____

Question 21 gathers information on the number of trips per day and will help researchers understand the magnitude of participants/customers in the area, as well as the percentage of business that is dedicated to wildlife viewing, as opposed to other services.

Question 22 should be answered only if the person responding has been in the guided wildlife tour industry for 10 years or more.

22. *In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 5, how has the quality of the guided wildlife tour industry changed in the last 10 years?*

1 – Much worse

2 – Somewhat worse

3 – No change

4 – Somewhat better

5 – Much better

No opinion

22a. *If you believe that the quality of guided tours has changed, could you tell us how it's changed?*

22b. *Are you the owner of the business you are representing?*

YES *NO*

This series of questions asks the operations to indicate if the quality of wildlife viewing has changed in the last 10 years. This information will be helpful in gauging the status of the industry from an “insider’s” point of view. Question 22a elicits detailed feedback on what factors affected a change in quality. Together, this information will allow researchers to understand what factors are believed to be most associated with changes in quality in the industry. Question 22b is included to differentiate if the opinion recorded is of the business owner or from an employee the owner has identified as the best person to answer the survey questions.

23. *Are you aware that wildlife in the region are sometimes harassed unintentionally?*

23a. If YES, how concerned are you that harassment to wildlife (whales, pinnipeds, sea otters, and seabirds) may be having a negative impact on your business, with 1 being not concerned and 5 being extremely concerned?

Question 23 queries the operation on the issue of wildlife disturbance in the region. Gauging awareness of the issue would help local resource managers plan future education and outreach efforts among guided tours. Question 23a gathers information on the level of concern among wildlife viewing operations about the impact of wildlife harassment on their businesses. This question will help managers to understand how interested stakeholders from this group are about wildlife conservation issues relative to wildlife disturbance.

24. Currently, there are no regulations in MBNMS that require an "approach distance" to whales and other wildlife. However, there are official NOAA Fisheries guidelines that recommend wildlife viewing vessels maintain a minimum distance of 100 yards/meters from whales and wildlife. Does your operation have any kind of established policy regarding a minimum distance your vessels maintain from whales and wildlife? ___YES ___NO

24a. If YES, what is your company's approach distance policy?

25. Please give a brief explanation of how you think your business could be affected if a mandatory regulation were to be passed that would require an approach distance to whales and other wildlife.

Questions 24 and 25 provide important information for MBNMS should we choose to move forward with a regulatory approach to establish an approach distance between wildlife and operators. It is beneficial to know if wildlife viewing tour operators already are adhering to official NOAA Fisheries guidelines or even a self-imposed approach distance policy. Collecting this information will give MBNMS stakeholders fair representation in the design of management strategies by providing information to support the assessment of socioeconomic impacts of management alternatives. The information collected also has potential to be used by resource managers for future outreach and education purposes.

26. The Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program authorizes a group of unpaid volunteers to respond to sightings of whales entangled in fishing gear and other debris. This group is called the Whale Entanglement Team (WET), and they respond to a 24/7 WET hotline at (877) SOS-WHALE.

*26a. Have you ever heard of the Whale Entanglement Team?
___YES ___NO*

*26b. Have you/any of your employees ever called the WET hotline?
___YES ___NO*

Please explain your response (i.e. reason why you called, did not call because you were not aware of program, did not call because you never encountered an entangled whale, etc.)

26c. Does your company have a policy about responding to injured or entangled wildlife?

___YES ___NO

If YES, what is your company's policy about responding to injured or entangled wildlife?

27. *Would you be interested in learning more about how your company can respond to injured or entangled wildlife?*

___YES ___NO

27a. *If YES, how would you like to receive information? (Check all options that apply)*

___ *Attend a seminar during business hours with other interested local wildlife tour operators*

___ *Attend a seminar after business hours with other interested local wildlife tour operators*

___ *Attend a webinar/online seminar with other interested local wildlife tour operators*

___ *Receive physical pamphlets/handouts/reading materials that are mailed to the business*

___ *Receive electronic pamphlets/handouts/reading materials that are emailed to the business*

___ *Receive an in-person training from an trained expert during business hours at your business*

Questions 26 and 27 are regarding whale and marine wildlife entanglement and injury. It is beneficial to know if wildlife viewing tour operators are already aware of programs in place to assist injured marine animals, as well as to understand what operators may or may not be doing about it. The information collected also has potential to be used by resource managers for future outreach and education purposes. Question 27 will help resource managers to understand how best to communicate information to business operators regarding marine wildlife entanglement.

28. To the best of your knowledge, please rank the status/condition of the following resources in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, where 1 is much better and 5 is much worse.

RESOURCE	Better						Worse
a. Water Quality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
b. Marine Debris/Ocean Pollution	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
c. Wildlife (whales, otters, pinnipeds)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
d. Habitats (tidepools, beaches, kelp forests)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
e. Introduced Species	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
f. Sensitive Areas (haulout, roosting, nesting)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	

29a. Are there any categories listed above, in Question 28, where MBNMS been successful? (List all that apply)

29b. Are there any categories listed above, in Question 28, where MBNMS been unsuccessful? (List all that apply)?

ECONOMIC INFORMATION

30. What approximate percentage of the TOTAL business income is derived from guided wildlife viewing operations? ____%

31. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL household income is derived from guided wildlife viewing operations? ____%

32. Please list any outstanding balance on loan amounts for vessels and equipment.
\$_____

33. Please provide your best estimate for the following expenses last year:

Permits/licenses	\$ _____
Docking fees	\$ _____
Interest payments on vessel(s)	\$ _____
P&I insurance on vessel(s)	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on vessel/electronic equipment	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on dive/snorkel gear	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on rods/reels	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on compressors	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on other equipment	\$ _____
Other dive equipment costs	\$ _____
Advertising	\$ _____
Office rent/mortgage	\$ _____
Office utilities (electric, water, telephone, Internet)	\$ _____
Depreciation of vessels and equipment	\$ _____
Business taxes	\$ _____
Other (specify):	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

33a. Please provide your best estimate of the replacement value of the following items that you used last year (fill in year _____):

Vessel(s) and electronic equipment	\$ _____
Diving and snorkeling gear	\$ _____
Compressors	\$ _____
Rods/reels	\$ _____
Other gear (specify):	
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

34. Please provide your best estimate for the following trip related expenses last year:

Dive equipment costs	\$ _____
Fuel/oil	\$ _____
Ice	\$ _____
Food/supplies	\$ _____
Bait	\$ _____
Captain wages & salaries (if not owner-captain)	\$ _____
Crew wages & salaries Number _____	\$ _____
Other (specify):	
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

35. Please provide your best estimate of total business revenues last year.

\$ _____

36. Please provide your best estimate of total revenues and/or percent of total revenues last year in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

\$ _____ % _____

Questions 37 – 39 pertain to whale watching operators only:

37. Does the number of whales seen per trip affect the profitability of that trip?

___ YES ___ NO

If you answered 'yes' to question 37, then

What is the minimum number of whales that need to be seen per trip in order to make the trip profitable? _____

38. What is the minimum number of customers/attendants that need to be booked per trip in order to make the trip profitable? _____

39. If you do not see any whales on a trip, do you reimburse customers? ___ YES ___ NO

39a. If YES, how do you reimburse customers?

40. Use by activity and month:

41. *Mapping Exercise: Map the Distribution of Each Activity*

Respondents will be advised to provide information on their anticipated spatial use of the Monterey Bay. This anticipated spatial use may be the same as their current use or it may be different.

Respondents will be given a 100 penny budget, meaning one penny equals one percent of passenger activity. The respondent will allocate his or her budget across all map cells. Codes will be recorded on the coding sheet. The map cells will be referenced by column and row: For example, C1R1 1% means 1% of activity is in cell Column 1 Row 1. The percent of each activity must add up to 100.

42. *Does this map reflect where you presently operate? ___YES ___NO*

42a. If NO, please explain why future operations may be different than where you have historically operated.

Question 41 is needed to obtain a detailed spatial resolution of “expected person-days”. The purpose of this information is to assess the potential impacts of alternative management scenarios on the wildlife viewing industry. This evaluation is by its nature forward looking, thus past spatial distribution of effort may not be a good representation of future impact. Wildlife viewing tour operators will be asked to provide the percent distribution of where they expect to undertake their future effort (i.e., their anticipated spatial use area) by type of activity at spatial resolutions of 1-minute by 1-minute of one nautical square mile grid cells. It is important to note that a respondent’s future anticipated spatial use area might be similar or identical to their current or past use area. Detailed maps will be provided with NOAA nautical chart layers with latitude and longitude lines, as well as key reference points such as benthic structure and depth contours. The person-day totals provided in Question 41 will provide the information to weight percentage distributions across operations when extrapolating to population totals by spatial unit. A copy of the map that will be used for data collection is included with this package. This type of information has been collected previously by ONMS to ascertain the influence of a marine protected area designation on the economic condition of commercial fishermen and recreational boat operators in CINMS and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.¹ Additionally, similar data have been collected for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico, although data from this report have not been published to date.

Questions 42 and 42a clarify if the distribution is for current or future movements.

Compliance with Information Quality Guidelines

¹ Leeworthy, V.R. and P Wiley. (2003); Jeffrey, et al. (2012). Populations and Fisheries in Dry Tortugas: Effects of No-take Reserves. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS NCCOS 111. Prepared by the NCCOS Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment Biogeography Branch. Silver Spring, MD. 147 pp.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. NOAA National Ocean Service, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 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. 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](#). All analyses and reports developed in this project will be peer reviewed before release to the public.

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.

No automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological or other forms of information technology are being used. All surveys with whale and marine wildlife watching operators will be conducted face-to-face and will be recorded on paper forms.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The research team consulted with resource managers at the MBNMS to determine what types of socioeconomic data collection activities were planned or presently ongoing in the region related to whale and marine wildlife watching industries. To avoid survey fatigue and overburdening business owners with data collections, the team consulted with researchers who have projects underway or planned to determine if there was overlap of target populations. We identified no projects that included our target population of whale and marine wildlife watching operators for collections. The literature review did not reveal any more recent efforts completed or underway to collect similar information. Additionally, representatives of the ocean recreation industry were consulted to inquire about whether they were currently or recently involved in the same or similar type research. The response from both individuals was negative.

Researchers conducted a literature review to determine if and to what extent existing information might meet the needs of MBNMS.

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

All the business entities in this information collection request can be classified as small businesses. Our approach is not to send out questionnaires to be filled out by respondents.

Rather, to increase efficiency and reduce the respondent's burden, we will send out an information collection team to the home or office of the business owner/operator. The information collection team will work with the respondent to complete the information collection. When arranging information collection interviews, our approach is to discuss the types of information we will be asking for during the interview. This enables the respondent to prepare before the interview, gathering any important records or documents that might be needed by the team. For example, for the cost-and-earnings questions, financial records are needed. Similarly, for the spatial use information, access to trip logbooks is generally required.

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

Without this collection, a critical data gap will remain that could inhibit the ability for resource managers to conduct a thorough social impact assessment that will inform the Management Plan Review process.

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

All data collection will be 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 5, 2015 (80 FR 11976), solicited public comments. No comments were received. The draft survey was also presented to the MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council and shared with other resource managers for review and comment.

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 respondents.

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

Procedures have been established to protect the proprietary information provided by respondents. All personal identification information will be removed from all databases sent to NOAA or distributed to the public. Each individual respondent will be assigned an identification number in the database so the data from different portions of the survey can be linked for analysis. Release of proprietary information is further protected by the [Freedom of Information Act](#) (5 USC 522 (b) (4)) concerning trade secrets or proprietary information, such as commercial business and financial records. All non-personal or non-proprietary information will be available for distribution. This data will be scrubbed of any personal identifying information before being shared to protect the information of each individual and business.

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 such questions will be asked.

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

The affected public for this collection are the owners or managers of whale/marine wildlife watching businesses in the Monterey Bay Region. We estimate that there are 56 or fewer relevant businesses in the region. We expect that it will require an average of 2.5 hours of interview/record compilation time to complete each data collection per respondent. This time can be roughly divided into 1 hour for record compilation by the respondent in preparation for the interview, and then 1.5 hours of working with our interviewers to fill out and check the forms completed during the actual interview. We anticipate completing interviews with the entire population of commercial whale/marine wildlife watching operators in the study area. We anticipate full cooperation with the clear understanding that responses to the survey questions remain anonymous. The members of this business community are interested in understanding their contribution to the local economy and the value of wildlife to their operation. Thus, we are requesting a total of 140 burden hours for this collection.

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 cost to respondents beyond burden hours.

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

The cost to the Federal government for contract services, supplies, equipment, travel, etcetera, is approximately \$28,000 for FY2015. There is no anticipated cost in these budget categories for FY2016. The total annual cost for Federal labor on the project is approximately \$42,000 for FY2015 and \$42,000 for FY2016. Averaging the totals of \$70,000 (\$28,000 + \$42,000) and \$42,000, the annualized total is \$56,000.

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

There are no program changes or adjustments.

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

All reports will be peer reviewed per NOAA standards under the Information Quality Act and posted on the ONMS Socioeconomic Web site:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic>

A new page(s) will be set up on this website to provide the project report to the general public. All data and documentation will be put on CD-ROM and will be made available to the general public, subject to any masking of the data required to protect privacy.

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

Not applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

Not applicable.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
c/o Ms. Karen Grimmer
99 Pacific Street, Bldg. 455A
Monterey, California 93940

Insert Date

Business Owner Name
Address Line 1
Address Line 2

Dear Business Owner's Name,

I'm writing to inform you that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is engaged in an effort to collect up to date information from wildlife viewing operations in the Monterey Bay region. This data is needed to support the conservation and management goals of MBNMS to strengthen and improve conservation of marine wildlife, including whales, pinnipeds, sea otters and seabirds within the jurisdiction of the sanctuary. Your participation, which is completely voluntary, helps to ensure that our information is inclusive and you and your business is represented in the ongoing Management Plan review process.

In the coming weeks, a member of our team will contact you to set up an appointment time to meet to collect the relevant information. The information we are collecting includes data on your spatial use of the sanctuary and surrounding areas, number of passengers and types of wildlife viewing your business is engaged in, business revenues and expenses and attitudes and preferences regarding the wildlife viewing industry and sanctuary. Providing this information may involve access to your log books and business's financial records. For your convenience we have included a copy of the survey that will be used in our data collection efforts.

After reviewing the attached survey, you may decide it best to delegate the appointment to an employee or employees based on the various types of information we are collecting. All information you provide will be kept confidential and only reported in aggregate form and scrubbed of any personal identify information of you and your business. As we stated above participation in the survey is voluntary. However, your participation is greatly appreciated and will ensure we are using accurate and complete data during the 2015 management plan review process.

Thank you and we look forward to meeting with you.

Karen Grimmer

“Good morning (or afternoon), my name is XXXX and I’m calling on behalf of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Is the owner of the business available?”

If yes, ask to speak with him/her. (Skip to next paragraph).

If no ask “When would be a good time to callback and leave a message with the person on the phone that you called on behalf of MBNMS to schedule a time to conduct the interview about wildlife viewing operations as discussed in the letter they received recently from the sanctuary.” Then schedule a callback and thank them for their time.

Once the operator is on the phone, reintroduce yourself if necessary. “Good morning (or afternoon), my name is XXXX and I’m calling on behalf of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.”

Continue “We recently sent you a letter explaining an upcoming survey that MBNMS is engaged in to collect up to date information from wildlife viewing operations in the Monterey Bay region. We are calling now to schedule a time to come out and complete the interview. When would be a good day and time for you, the survey will take roughly 2 hours to complete in person.” (Please see below if there is any resistance to completing the survey).

Once the interview time has been scheduled “Thank you for your time. We look forward to seeing you STATE THE DATE AND TIME OF SCHEDULED INTERVIEW to complete the survey. If you have any questions between now and then please feel free to contact us.” (Phone number is xxx-xxx-xxxx if needed and ask for XXXX).

If a respondent seems opposed to providing information or completing survey remind them that “This data is needed to support the conservation and management goals of MBNMS to strengthen and improve conservation of marine wildlife, including whales, pinnipeds, sea otters and seabirds within the jurisdiction of the sanctuary. Your participation, which is completely voluntary, helps to ensure that our information is inclusive and you and your business is represented in the ongoing Management Plan review process.”

If a respondent seems concerned about the length of time or their ability to complete all sections remind them that “They could schedule multiple appointments to complete the survey or that if there is someone within their business able to answer the questions that person may complete the survey or that portion of the survey.” If they want someone else to complete certain portions of the survey asked to speak with that person and set up an appointment.

Intensity of Use: For each Activity, please answer the following questions.

1. In what part of the year (months) did you participate or operate trips for this activity?
2. For each month how many trips did you go on?
3. On average, how many days long are each trip for each activity? Did this vary from month to month?
4. On average, how many passenger do you carry per trip for each activity? Did this vary from month to month?
5. From the above information, calculate person-days for each month and activity.
6. In what time-period do you operate, if it was less than all month (e.g. 1st two weeks)?

	Months	Trips	Days Per Trip	Passengers Per Trip	Person- Days	Time Period
Activity 1	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity 2	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity 3	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity 4	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

41. Mapping Exercise: Map the Distribution of Each Activity

Respondents will be advised to provide information on their anticipated spatial use of the Monterey Bay. This anticipated spatial use may be the same as their current use or it may be different. Respondents will be given a 100 penny budget, meaning one penny equals one percent of passenger activity. The respondent will allocate his or her budget across all map cells. Codes will be recorded on the coding sheet. The map cells will be referenced by column and row: For example, C1R1 1% means 1% of activity is in cell Column 1 Row 1. The percent of each activity must add up to 100.

42. Does this map reflect where you presently operate?
___YES ___NO

42a. If NO, please explain why future operations may be different than where you have historically operated.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

SOCIOECONOMICS OF GUIDED WILDLIFE VIEWING OPERATIONS IN THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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.

We estimate the population of commercial whale watching and marine wildlife observation operations in the relevant portions of the Monterey Bay Study Area to number 56 or fewer. This information was obtained through consultation with data procured from InfoUSA,¹ a private company that makes demographic data on businesses commercially available in the United States. A thorough Internet search for relevant businesses in the study area was also performed to crosscheck the information obtained from InfoUSA. These businesses will serve as the starting point for identification of relevant businesses. We anticipate the possibility that some of the identified businesses will no longer be in operation and that new businesses may be now open. To ensure that the entire population of whale and wildlife viewing operations are included, researchers will also ask for referrals to other businesses from respondents and project partners in the region. However, researchers do not anticipate the total number of operations to exceed 56.

The business owner will determine who the best person to complete the survey or specific portions of the survey is. This person may be the business owner, manager and/or captain. Because the number of whale and marine wildlife watching operations is somewhat low in the Monterey Bay study region, we have opted to complete a census of these operations. During a previous application of this survey method in a study area for CINMS in 1999, researchers achieved a 100% response rate from recreation operators. In the most recent application of this survey methodology for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Texas, a 100% response rate was also achieved. Thus, we also expect an 85% to 100% response rate in the Monterey Bay study.

¹ InfoUSA provides data on U.S. businesses by region and industry, including contact information, primary and secondary business focus, business size, sales volume, geography, and other firm demographics.

Whale and Marine Wildlife Operations	Sample Size (Population Census)	Expected Response Rate
56	56	85% to 100%

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.

Statistical Analysis

Data analysis will be geared toward understanding the attributes of our target population, their cost and earnings, as well as the spatial distribution of where they take customers to view whales or other marine wildlife. Attribute profiles for the population will be summarized using basic univariate descriptive statistics. Cost and earnings for this population will be gathered and reported. Finally, the mapped data will be visualized by converting data into points or polygons.

Degree of Accuracy Needed for the Purpose Described in the Justification

As we expect to obtain a census, the statistics will have no sampling error. Therefore, the issue of degree of accuracy is not applicable.

Unusual Problems Requiring Specialized Sampling Procedures

We do not anticipate any unusual problems that require specialized sampling procedures.

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.

We anticipate an 85-100% response rate of the target population, based on past applications of the same methods of information collections by other National Marine Sanctuaries. Further, in the past, researchers have had no item non-response, even for income questions. However, to ensure the anticipated level of participation, researchers plan to issue letters to each respondent operator explaining the purpose of the project, the type of information needed, and why the information is needed. These letters will be followed by telephone contact from a member of the data collection team. The team members will call the respondent to answer any questions the respondent might have, as well as to schedule the interview and provide guidance on the type of documents needed during the collection. We anticipate that this population, meaning whale and marine wildlife watching operations, will be highly motivated and eager to participate in this study. The socio-economic

information expected to be gathered from this study has never been collected before in the Monterey Bay region. Having this information will certainly help inform MBNMS about how non-consumptive recreation businesses in the Sanctuary could be affected by any future regulations, and thus, we expect that these business operators will view their participation in the survey as a way to have their needs understood. For the reasons described above, we do not expect non-response bias to be a significant issue for this collection.

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.

Many of the survey questions, those related to the economic data, in particular, and the research methods proposed for this collection have been repeatedly deployed in past information collections by NOAA. This and similar cost and earnings studies are largely standard and, therefore, well tested. The only modifications made to the survey instrument for this collection have been to tailor the application to the MBNMS. These modifications, however, have been minor.

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.

NOAA Project Leads

Dr. Bob Leeworthy was the primary advisor on the statistical aspects of the study design. Dr. Leeworthy is Chief Economist with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. He is an expert in this area of research and application. Generally, the NOAA Project Leads will provide guidance, mentorship and oversight to the Bren Student(s), who will be responsible for data collection and analysis.

Project Lead

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Possible Co-Lead

Nadine Heck, PhD
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Guided Wildlife Viewing Tour Operator Survey
Monterey Bay Region, California

This is a voluntary survey.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.5 hours including the time for reviewing instructions, searching for 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: Dr. Danielle Schwarzmann, NOAA National Ocean Service, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Responses provided for this survey will be anonymous. No personally identifiable information is being collected with this survey; responses will not be attributed to individual businesses. 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Respondent ID Number _____
(assigned by interviewer)

All questions should be answered by the business owner, unless the owner has specified someone better suited to provide a response.

Questions 1-5 are regarding the business owner.

1. Which of the following includes your age?
 18-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 over 60

2. Are you Hispanic or Latino?
 YES NO

3. What is your race? (Mark all that apply)
 White Black or African American American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 Other: _____

4. What is your gender?
 Male Female Decline to state

5. How many family members do you support (including yourself)?
Myself only 2 3 4 5 6 7 Greater than 7

6. What is your primary port/marina/location?

7. Do you have a secondary port/marina/location from where you operate part of the year?
 YES NO

7a. If YES, which one? _____

8. How many years have you been an ocean recreation business owner?
____ (number of years)

9. How many years have you been an ocean recreation business owner in the Monterey Bay region?
____ (number of years)

10. Do you visit state marine protected areas (reserves/conservation areas) specifically during your tours? (Interviewer—Please show state MPA map to identify specific quadrants)
 YES NO

10a. Why or why not?

10b. How often?

10c. If YES, how many years have you conducted guided wildlife tours in state marine protected areas? ____ (number of years)

Question 11 is for whale watching operators only:

11. Do you currently have a naturalist on board during whale watching trips?
 YES NO

11a. If NO, would you be interested in having one on board if you had more information about the role they play with whale watching operators? YES NO

12. Are customers targeting particular wildlife species when they go on a guided tour?
 YES NO

12a. If YES, please list: _____

13. How would you describe the wildlife viewing operation? (Mark one or more)

Full-time whale watching operation Part-time whale watching operation
 Seasonal whale watching operation

Full-time kayaking operation Part-time whale watching operation
 Seasonal kayaking operation

Full-time dive/snorkeling operation Part-time whale watching operation
 Seasonal dive/snorkeling operation

Full-time seabird viewing operation Part-time whale watching operation
 Seasonal seabird viewing operation

Full-time sailing/boating operation Part-time whale watching operation
 Seasonal sailing/boating operation

Full-time recreational fishing operation Part-time whale watching operation
 Seasonal recreational fishing operation

Full-time combination whale watching, recreational cruises, kayaking,
diving/snorkeling, and wildlife observation operation

Part-time combination whale watching, recreational cruises, kayaking,
diving/snorkeling, and wildlife observation

Seasonal combination whale watching, recreational cruises, kayaking,
diving/snorkeling, and wildlife observation.

13a. If part time or seasonal, which months?

14. Number of boats/vessels at the operation:

_____ (number of vessels)

Question 15-19 are for specific types of operators:

15. Average number of whale watching participants per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: _____watchers Vessel 2: _____watchers
Vessel 3: _____watchers Vessel 4: _____watchers

16. Average number of participants per vessel in recreational fishing cruise operation:

Vessel 1: _____ participants Vessel 2: _____participants
Vessel 3: _____ participants Vessel 4: _____participants

17. Average number of kayakers and kayaks per guided tour:

_____kayakers _____kayaks

18. Average number of divers/snorkelers per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ___ divers/snorkelers Vessel 2: ___ divers/snorkelers
Vessel 3: ___ divers/snorkelers Vessel 4: ___ divers/snorkelers

19. Average number of wildlife observers (seabirds and other) per vessel in operation (capacity):

Vessel 1: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers
Vessel 2: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers
Vessel 3: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers
Vessel 4: ___ seabird observers ___ other wildlife observers

20. Number of employees at the operation:

Full time _____
Part time _____
Seasonal _____

21. Number of vessel trips/guided tours per day (primary purpose):

Whale watching _____
Recreational cruise (sailing, boating) _____
Fishing _____
Kayaking _____
Diving/snorkeling _____
Seabird viewing _____

Question 22 should be answered only if the person responding has been in the guided wildlife tour industry for 10 years or more.

22. In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 5, how has the quality of the guided wildlife tour industry changed in the last 10 years?

- 1 – Much worse
- 2 – Somewhat worse
- 3 – No change
- 4 – Somewhat better
- 5 – Much better
- No opinion

22a. If you believe that the quality of guided tours has changed, could you tell us how it's changed?

22b. Are you the owner of the business you are representing?

___ YES ___ NO

23. Are you aware that wildlife in the region are sometimes unintentionally harassed?
 YES NO

23a. If YES, how concerned are you that harassment to wildlife (whales, pinnipeds, sea otters, and seabirds) may be having a negative impact on your business, with 1 being not concerned and 5 being extremely concerned?

- 1 – Not at all concerned
- 2 – Slightly concerned
- 3 – Somewhat concerned
- 4 – Moderately concerned
- 5 – Extremely concerned
- No opinion

24. Currently, there are no regulations in MBNMS that require an "approach distance" to whales and other wildlife. However, there are official NOAA Fisheries guidelines that recommend wildlife viewing vessels maintain a minimum distance of 100 yards/meters from whales and wildlife. Does your operation have any kind of established policy regarding a minimum distance your vessels maintain from whales and wildlife?

YES NO

24a. If YES, what is your company's approach distance policy?

- 0-50 yards/meters
- 50-100 yards/meters
- 100-150 yards/meters
- More than 150 yards/meters

25. Please give a brief explanation on how you think your business could be affected if a mandatory regulation were to be passed that would require an approach distance to whales and other wildlife.

26. The Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program authorizes a group of unpaid volunteers to respond to sightings of whales entangled in fishing gear and other debris. This group is called the Whale Entanglement Team (WET), and they respond to a 24/7 WET hotline at (877) SOS-WHALE.

26a. Have you ever heard of the Whale Entanglement Team?

YES NO

26b. Have you/any of your employees ever called the WET hotline?

YES NO

Please explain your response (i.e. reason why you called, did not call because you were not aware of program, did not call because you never encountered an entangled whale, etc.)

26c. Does your company have a policy about responding to injured or entangled wildlife?
 YES NO

If YES, what is your company's policy about responding to injured or entangled wildlife?

27. Would you be interested in learning more about how your company can respond to injured or entangled wildlife?

YES NO

27a. If YES, how would you like to receive information? (Check all options that apply)

Attend a seminar during business hours with other interested local wildlife tour operators

Attend a seminar after business hours with other interested local wildlife tour operators

Attend a webinar/online seminar with other interested local wildlife tour operators

Receive physical pamphlets/handouts/reading materials that are mailed to the business

Receive electronic pamphlets/handouts/reading materials that are emailed to the business

Receive an in-person training from an trained expert during business hours at your business

28. To the best of your knowledge, please rank the status/condition of the following resources in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, where 1 is much better and 5 is much worse.

RESOURCE	Better					Worse	
a. Water Quality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
b. Marine Debris/Ocean Pollution	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
c. Wildlife (whales, otters, pinnipeds)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
d. Habitats (tidepools, beaches, kelp forests)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
e. Introduced Species	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
f. Sensitive Areas (haulout, roosting, nesting)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	

29a. Are there any categories listed above, in Question 28, where MBNMS been successful?
(List all that apply)

29b. Are there any categories listed above, in Question 28, where MBNMS been unsuccessful?
(List all that apply)?

ECONOMIC INFORMATION

30. What approximate percentage of the TOTAL business income is derived from guided wildlife viewing operations? ____%

31. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL household income is derived from guided wildlife viewing operations? ____%

32. Please list any outstanding balance on loan amounts for vessels and equipment.
\$ _____

33. Please provide your best estimate for the following expenses last year:
 Permits/licenses \$ _____
 Docking fees \$ _____

Interest payments on vessel(s)	\$ _____
P&I insurance on vessel(s)	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on vessel/electronic equipment	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on dive/snorkel gear	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on rods/reels	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on compressors	\$ _____
Maintenance/repair on other equipment	\$ _____
Other dive equipment costs	\$ _____
Advertising	\$ _____
Office rent/mortgage	\$ _____
Office utilities (electric, water, telephone, Internet)	\$ _____
Depreciation of vessels and equipment	\$ _____
Business taxes	\$ _____
Other (specify):	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

33a. Please provide your best estimate of the replacement value of the following items that you used last year (fill in year _____):

Vessel(s) and electronic equipment	\$ _____
Diving and snorkeling gear	\$ _____
Compressors	\$ _____
Rods/reels	\$ _____
Other gear (specify):	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

34. Please provide your best estimate for the following trip related expenses last year:

Dive equipment costs	\$ _____
Fuel/oil	\$ _____
Ice	\$ _____
Food/supplies	\$ _____
Bait	\$ _____
Captain wages & salaries (if not owner-captain)	\$ _____
Crew wages & salaries Number _____	\$ _____
Other (specify):	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

35. Please provide your best estimate of total business revenues last year.

\$ _____

36. Please provide your best estimate of total revenues and/or percent of total revenues last year in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

\$ _____ % _____

Questions 37 – 39 pertain to whale watching operators only:

37. Does the number of whales seen per trip affect the profitability of that trip?

___ YES ___ NO

If you answered 'yes' to question 37, then

What is the minimum number of whales that need to be seen per trip in order to make the trip profitable? _____

38. What is the minimum number of customers/attendants that need to be booked per trip in order to make the trip profitable? _____

39. If you do not see any whales on a trip, do you reimburse customers? ___ YES ___ NO

39a. If YES, how do you reimburse customers?

40. Use by activity and month:

Intensity of Use: For each Activity, please answer the following questions.

1. In what part of the year (months) did you participate or operate trips for this activity?
2. For each month how many trips did you go on?
3. On average, how many days long are each trip for each activity? Did this vary from month to month?
4. On average, how many passenger do you carry per trip for each activity? Did this vary from month to month?
5. From the above information, calculate person-days for each month and activity.
6. In what time-period do you operate, if it was less than all month (e.g. 1st two weeks)?

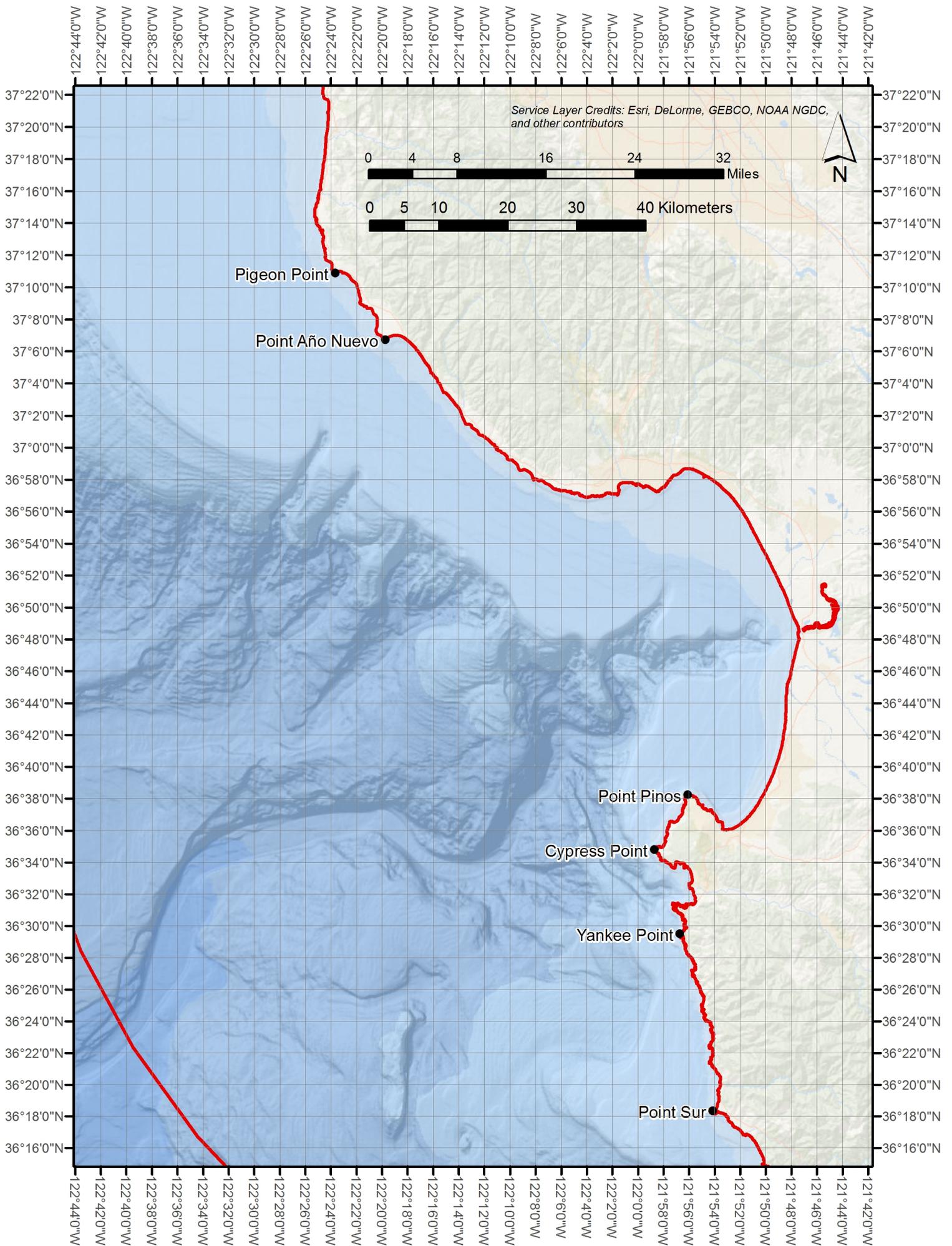
	Months	Trips	Days Per Trip	Passengers Per Trip	Person- Days	Time Period
Activity 1	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity 2	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity 3	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity 4	JAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	FEB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	APR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	MAY	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	JUL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	AUG	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	SEP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	OCT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	NOV	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	DEC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

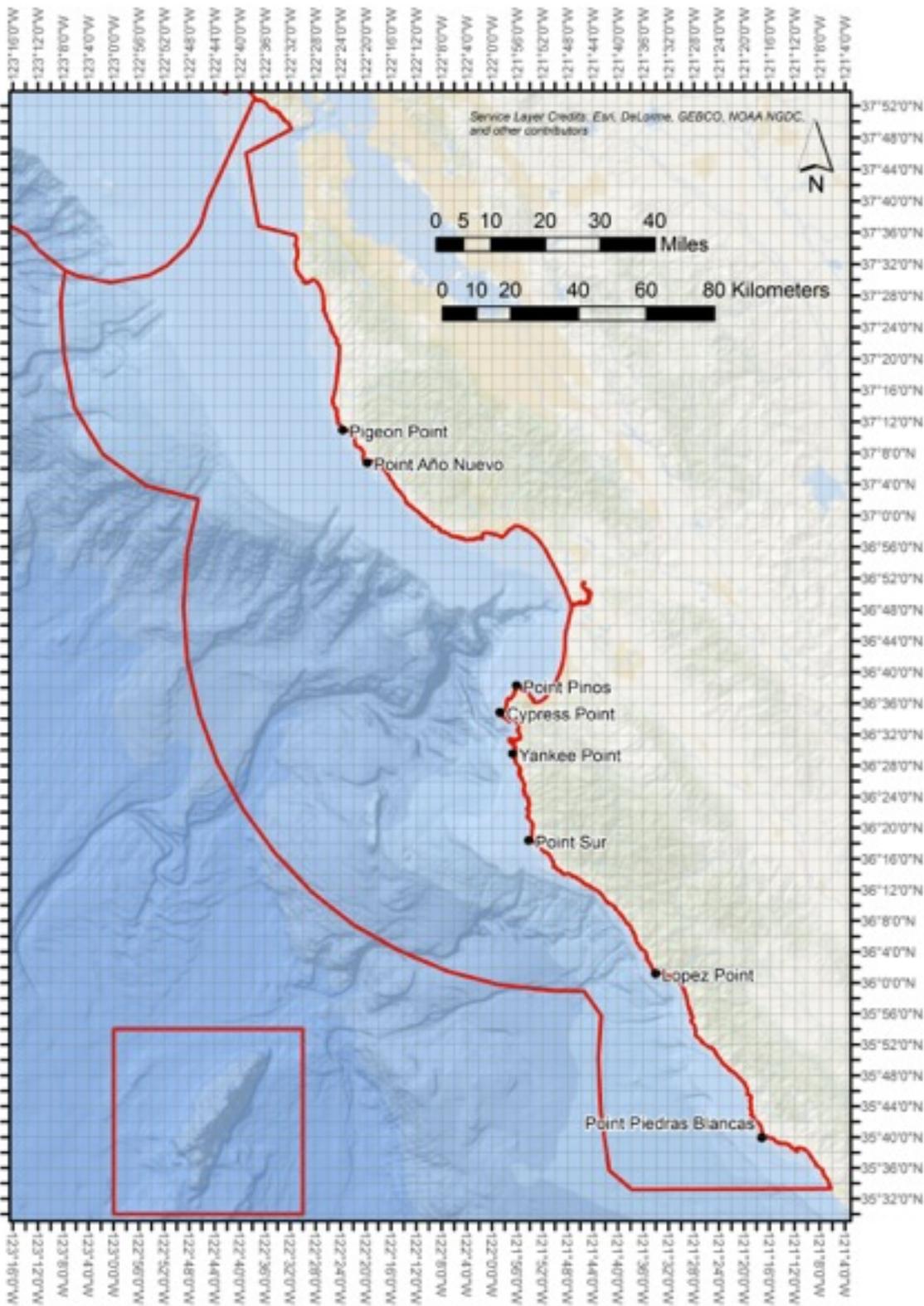
41. Mapping Exercise: Map the Distribution of Each Activity

Respondents will be advised to provide information on their anticipated spatial use of the Monterey Bay. This anticipated spatial use may be the same as their current use or it may be different. Respondents will be given a 100 penny budget, meaning one penny equals one percent of passenger activity. The respondent will allocate his or her budget across all map cells. Codes will be recorded on the coding sheet. The map cells will be referenced by column and row: For example, C1R1 1% means 1% of activity is in cell Column 1 Row 1. The percent of each activity must add up to 100.

42. Does this map reflect where you presently operate?
___YES ___NO

42a. If NO, please explain why future operations may be different than where you have historically operated.



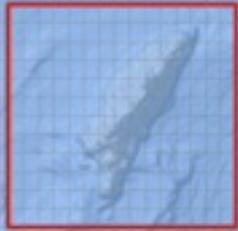


Service Layer Credits: Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors



0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

0 10 20 40 60 80 Kilometers



This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Proposed New Fee Site; Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, (Title VIII, Pub. L. 108-447)

AGENCY: Salmon-Challis National Forest, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of proposed new fee site.

SUMMARY: The Salmon-Challis National Forest is proposing to charge fee at the Copper Basin Guard Station. This cabin includes a \$100/night fee and would be available for rental from June 1 to September 30. Fees are proposed based on the level of amenities and services provided, cost of operations and maintenance, and market assessment. The fee will be determined upon further analysis and public comment. An analysis of nearby rental cabins with similar amenities shows that the proposed fees are reasonable and typical of similar sites in the area. Funds from fees would be used for the continued operation and maintenance and improvements of these rental cabins.

DATES: Comments will be accepted through August 1, 2015. New fees would begin May 2016.

ADDRESSES: Charles A. Mark, Forest Supervisor, Salmon-Challis National Forest, 1206 S. Challis Street, Salmon, ID 83467.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trish Callaghan, Recreation Fee Coordinator, 208-756-5115. Information about proposed fee changes can also be found on the Salmon-Challis National Forest Web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnf>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Recreation Lands Enhancement Act (Title VII, Pub. L. 108-447) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a six month advance notice in the **Federal Register** whenever new recreation fee areas are established.

Once public involvement is complete, these new fees will be reviewed by a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee prior to a final decision and implementation. People wanting reserve these cabins would need to do so through the National Recreation Reservation Service, at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 when it becomes available.

Dated: February 20, 2015.

Charles A. Mark,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2015-05086 Filed 3-4-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Value of Non-Consumptive Recreation Use From Those Accessing the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary via For Hire Operation Boats

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 4, 2015.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, (301) 713-7261 or Bob.Leeworthy@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

NOAA is mentoring student interns from the Monterey Institute for International Studies to estimate the market and non-market economic values associated with non-consumptive recreation uses (e.g., whale watching, other wildlife observation, SCUBA diving, snorkeling, beach activities, surfing, wind-surfing, kite boarding, paddle boarding, etc.) in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) for those accessing the MBNMS via "for hire" operation boats.

We will conduct surveys of the for hire operations that take people out for non-consumptive recreation, to obtain total use by type of activity and the spatial use by type of activity. Information will also be obtained on costs-and-earnings of the operations, knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of sanctuary management strategies and regulations, and demographic information on owner/captains and crews. Surveys will also be conducted of the passengers aboard the for hire operation boats to obtain their market and non-market economic use values for non-consumptive recreation use and how those value change with changes in natural resource attribute conditions and user characteristics. Additional information will be obtained on importance-satisfaction ratings of key natural resource attributes, facilities and services, knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of management strategies and regulations, and demographic profiles of passengers.

II. Method of Collection

For the for hire operations, a team of students will go to the operations offices and collect the information. For the passengers, surveys will be conducted at the docks after the completion of their trips. The on-site survey will obtain information on demographic profiles, annual number of trips in the MBNMS for non-consumptive recreation, and their non-market economic use value. Self-addressed, postage paid mail back questionnaires will be used for importance-satisfaction ratings, knowledge, attitudes and perceptions, and trip expenditures.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-xxxx.

Form Number: None.

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

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,050.

Estimated Time per Response: 2 hours per for hire operation, 20 minutes per on-site interview of passengers, 20 minutes per importance-satisfaction/knowledge, attitudes and perceptions mail back, and 20 minutes for the expenditure mail back.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 733.

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 2, 2015.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015-05019 Filed 3-4-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Value of the Reduction in the Risk of Whale Strikes in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

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 4, 2015.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, (301) 713-7261 or Bob.Leeworthy@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

NOAA is sponsoring a class project at the Bren School of Management & Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara to estimate the market and non-market economic values associated with the reduction in risk of whale strikes by different scenarios of changes in traffic lanes and/or vessel speeds for major commercial vessels operating in the region of southern California where the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is located.

NOAA will conduct surveys of the for hire operations that take people out for non-consumptive recreation to watch whales or other wildlife to obtain total use by type of activity (e.g., whale watching, and other wildlife observation) and the spatial use by type of activity. Information will also be obtained on costs-and-earnings of the operations and demographic information on owner/captains and crews. Surveys will also be conducted of the passengers aboard the for hire operation boats to obtain their market and non-market economic use values for the reduction in the risk of whale strikes. Additional information will be obtained on importance-satisfaction ratings of key natural resource attributes, facilities and services along with demographic profiles of passengers.

II. Method of Collection

For the for hire operations, a team of students will go to the operations offices

and collect the information. For the passengers, surveys will be conducted at the docks after the completion of their whale watching trip. Self-addressed, postage paid mail back questionnaires will be used for importance-satisfaction ratings and whale watching trip expenditures.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25 for-hire operations and 500 individuals.

Estimated Time per Response: 2 hours per for-hire operation; 20 minutes each per on-site interview of passengers, importance-satisfaction mail-back and expenditure mail-back.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 367: For-hire operations, 50 hours; on-site survey of passengers, 167 hours; importance-satisfaction mail-back, 83 hours; expenditure mail-back, 67 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: February 27, 2015.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015-05003 Filed 3-4-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P