

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 07/13/2018

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 02/21/2018

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201802-0648-005

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: Southeast Region Vessel and Gear Identification Requirements

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0358

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: 07/31/2021

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	439,888	50,687	670,901
New	439,048	51,015	673,277
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	-840	328	2,376
Change due to PRA Violation	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320, the information collection is approved for three years.

OMB Authorizing Official: Neomi Rao
Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Southeast Region Vessel Identification Requirements			50 CFR 622.5 and 640.6
Southeast Region Gear Identification Requirements			50 CFR 622.6(b)

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

Signed by Alan Risenhoover

Date

2/14/2018

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
SOUTHEAST REGION VESSEL AND GEAR IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0358**

A. JUSTIFICATION

This is a revision and extension request for an existing information collection.

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

The success of fisheries management programs depends on regulatory compliance. The vessel and fishing gear identification requirements enable law enforcement personnel to link fishing or other activity, and fishing gear to a vessel owner or operator. This is crucial to facilitate the enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act](#) at [50 CFR part 622](#).

In addition to an extension of this currently approved information collection, NMFS requests to revise the cost for tags required for use on golden crab traps and black sea bass pots. The tag manufacturer, Floy Tag & Mfg., Inc., has increased the tag cost, which includes the cost for shipping to respondents. NMFS also revises the estimated number of burden hours and responses to correct inadvertent calculation errors made in a previous revision of OMB Control No. 0648-0358.

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.

Vessel Identification

Regulations at [50 CFR 622.6](#) require a vessel's official number to be displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and weather deck. The official number and color code, if applicable, identify each vessel and should be visible from enforcement vessels or aircraft. These markings provide law enforcement personnel with a means to monitor fishing, at-sea processing, and other related activities, to ascertain whether the vessel's observed activities are in accordance with those authorized for that vessel. The identifying number is used by the [National Marine Fisheries Service](#) (NMFS), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and other agencies and partners in vessel tracking, issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Vessels that qualify for particular fisheries are readily identified, gear violations are more readily prosecuted, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement.

Gear Identification

Multiple regulations in 50 CFR part 622 require that each fish, crab, or spiny lobster trap or pot be marked with a tag stating the vessel permit number or marked directly with the vessel permit number, depending on the fishery, and have a buoy attached that meets specified identification requirements. For example, gillnets for Spanish mackerel on the east coast of Florida must be marked with floats displaying the vessel's official number. The marking of gear aids law

enforcement, helps to ensure that vessels only harvest fish from their own gear, and makes it easier for fishermen to report the use of gear in unauthorized locations.

Regulations at 50 CFR [622.70](#) also require that aquaculture site materials (cultured live rock) be distinguishable from the natural occurring substrate, depending on the area through either marking or another method. The marking of aquacultured site materials aids determination of the origin of those materials and thereby helps ensure compliance with the regulations.

Law enforcement personnel rely on this information to assist with the compliance of fisheries management regulations. Fishing gear that is not properly identified is confiscated. NMFS and USCG use the identifying number on fishing gear to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. Gear marking helps ensure that a vessel harvests fish only from its own fishing gear and that fishing gear are not used illegally, and violations are more readily prosecuted, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement. Cooperating fishermen also use the numbers to report placement or occurrence of gear in unauthorized areas.

Fishermen compliant with regulations ultimately benefit as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred and more burdensome regulations are avoided.

There would be no information directly collected by the vessel and gear marking requirements for purposes of disseminating to the public. However, information collected by enforcement agencies over time could potentially be used to track compliance.

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 requirement that each vessel and the fishing gear display an identification number does not lend itself to technology. Vessel monitoring system units and transponders are comparatively very expensive. No other technology appears to be less costly and still capable of providing the necessary information to support enforcement.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There is no duplication with other collections for vessel or fishing gear identification and display. The USCG assigns documentation numbers to applicable vessels under OMB Control No. 1625-0027. NMFS requires a vessel to display its official number, that is, the USCG documentation number, at certain sizes depending on the vessel's length.

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

NMFS categorizes all or nearly all vessels covered under this information collection as small businesses. The collection will not have a significant impact on small businesses, and no special modifications of the requirements were considered necessary to accommodate the needs of small businesses.

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

If fishing vessels or gear were not identified or if marking requirements were reduced, NMFS, the USCG, and other law enforcement partners could not enforce the fisheries management measures or the effectiveness of enforcement could be significantly reduced.

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

This collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

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

On October 18, 2017, NMFS published a notice in the Federal Register seeking public comment on the renewal of the vessel and gear identification requirements under OMB Control No. 0648-0358 (82 FR 48487, October 18, 2017). NMFS did not receive any public comments.

In early 2018, NMFS asked for, and obtained, feedback from one fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico commercial reef fish sector and two fishermen in the South Atlantic commercial snapper-grouper sector. Their feedback was consistent with the estimated burden hours and costs for marking vessels and fishing gear. Therefore, NMFS made no changes to the information collection as a result of public input.

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

No payments or gifts are provided.

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

There is no assurance of confidentiality provided.

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

No sensitive questions are asked.

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

The estimated total annual burden in hours to the public currently approved under this collection of information is 50,687 hours; the number of annual responses total 439,888, and the number of annual respondents total 7,825. NMFS estimates the total number of respondents would not change if OMB approves this renewal and revision request; NMFS revises the estimated number of burden hours and responses to correct inadvertent calculation errors made in a previous revision of OMB Control No. 0648-0358.

Each of 7,825 federally permitted vessels is required to be marked with the vessel's official number. Each vessel must be marked in three places, requiring 25 minutes each for a total of 75 minutes per vessel annually (average of initial marking, and subsequent annual touch-ups) for a total of 7,825 responses * 75/60 = 9,781.25, rounded down to 9,781 hours.

The official vessel number is required for marking each applicable piece of fishing gear. The estimated time burden to mark:

- 115,000 cultured live rocks at 10 seconds each = 320 (319.5) hours
- 10,000 golden crab traps at 2 minutes each = 333 (333.33) hours
- 15,903 Spanish mackerel gillnet buoys at 20 minutes each = 5,301 hours
- 270,000 spiny lobster traps and buoys at 7 minutes each = 31,500 hours
- 15,840 buoy gear at 10 minutes each = 2,640 hours
- 4,480 black sea bass pots, buoys, and buoy lines at approximately 16 minutes each = 1,195 (1,194.67) hours

Total for gear marking only = 431,223 responses and 41,234 hours.

If approved by OMB, the total for both vessel and gear marking would be 7,825 respondents, 439,048 responses, and 51,015 hours.

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).

Currently, the approved estimated total annual cost to the public for OMB Control No. 0648-0358 is \$670,901 (\$670,900.50).

For vessel marking, materials such as paint and paintbrushes are estimated to cost \$34.00 per vessel annually: 7,825 vessels * \$34.00 = \$266,050.

For marking fishing gear, estimated materials costs include:

- \$500 fixed cost for 115,000 coral live rocks
- \$20,000 for 10,000 golden crab traps at \$2 each
- \$23,854.50 for 15,903 Spanish mackerel gillnet buoys at \$1.50 each
- \$351,000 for 270,000 spiny lobster traps and buoys at \$1.30 each

- \$6,336 for 15,840 buoy gear pieces at \$0.40 each
- \$5,536 for 4,480 black sea bass pot tags and buoy components averaged to approximately \$1.24 each (\$1.2357)

Total for marking fishing gear: \$407,227 (\$407,226.50). – increased from 404,851

If approved by OMB, the revised total annual cost to the public would be \$673,277.

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

There is no cost to the Federal Government.

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

Adjustments: NMFS increased the annual cost estimate for gear marking requirements due to a cost increase by a tag manufacturer, Floy Tag & Mfg., Inc. The cost of identification tags for golden crab traps increased from \$1.80 to \$2 per tag (a \$2,000 increase, \$2,000 of the \$2,376 net increase).

There was an increase in 2016 from 30 to 32 black sea bass fishermen. Annual cost per each of these respondents (for all gear components) was \$76, so change accounted for an additional \$152. Since then, tag costs increased from \$1.80 to \$2 per tag; \$0.20 increase per tag. Each fisherman is limited to not more than 35 pots, which equates to a maximum of 35 tags. The addition of \$0.20 per 35 tags = a \$7 increase per fisherman or a total increase of \$224. Added to the initial increase of \$152, this equates to the additional total gear cost increase of \$376 in addition to the lobster pot tags increase of \$2,000.

NMFS also adjusted the burden estimates to correct inadvertent calculation errors on pot gear marking, made in a previous revision of OMB Control No. 0648-0358. The number of pots should be 4,480 rather than 5,320. This difference accounts for the 840 response decrease. The correction reduced the burden hours by 224 hours (840 * 10 minutes apiece (previous black sea bass gear response time was estimated at 10 minutes each). Decrease of 840 markings time 10 minutes each, decreased hours by 140. An increase of 6 minutes per remaining the remaining 4,480 markings added 468 hours. The net hourly increase is 328.

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

The results are not published.

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.

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XF711

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings; Cancellation

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting cancellation.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee is cancelling the 5-day meeting that was to be held from October 30, 2017 to November 3, 2017 due to the devastation of the island from the hurricanes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1903, telephone: (787) 766–5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting was published in the **Federal Register** on October 11, 2017 (82 FR 47190). The meeting will be rescheduled at a later date and announced in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 12, 2017.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–22467 Filed 10–17–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XF769

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Committee will hold a public meeting to review and develop comments regarding options being considered to modify the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan, which could impact the MSB fisheries.

DATES: The meeting will be held Monday, November 6, 2017, from 9 a.m. to noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/msb-com-nov-2017/>. Call-in information is provided upon logging onto the webinar.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526–5255. The Council's Web site, www.mafmc.org will also have details on the proposed agenda and any briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The New England Fishery Management Council is considering changes to Atlantic Herring management measures that could impact MSB fishing. The MSB Committee will receive an update on the options under consideration, and if appropriate develop comments for the New England Fishery Management Council to consider.

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

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 13, 2017.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–22642 Filed 10–17–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southeast Region Vessel and Gear Identification Requirements**

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 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 by December 18, 2017.

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 pracomments@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Adam Bailey, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, telephone: 727–824–5305, or email: adam.bailey@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Region manages the U.S. fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic regions under various fishery management plans (FMPs). The regional fishery management councils prepared the FMPs pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The regulations implementing the FMPs are located at 50 CFR part 622.

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR part 622 form the basis for this collection of information. The NMFS Southeast Region requires that all permitted fishing vessels must mark their vessel with the official identification number or some form of identification. A vessel's official number, under most regulations, is required to be displayed

on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and weather deck. In addition, certain fisheries are required to display their assigned color code. The official number and color code identify each vessel and should be visible at distance from the sea and in the air. These markings provide law enforcement personnel with a means to monitor fishing, at-sea processing, and other related activities, to ascertain whether the vessel's observed activities are in accordance with those authorized for that vessel. The identifying official number is used by NMFS, the United States Coast Guard, and other marine agencies in issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Vessels that are authorized for particular fisheries are readily identified, gear violations are more readily prosecuted, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement.

In addition to vessel marking, requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner is crucial to enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The requirements imposed in the Southeast Region are for coral aquacultured live rock; golden crab traps; mackerel gillnet floats; spiny lobster traps; black sea bass pots; and buoy gear.

II. Method of Collection

Markings, such as numbers, are placed directly on the vessels and gear.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0358.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,825.

Estimated Time per Response: Vessel marking: 45 minutes. Gear marking: aquacultured live rocks, 10 seconds each; golden crab traps, 2 minutes each; spiny lobster traps, 7 minutes each; sea bass pots, 16 minutes each; and mackerel gillnets, and buoy gear, 20 minutes each.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50,687.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$670,901 in recordkeeping and 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: October 12, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-22547 Filed 10-17-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF746

Marine Mammals; File No. 21315

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Lori Quakenbush, Responsible Party) P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802, has applied in due form for a permit to collect, receive, import, and export marine mammal parts for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before November 17, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 21315 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation

Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. 21315 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Lierheimer or Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The objectives of the proposed research are to obtain information on population status and distribution, stock structure, age distribution, mortality rates, productivity, feeding habits, and health that would be used for conservation and management purposes. The applicant proposes to collect, receive, import, and export biological samples from up to 500 cetaceans and 1,000 pinnipeds (excluding walrus) annually from legal, foreign and domestic subsistence-hunts; scientists in academic, Federal, and state institutions involved in legally authorized marine mammal research; dead beach-cast species; and incidental commercial fisheries bycatch. Import/export activities would occur world-wide. No live animal takes are being requested under this permit. The requested duration of the permit is five years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to