NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 06/01/2016

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 04/11/2016

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201604-0648-004
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Economic Survey of Gulf of Mexico Dealers Associated With the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0735
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: 06/30/2019 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	200	200	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	200	200	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
Economic survey of GOM dealers	NA, NA	Dealer Economic Survey, Final dealer survey instrument	

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/SEC

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

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

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

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

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

7. Title
Economic Survey of Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Dealers Associated With the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program

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

9. Keywords
Fishing, Fish, Fishery

10. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to collect economic and attitudinal data from reef fish dealers regarding the performance of the GOM Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program five years after its implementation. These data will be used to estimate the effects of the GT-IFQ Program on these stakeholders for the five-year program review mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 et seq). The population targeted by the economic survey is all federally licensed dealers that participate in the GOM reef fish fishery. In addition, the information will be used to strengthen and improve fishery management decision-making, and satisfy legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other pertinent statues.

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 200
b. Total annual responses 200
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 0 %
c. Total annual hours requested 200
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference 200
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change 200
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. ___ Program planning or management
b. x Program evaluation f. P Research
c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance
d. ___ Audit

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

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

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Lawrence 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 03/18/2016

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 Alan Risenhoover, Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries	Date 4/5/2016
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: 2016.07.08 15:36:04 -04'00'	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
ECONOMIC SURVEY OF GULF OF MEXICO (GOM) DEALERS ASSOCIATED THE GOM GROUPER-TILEFISH INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA (IFQ) 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 business and economic information from Federally-licensed reef fish dealers, about the grouper-tilefish component of the commercial Gulf of Mexico (GOM) reef fish fishery under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program.[1] The proposed data collection also inquires about dealers' 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 200 entities. These entities are federally licensed dealers of seafood products that have participated in the GT-IFQ Program since its inception in 2010. The survey strategy calls for a census of this potential respondent universe. Our goal is to achieve an unweighted response rate of 70%, resulting in approximately 140 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. 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 fisheries being managed, fishing communities dependent on these fisheries, and participants in fisheries in adjacent areas.

[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.

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 complete its 5-year review of the GT-IFQ Program in 2016 to meet the MSRA requirements. The proposed data collection will provide vital information to assess the economic effects of the IFQ program on individual dealer enterprises, fishing communities, and the nation as whole. Presently, only catch data and ex-vessel prices are consistently collected from dealers, limiting the NMFS' ability to assess the full impacts of the program.

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

The information sought will be utilized for descriptive and analytical purposes. Social scientists from the NMFS will create descriptive reports of the dealer sector and develop statistical models to evaluate the socio-economic impacts of the GT-IFQ Program. Statistical models will include globally used summary statistics, such as median and mean values, hypothesis testing for differences in proportions for "yes/no" questions, and two-tailed t-test to examine differences in group responses[2]. Socioeconomic impacts of the GT-IFQ Program will be estimated using multiple regression and multinomial logit models[3]. Regression models measure the effect of

[2] Tokotch, Britni N., Meindl, Christopher F., Hoare, Armando, and Jepson, Michael E. 2012. Stakeholder Perceptions of the northern Gulf of Mexico grouper and tilefish individual fishing quota program. Marine Policy. V36(1):34-41.
[3] Smith, Martin D. Bioeconometrics: Empirical modeling of bioeconomic systems. 2008. Marine Resource Economics. V23(1):1-23.

independent variables, such as allocation, on the change in quantitative variables such as gross sales pre- and post-IFQ. Logit models measure the effect of independent variables, such as number of employees or opinions on the IFQ program, on qualitative outcomes such as plans to acquire additional IFQ shares. Regression and logit models will be fit using standard statistical packages such as STATA, LIMDEP or SAS. 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 business and economic information, which otherwise would be unavailable. The data will also be used by the academic community studying the performance of LAPPs.

QuanTech, Inc. of Rockville, MD has been contracted to conduct a one-time data collection through a subcontract with ECS Federal on NOAA Contract No. EA-133F-14-BA-0013. The proposed questionnaire was developed in consultation with Dr. Walter Keithly of Louisiana State University, industry experts and NMFS staff. The proposed questionnaire will collect business and economic information from reef fish dealers on their experiences with IFQs. This data collection effort will be conducted using in-person interviews and mailed questionnaires. The title of the survey is "Economic Survey of Gulf of Mexico Dealers Associated the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program".

The instrument has five sections: 1) background information, 2) pre- and post-GT-IFQ operations, 3) pre- and post-GT-IFQ infrastructure and equipment, 4) GT-IFQ share in business operations, and 5) opinions regarding the IFQ program.

Section 1: The 'background information' section first inquires what year the business started handling seafood under current ownership. Respondents are then asked to indicate the primary activity of the business (e.g., operating commercial fishing vessels to harvest seafood, buying and reselling seafood, transforming seafood into new products and reselling the products, selling seafood products directly to the consumer, or other). The respondents are also asked about their opinion of the GT-IFQ Program at the time of implementation as well as their present opinion of the GT-IFQ Program. At the end of the section, respondents are asked to indicate if their arrangements with fishermen from who they purchased grouper/tilefish changed significantly as a result of the GT-IFQ Program. If there are any changes, respondents are asked to explain the primary changes in their arrangements. This information is necessary to ascertain dealers' views about the program which may vary from community to community.

Section 2: The 'pre- and post-GT-IFQ operations' section inquires whether estimated gross sales, product sources, employment characteristics, raw fish costs, and sales prices changed pre-vs. post-IFQ. If, according to the respondent, there is a change caused by the program they are asked to explain why the program contributed to the change. 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 'pre- and post-GT-IFQ infrastructure and equipment' section asks about the changes brought about by the IFQ program in: a) capital stock (e.g., investments and disinvestments in number or size of fishing vessels) and b) market value of the business.

Section 4: The 'GT-IFQ share in business operations' 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).

Section 5: The 'opinions regarding the IFQ program' section elicits information about fish dealer 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 in-person interviews and mail surveys. Up to 20 dealers will be interviewed in person during visits to major grouper-tilefish landing ports in the survey area (Texas through West Florida). The remaining dealers will be surveyed by mail. The in-person interviews will be scheduled by telephone contact. The survey mailings will be timed to occur as close as possible to the in-person interviews.

A recent NOAA analysis indicates there are approximately two hundred IFQ dealers. The proposed approach to data collection follows a modified Dillman (2014) method for conducting tailored design surveys. The contractor will conduct mail merges using computers and enter data from completed paper forms into electronic databases for delivery to NOAA.

Dealer addresses will be merged to electronic documents to print mailings. Potential respondents will be contacted first via an introductory letter to inform them about the upcoming data collection. One week after the introductory letter mailing, each dealer will be mailed a first survey package containing a cover letter, questionnaire, and return envelope (no postage necessary). Telephone calls to schedule the up-to-twenty in-person interviews of dealers will be timed to coincide with the anticipated delivery of the first survey packages. The dealers who agree to participate in-person will be removed from subsequent mailings. One week following the mailing of the first survey packages, remaining potential respondents (e.g., dealers who do not agree to be interviewed in person) will be mailed a thank you /reminder post card. The post card serves two purposes, thanking respondents for their time and reminding those who have not yet mailed their completed questionnaire to do so. One month after the first survey package

mailing, potential respondents will be asked to complete and return a second copy of the questionnaire. The second copy of the questionnaire will be mailed to all potential respondents who have not yet participated in the survey. Within three months of the first mailing, if there are any remaining non-respondents they will be contacted by phone and urged to return the completed survey.

The contractor does not anticipate interviewers using laptops or other computers to directly enter the answers being provided in the in-person interviews. The expense of developing a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CATI) system is not justified for the small number of in-person interviews to be conducted.

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) conducted interviews with Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial fishermen in 2014 for a study to examine social networks. The UF study did not collect the same type of information as our survey although some dealers may have been asked to participate in both endeavors. Our proposed data collection focuses specifically on the grouper-tilefish dealer component of the reef fish fishery as part of 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. 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 not collected, 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 Tuesday, March 24, 2015 (Vol. 80, No. 56, p. 15569) solicited public comment. No comments were received.

Results of consultations with persons outside the agency:

In 2015, a series of exchanges were conducted between QuanTech, Dr. Keithly (contractor) and industry representatives to obtain their views on the clarity of the instructions and data elements to be recorded. In addition, the survey was pre-tested by 9 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 the contractor will only share the data with NMFS and the data will only be released by NMFS in aggregate form. The contractor's business and information security practices will protect personal or business identifying information. The contractor requires that data are only shared internally among the contractor's authorized personnel and with NMFS. All data with personal or business identifying information will be protected on the contractor's Local Area Network (LAN). External access to the LAN is limited to the contractor's secure Virtual Private Network (VPN). The VPN has controls requiring independent and unique usernames and passwords before allowing access to the LAN.

Unauthorized persons asking for data from the survey from the contractor will be directed to contact NMFS. 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 no more than 200 and the time per response will be approximately 1 hour, for a total burden of 200 hours. The one hour per response burden includes the time for scheduling interview meetings (for the 20 in-person interviews), reading survey instructions, reviewing the questions, assembling needed data, 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. In-person interviews will have set appointments, so respondents can gather pertinent information beforehand.

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, only the cost of their labor.

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

A contract in the amount of $ 103,097.95 was awarded to ECS Federal. ECS Federal contracted QuanTech for the development of the survey instrument, training interviewers, data collection and processing, quality control, 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, and reporting the results. The cost of NMFS staff time is estimated at $18,000. Thus, the total annualized cost (over the 3-year approval period) to the federal government would be $ 40,365.98.

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

This is a new collection of business and economic data.

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

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.

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 December 2016. 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

Economic Survey of Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Dealers Associated the GOM Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) 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 all Federally-licensed reef fish dealers in the survey area from Texas through West Florida. There are approximately 200 such dealers. The survey strategy calls for a census of this potential respondent universe. Twenty dealers will be interviewed in person during visits to the survey areas by trained interviewers. In-person interviews with dealers are needed as they are the primary source of referrals for in-person interviews to be conducted with hired captains and crew for the concurrent "**Economic Survey of Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Captains and Crew Associated with the GOM Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program".** This survey is the subjectof an ICR pending OMB review and approval. Industry representatives known to the 20 dealers will introduce the contractor's interviewers and facilitate cooperation. We therefore expect close to 100% response from these 20 dealers. The remaining dealers (approximately 180) will be sent the questionnaire by mail. The mail and in-person questionnaires will be administered in the same way, in order to minimize any mode effects. In-person respondents will be provided a copy of the questionnaire in advance so that they can fill out the form before the interview. One of the interviewer's primary duties will be to take qualitative notes during the interview to inform interpretation of the quantitative results from both strata (i.e. in-person and mail respondents) in an effort to better understand the nuances of the effects of the IFQ on the dealer sector, but the interviewer will not alter the completed form. Additionally, the interviewer will secure appointments to interview referred hired captains and crew for the concurrent labor survey.

We anticipate a 67% response rate for the mail portion of the survey Dillman (2014) reports response rates between 53%-70% for mail surveys of the general public using his methods, as proposed here. Since the dealer survey is sponsored by a Government agency, a factor which helps improve survey response according to Dillman, and involves issues of importance to respondents, we expect the response rate to be at the higher end of the range quoted by Dillman. Thus, we estimate a total of 20 responses from the in-person portion and 120 from the mail survey, for a total of 140 completed questionnaires, a response rate of 70%. Table 1 summarizes the key statistics about the proposed sampling strategy.

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

Population Size	Target Sample	Expected Response Rate	Anticipated Sample
200	200	0.70	140

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 will attempt to interview the entire universe of participants (approximately 200 individuals) using in-person interviews with 20 dealers and a mail census of the remaining dealers. Statistical models will include globally used summary statistics, such as median and mean values, hypothesis testing for differences in proportions for “yes/no” questions, and two-tailed t-test to examine differences in group responses. Socioeconomic impacts of the GT-IFQ Program will be estimated using multiple regression and multinomial logit models. Regression models measure the effect of independent variables, such as allocation, on the change in quantitative variables such as gross sales pre- and post-IFQ. Logit models measure the effect of independent variables, such as number of employees or opinions on the IFQ program, on qualitative outcomes such as plans to acquire additional IFQ shares. Regression and logit models will be fit using standard statistical packages such as STATA, LIMDEP or SAS.

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.

Industry representatives under contract to QuanTech will introduce our interviewers to 20 dealers. Each dealer will be assigned a representative known to them and trusted by them. We expect this approach to result in cooperation of all or almost all of the contacted dealers.

For the mail portion of the survey, following Dillman (2014)[1] we plan to adopt the following plan to achieve high response rates.

We plan to make four contacts by first class mail, with an additional contact (if necessary). These contacts will include: a ‘notification letter’ to alert the respondent about the impending ‘first survey package’; a ‘thank you/reminder postcard’ sent to the respondent one week after mailing the first survey package expressing appreciation for taking the time to respond to the survey and indicating that the completed instrument was not yet received; and if the completed survey instrument was not received within a few weeks of the earlier mailing, then a letter and

[1] Dillman, D. A., Smith, J.D. and Christian, L.M. 2014. Internet, Phone, Mail and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Hoboken, NJ.

replacement questionnaire will be mailed to the respondents urging them to collaborate with the data collection; a 'final 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 dealer declines to participate in the survey effort, then the contractor will not attempt further contacts. In the event we receive less than a 70% response rate, we plan to incorporate a weighting adjustment method (i.e., post-stratification by GT-IFQ Program reported landings) to deal with unit non-response. We plan to utilize a noninterview adjustment method to give a higher weight to interviewed IFQ program dealers. Nonresponse adjustment cells will be formed based on quartiles of the number of shares owned, years in the IFQ program and State (Florida further divided into NW, W and Keys regions). Some small cells may need to be combined into larger cells. A nonresponse adjustment factor will be calculated for each cell. If N_i is the number of dealers in cell "i", of which R_i complete the survey, the responses in that cell will be weighted by a factor N_i/R_i.

Respondents will be provided business reply mail envelopes so that they may easily return their completed questionnaires.

Lastly, the contractor will personalize the correspondence. Dillman (2014) 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[2] and Lohr [3] 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 240-307-2993.

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

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

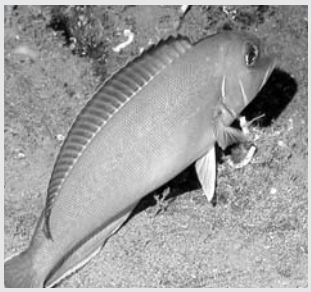
Dr. Walter Keithly from Louisiana State University was hired by QuanTech, Inc. to design the survey instrument. Dr. Keithly can be reached at 225-578-6296.

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 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.

National Marine Fisheries Service

Economic Survey of Gulf of Mexico Dealers Associated With the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program



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). This survey is voluntary. Individual responses will not be released by NMFS. Personal information will not be disclosed, and will only be accessible to authorized personnel responsible for management and research of fisheries under the authority of NOAA. NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for privacy and electronic information. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection 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.

The business at this address has been identified as a Gulf of Mexico grouper/tilefish dealer. This survey has been developed to evaluate the impacts of the grouper/tilefish IFQ (GT-IFQ) program on those Gulf of Mexico businesses whose activities involve the buying, processing and selling of grouper and tilefish.
This survey is voluntary. QuanTech, the contractor conducting the study, will only share the survey data with NMFS. Only aggregate data will be released by NMFS to protect your personal and business identifying information. No data that could identify you or your business will be released.

Section 1: Background Information

1. What year did this business at this address start handling seafood under current ownership?

2. What do you consider to be the PRIMARY activity of this business? **(CHECK ONLY ONE)**

- ☐ Commercial fishing (operating commercial fishing vessels to harvest seafood)
- ☐ Dealer / distributor activities (buying and reselling seafood)
- ☐ Processor activities (transforming seafood into new products and reselling the products)
- ☐ Retailer activities (selling seafood products directly to the consumer)
- ☐ Other (Specify):

3. What was your opinion of the GT-IFQ program at the time of its implementation on January 1, 2010?

Strongly Opposed	Opposed	Neutral	Supported	Strongly Supported	No Opinion
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. What is your opinion of the GT-IFQ program NOW?

Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support	No Opinion
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. Have your arrangements with fishermen from whom you purchased grouper/tilefish changed significantly as a result of the GT-IFQ program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → GO TO # 6
- ☐ NA - I was not a dealer/processor prior to implementation of the GT-IFQ program. → GO TO # 6

5(a). What were the primary changes in your arrangements with fishermen from whom you purchased grouper/tilefish?

Section 2: Pre- and Post-GT-IFQ Operations

This section of the survey asks for information specific to your operations pre- and post-implementation of the GT-IFQ program. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE POST-IFQ PORTION OF THE QUESTIONS in this section of the questionnaire even if you did not buy, process or sell grouper/tilefish prior to implementation of the program. In such cases, write "NA" for 2009 Pre-GT-IFQ data.** Furthermore, we realize that you may not have access to 2009 records. Please give your 'best estimate' of 2009 activities (i.e., pre-GT-IFQ) if the information is not readily available.

6. For this seafood business, what were the estimated GROSS SALES for **grouper/tilefish** pre- and post-GT-IFQ implementation? **Individual responses will not be released by NMFS.**

2009 Pre-GT-IFQ: $

2014 Post-GT-IFQ: $

6(a). Did the implementation of the GT-IFQ program contribute to the change in **grouper/tilefish** GROSS SALES reported in Question 6? If you wrote "NA" for 2009 above or there was no change in GROSS SALES for **grouper/tilefish** pre- vs. post-GT-IFQ, go to Question 7.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion

→ GO TO # 7

6(b). Please explain why you believe the GT-IFQ program contributed to the change in **grouper/tilefish** GROSS SALES.

7. For this seafood business, what were the estimated GROSS SALES of **other finfish and shellfish species** pre- and post-GT-IFQ implementation?

2009 Pre-GT-IFQ: $

2014 Post-GT-IFQ: $

8. What percentage (%) of the **grouper/tilefish** purchased or obtained pre- and post-GT-IFQ by this seafood business, by weight, came from the following sources?

Sources of Grouper/Tilefish for This Business

Source	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
U.S. based fishermen who operate vessels owned by this business (including yourself)	%	%
U.S. based fishermen who operate vessels not owned by this business	%	%
U.S. based seafood dealers/distributors/processors	%	%
Outside the U.S.	%	%
Other (Specify):_____	_____%	_____%
TOTAL	100%	100%

Note: Total for each year should sum to 100%.

8(a). Did the GT-IFQ program contribute to the change in **grouper/tilefish** SOURCES reported in Question 8?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ No Change
- ☐ NA

→ GO TO # 9

8(b). Please explain why you believe the GT-IFQ program contributed to the change in **grouper/tilefish** SOURCES.

9. Approximately how many people were employed at this seafood business pre- and post-GT-IFQ? Please limit your response to only those employees directly involved in the dealer/processor component of this business (i.e., exclude hired captains and crew). If the owner works at this seafood business, please include him/her among the total number of workers.

Number of Employees at This Business

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	**Post-GT-IFQ (2014)**
Full Time (≥40 hours per week)		
Part Time (<40 hours per week)		

9(a). Did the GT-IFQ program contribute to the change in EMPLOYMENT reported in Question 9? If there was no change in EMPLOYMENT, go to Question 10.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ NA

→ GO TO # 10

9(b). Please explain why you believe the GT-IFQ program contributed to the change in EMPLOYMENT.

10. With respect to the **grouper/tilefish** component of this seafood business, please provide an estimate of the cost of the raw product (expressed on a finished-weight basis) and the final product sales price pre- and post-GT-IFQ implementation. Please write "NA" if the species shown is not purchased or sold. **Individual responses will not be released by NMFS.**

Gag

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Raw Fish Cost (Finished Weight)	$/lb.	$/lb.
Sales Price	$/lb.	$/lb.

Red Grouper

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Raw Fish Cost (Finished Weight)	$/lb.	$/lb.
Sales Price	$/lb.	$/lb.

Black Grouper

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Raw Fish Cost (Finished Weight)	$/lb.	$/lb.
Sales Price	$/lb.	$/lb.

Scamp

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Raw Fish Cost (Finished Weight)	$/lb.	$/lb.
Sales Price	$/lb.	$/lb.

Yellowedge Grouper

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Raw Fish Cost (Finished Weight)	$/lb.	$/lb.
Sales Price	$/lb.	$/lb.

Golden Tilefish

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Raw Fish Cost (Finished Weight)	$/lb.	$/lb.
Sales Price	$/lb.	$/lb.

Blueline Tilefish

	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Raw Fish Cost (Finished Weight)	$/lb.	$/lb.
Sales Price	$/lb.	$/lb.

10(a). Did the GT-IFQ program contribute to the change in RAW FISH COST reported in Question 10?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ No Change
- ☐ NA

→ GO TO # 10(c)

10(b). Please explain why you believe the GT-IFQ program contributed to the change in RAW FISH COST.

10(c). Did the GT-IFQ program contribute to the change in SALES PRICE reported in Question 10?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ No Change
- ☐ NA

→ GO TO # 11

10(d). Please explain why you believe the GT-IFQ program contributed to the change in SALES PRICE.

11. With respect to the **grouper/tilefish component** of your seafood business, please provide an estimate of sales, by product form, on a percentage basis (%) pre- and post-GT-IFQ.

Sales by Product Form

Type of Product	Pre-GT-IFQ (2009)	Post-GT-IFQ (2014)
Fresh whole or gutted fish	%	%
Frozen whole or gutted fish	%	%
Fresh fillets	%	%
Frozen fillets	%	%
Other (Specify):_____	_____%	_____%
TOTAL	100%	100%

Note: Total for each year should sum to 100%.

12. What percentage (%) of the **grouper/tilefish** sales by this seafood business pre- and post-GT IFQ went to the following outlets?

Sales to Various Outlets

Outlet	Pre-IFQ (2009)	Post-IFQ (2014)
Other dealers/processors	%	%
Wholesalers	%	%
Retailers	%	%
Restaurants	%	%
Consumers	%	%
Other outlets (Specify):_____	_____%	_____%
TOTAL	100%	100%

Note: Total for each year should sum to 100%.

Section 3: Pre- and Post-GT-IFQ Infrastructure and Equipment

13. Has this business, or you personally, ever owned any vessels used in the harvesting of **grouper/tilefish** in the Gulf of Mexico?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → GO TO # 13(c)

13(a). Have you increased or decreased the number of vessels or size of vessels owned as a result of the GT-IFQ program?

- ☐ Yes, I have INCREASED the number of vessels or size of vessels owned.
- ☐ Yes, I have DECREASED the number of vessels or size of vessels owned.
- ☐ No, I have not INCREASED or DECREASED the number of vessels or size of vessels owned.

13(b). Do you have any plans to increase or decrease the number of vessels or size of vessels in the next 5 years as a result of the GT-IFQ program?

- ☐ Yes, I plan to INCREASE the number of vessels or size of vessels owned.
- ☐ Yes, I plan to DECREASE the number of vessels or size of vessels owned.
- ☐ No, I have no plans to INCREASE or DECREASE the number of vessels or size of vessels owned.
- ☐ Undecided

→ GO TO # 14

13(c). Do you have any plans to increase the number of vessels or size of vessels owned as a result of the GT-IFQ program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Undecided

14. Excluding vessels and GT-IFQ shares, have you made MAJOR INVESTMENTS or DISINVESTMENTS in this seafood business that you attribute to the implementation of the GT-IFQ program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → GO TO # 15

14(a). Please briefly describe what INVESTMENTS or DISINVESTMENTS attributed to the GT-IFQ program that you have made in this seafood business.

15. Excluding real estate, vessels and any GT-IFQ shares owned by the business, what would you estimate as the CURRENT MARKET VALUE of this seafood business?

$

16. Has implementation of the GT-IFQ program resulted in any change in the CURRENT MARKET VALUE of this seafood business?

- ☐ Yes, it has led to an increase in the value of the business.
- ☐ Yes, it has led to a decrease in the value of the business.
- ☐ No, there has been no change in the value of the business as a result of the implementation of the GT-IFQ program. → GO TO # 17

16(a). Please explain what aspects of the program led to the change in CURRENT MARKET VALUE.

Section 4: GT- IFQ Share in Business Operations

17. Do you or your business currently hold any GT-IFQ shares?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → GO TO # 18

17(a). What proportion of the "2014 Post-GT-IFQ" GROSS SALES given in Question 6 is represented by your shares?

%

18. Do you or your business plan to acquire shares in the future?

- ☐ Yes → GO TO # 18(a)
- ☐ No → GO TO # 18(b)
- ☐ Undecided → GO TO # 19

18(a). What would be the primary reasons for acquiring additional GT-IFQ shares? (check all that apply):

- ☐ Increased GT-IFQ shares would allow me to expand my dealer/processor operations.
- ☐ I would like to increase and/or change the product mix of GT-IFQ species that I am currently allowed to harvest with my existing GT-IFQ shares.
- ☐ Other (Specify):

18(b). What would be the primary reasons for not acquiring additional GT-IFQ shares? (check all that apply):

- ☐ The cost of acquiring GT-IFQ shares is high relative to any expected benefits I might receive from additional GT-IFQ shares.
- ☐ My business is currently at an 'optimal' size and therefore I need no additional grouper/tilefish product.
- ☐ I can buy all of the raw product I need at a reasonable price from local fishermen or other sources.
- ☐ Buying GT-IFQ allocation better suits my business.
- ☐ Other (Specify):

19. Do you provide GT-IFQ allocation to vessels not owned by you or your business?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → GO TO # 20

19(a). What arrangements does your business have with fishermen to whom it provides allocation? (check all that apply):

- ☐ Fishermen must sell their catch (associated with GT-IFQ allocation) to my business. No payment for the GT-IFQ allocation is required.
- ☐ Fishermen must sell their catch (associated with GT-IFQ allocation) to my business. Payment for GT-IFQ allocation is subtracted from payment for their catch.
- ☐ Fishermen must pay 'up front' for the GT- IFQ allocation provided but are not required to sell their catch to my business.
- ☐ Other (Specify):

20. Of the GT-IFQ allocation you held on an annual basis, what percent on average was:

used for vessels owned by you or your business?	%
provided to fishermen who own their own vessels with the stipulation that they sell their catch to your business?	%
provided to fishermen with no requirement regarding sales?	%
sold (leased)?	%
Other (Specify):_____	_____%
TOTAL	100%

Note: Total should sum to 100%.

Section 5: Opinions Regarding the IFQ Program

21. How satisfied are you with the IFQ Online System for managing and completing landing transactions?

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

21(a). What improvements would you suggest to the IFQ Online System?

22. How satisfied are you with the customer service you receive when contacting NOAA Fisheries Service regarding questions about the IFQ Program (e.g. help with an account, making a landing transaction)?

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

22(a). What improvements would you suggest to IFQ customer service?

23. How satisfied are you with enforcement of the IFQ Program?

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

23(a). What improvements would you suggest to the enforcement of the IFQ Program?

24. What do you consider to be the most POSITIVE impacts of the GT-IFQ program on your seafood dealer/processing operations?

25. What do you consider to be the most NEGATIVE impacts of the GT-IFQ program on your seafood dealer/processing operations?

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY

Please return questionnaire to:

QuanTech, Inc.
6110 Executive Blvd Suite 480
Rockville, MD 20852

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Street»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Prefix»«SurName2»:

In the next few days, you will receive a questionnaire in the mail from QuanTech, a survey research firm that is assisting the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to conduct a study of the reef fish dealer/processor sector that is part of the 5-year review of the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program.

I am writing in advance because we have found that many people like to know ahead of time that they will be contacted. The study is an important one that will provide information to fishery managers regarding the performance of the GT-IFQ Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration. It is only with the generous help of reef fish dealers like yourself that the survey can be successful.

Sincerely,

Larry Perruso
Economist
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

April 7, 2016

John Smith
123 Main Street
ANYTOWN, USA 12345-1234

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing to request your help with a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) survey of Federally-licensed reef fish dealers about management of the grouper-tilefish component of the commercial Gulf of Mexico (GOM) reef fish fishery under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program.

The data collected from this survey will provide vital information to assess the economic effects of the GT-IFQ Program on individual dealer/processor enterprises, fishing communities, and the nation as whole as well as offer a unique opportunity to learn from the experience of the GOM GT-IFQ Program to assess the future use of IFQs.

Only aggregated results from the survey will be released. When you return your completed questionnaire, your name will be checked off the mailing list by QuanTech, the survey contractor.

The survey is voluntary. However, you can help us by sharing your views and experiences. If for some reason you prefer not to respond, we would appreciate it if you return the blank questionnaire in the enclosed business reply envelope anyway, so we can check you off the mailing list and avoid future mailings.

If you have any questions or comments about the study, please call Daemian Schreiber of QuanTech toll-free at 1-800-229-5220, extension 7831.

We realize your time is valuable and truly appreciate your participation in this survey.

Sincerely,

Larry Perruso
Economist
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Last week a questionnaire was mailed to you seeking information about your involvement in the Gulf of Mexico Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program.

If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere thanks. If you have not completed and returned it, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. We are very grateful for your help--information from the survey of reef fish dealers like you about their opinions and experiences about IFQs is important for the NMFS to hear and will help improve fishery management practices.

If you did not receive a questionnaire, or if it was misplaced, please call Daemian Schreiber of QuanTech at 1-800-229-5220 and another one will be mailed to you today.

Regards,

Larry Perruso
Economist
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

April 15, 2015

John Smith
123 Main Street
ANYTOWN, USA 12345-1234

Dear Mr. Smith:

Some time ago, we sent you a survey about management of the grouper-tilefish component of the commercial Gulf of Mexico (GOM) reef fish fishery under the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program.

The people who have already responded have provided a variety of (both positive and negative) views on, and experiences with, the GT-IFQ Program. We think the results will be very useful to fishery managers for evaluating and improving the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT-IFQ) Program.

We are writing again because of the importance that your responses have for helping to get accurate results. It's only by hearing from nearly all Federally-licensed reef fish dealers that we can be sure that the results are truly representative. We need your help!

We hope you will fill out and return the questionnaire soon, but if for some reason you prefer not to respond, please let us know by returning a note or the blank questionnaire in the enclosed business-reply envelope.

Please do not hesitate to call Daemian Schreiber of QuanTech toll-free at 1-800-229-5220, extension 7831, if you have any questions concerning this study. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Larry Perruso
Economist
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service

should require Neo Solar to provide additional information about its company operations before making a preliminary successor-in-interest determination.

Scope of the Order

The merchandise covered by this order is crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, and modules, laminates, and panels, consisting of crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, whether or not partially or fully assembled into other products, including, but not limited to, modules, laminates, panels and building integrated materials.

This order covers crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells of thickness equal to or greater than 20 micrometers, having a p/n junction formed by any means, whether or not the cell has undergone other processing, including, but not limited to, cleaning, etching, coating, and/or addition of materials (including, but not limited to, metallization and conductor patterns) to collect and forward the electricity that is generated by the cell.

Merchandise under consideration may be described at the time of importation as parts for final finished products that are assembled after importation, including, but not limited to, modules, laminates, panels, building-integrated modules, building-integrated panels, or other finished goods kits. Such parts that otherwise meet the definition of merchandise under consideration are included in the scope of this order.

Excluded from the scope of this order are thin film photovoltaic products produced from amorphous silicon (a-Si), cadmium telluride (CdTe), or copper indium gallium selenide (CIGS).

Also excluded from the scope of this order are crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, not exceeding 10,000 mm^2 in surface area, that are permanently integrated into a consumer good whose function is other than power generation and that consumes the electricity generated by the integrated crystalline silicon photovoltaic cell. Where more than one cell is permanently integrated into a consumer good, the surface area for purposes of this exclusion shall be the total combined surface area of all cells that are integrated into the consumer good.

Modules, laminates, and panels produced in a third-country from cells produced in the PRC are covered by this order; however, modules, laminates, and panels produced in the PRC from cells produced in a third-country are not covered by this order.

Merchandise covered by this order is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff System of the United States (''HTSUS'') under subheadings 8501.61.0000, 8507.20.80, 8541.40.6020, 8541.40.6030, and 8501.31.8000. These HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes; the written description of the scope of this order is dispositive.

Initiation of Changed Circumstances Review

Pursuant to section 751(b) of the Act, the Department will conduct a changed circumstances review upon receipt of a request from an interested party which shows changed circumstances sufficient to warrant a review of an order. In accordance with section 751(b) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.216(d), the Department determines that the information submitted by Neo Solar, DelSolar Taiwan, and DelSolar Wujiang constitutes sufficient evidence to conduct a changed circumstances review of the *Order*.[2]

In a changed circumstances review involving a successor-in-interest determination, the Department typically examines several factors including, but not limited to, changes in: (1) Management; (2) production facilities; (3) supplier relationships; and (4) customer base.[3] While no single factor or combination of factors will necessarily be dispositive, the Department generally will consider the new company to be the successor to the predecessor if the resulting operations are essentially the same as those of the predecessor company.[4] Thus, if the record demonstrates that, with respect to the production and sale of the subject merchandise, the new company operates as the same business entity as the predecessor company, the Department may assign the new company the cash deposit rate of its predecessor.[5]

After reviewing the information provided in the request for a changed circumstances review, we determined that Neo Solar, DelSolar Taiwan, and DelSolar Wujiang provided sufficient evidence to warrant a review to determine if Neo Solar is the successor-in-interest to DelSolar Taiwan. Therefore, pursuant to section 751(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.216(d), we are initiating a changed circumstances review. However, we also determined that there is a need to issue a questionnaire to gather additional information, as provided for by 19 CFR 351.221(b)(2), before issuing a preliminary determination in this review. Therefore, the Department is not conducting this review on an expedited basis by publishing the preliminary results in conjunction with this notice of initiation.

The Department will issue the preliminary results of this changed circumstances review, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4) and 19 CFR 351.221(c)(3), which will set forth the factual and legal conclusions upon which the preliminary results are based, and a description of any action proposed because of those results. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4)(ii), interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the preliminary results of the review. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.216(e), the Department will issue the final results of its AD changed circumstance review within 270 days after the date on which the review is initiated.

During the course of this changed circumstances review, we will not change the cash deposit requirements for the merchandise subject to review. The cash deposit will only be altered, if warranted, pursuant to the final results of this review.

This initiation notice is published in accordance with sections 751(b)(1) and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.216(b) and 351.221(b)(1).

Dated: March 18, 2015.

Gary Taverman,

Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

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[2] *See also* 19 CFR 351.221.

[3] *See, e.g., Diamond Sawblades and Parts Thereof From the People's Republic of China: Final Results and Termination, in Part, of the Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review,* 76 FR 64898 (October 19, 2011); *Certain Pasta from Turkey: Notice of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review,* 74 FR 26373 (June 2, 2009).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Survey of Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Dealers Associated With the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (GT–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 May 26, 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. 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 economic and attitudinal data from reef fish dealers regarding the performance of the GOM Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program five years after its implementation. These data will be used to estimate the effects of the GT–IFQ Program on these stakeholders for the five-year program review mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). The population targeted by the economic survey is all federally licensed dealers that participate in the GOM reef fish fishery. In addition, the information will be used to strengthen and improve fishery management decision-making, and satisfy legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other pertinent statues.

II. Method of Collection

The economic and attitudinal information sought will be collected via in-person and mail surveys.

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.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 168.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 168.

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 18, 2015.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015–06589 Filed 3–23–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Survey of Residential Building or Zoning Permit Systems.

OMB Control Number: 0607–0350.

Form Number(s): C–411(V), C–411(M), C–411(C).

Type of Request: Reinstatement, without change, of an expired collection.

Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Average Hours per Response: 15 minutes.

Burden Hours: 500.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting reinstatement of the recently expired Form C–411, ''Survey of Residential Building or Zoning Permit Systems.'' The Census Bureau produces statistics used to monitor activity in the large and dynamic construction industry. These statistics help state and local governments and the federal government, as well as private industry, to analyze this important sector of the economy. The accuracy of the Census Bureau statistics regarding the amount of construction authorized depends on data supplied by building and zoning officials throughout the country. The Census Bureau uses Form C–411 to obtain information from state and local building permit officials needed for updating the universe of permit-issuing places which serves as the sampling frame for the Report of Privately-Owned Residential Building or Zoning Permits Issued (OMB number 0607–0094), also known as the Building Permits Survey (BPS), and the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions (OMB number 0607–0110), also known as Survey of Construction (SOC). These two sample surveys provide widely used measures of construction activity, including the principal economic indicators New Residential Construction and New Home Sales. Data from the BPS and SOC are also used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in the calculation of estimates of the Residential Fixed Investment portion of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In addition, data from the BPS are used by the Census Bureau in the calculation of annual population estimates; these estimates are widely used by government agencies to allocate funding and other resources to local governments.

The questions on Form C–411 pertain to the legal requirements for issuing building or zoning permits in the local jurisdictions. Information is obtained on such items as geographic coverage and types of construction for which permits are issued.

No changes are planned to the C–411(V) form. We have updated the form layouts of forms C–411(M) and C–411(C) to provide clarification and improve questionnaire flow.

The appropriate form is sent to a jurisdiction when the Manufacturing and Construction Division (MCD) has reason to believe that a new permit system has been established or an existing one has changed. This is based on information from a variety of sources including survey respondents, regional councils and the Census Bureau's Geography Division which keeps abreast of changes in corporate status. Responses typically approach 85 percent.

We use the information to verify the existence of new permit systems or changes to existing systems. Based on the information, we add new permit-issuing places to the universe, delete places no longer issuing permits, and