

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 07/06/2017

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 04/19/2017

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201704-0648-008

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: Vessel Monitoring System Requirement in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0573

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: 07/31/2020

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	11,250	771	1,933,250
New	11,250	771	1,933,250
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	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
Deputy and Acting Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
VMS activation checklist, and purchase, maintenance and position transmission costs	NA	VMS Installation and Activation Report	
VMS Exemption Reports			50 CFR 660.14
VMS Declaration Reports			

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

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

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

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

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

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM REQUIREMENT IN THE PACIFIC COAST
GROUNDFISH FISHERY
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0573**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This request is for extension of this information collection.

The [Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#) (Magnuson-Stevens Act) established regional fishery management councils, including the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), to develop fishery management plans for fisheries in the United States (U.S.) exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The fishery management plans are intended to regulate fishing to ensure long-term productivity and achievement of optimum yield from the resources for the benefit of the nation. These plans are implemented by Federal regulations which are enforced by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG), in cooperation with State agencies.

Five groundfish stocks are currently considered to be overfished: bocaccio, darkblotched rockfish, cowcod, Pacific Ocean perch, and yelloweye rockfish. Measures have been taken to protect the overfished stocks and to rebuild them to sustainable biomass levels. Groundfish Conservation Areas (GCAs) is a primary management tool used to control the catch of overfished species. The GCAs are large-scale, depth-based management areas used to prohibit or restrict commercial groundfish fishing. These areas were specifically designed to reduce the catch of overfished species while allowing healthy fisheries to continue in areas and with gears where little incidental catch of overfished species is likely to occur.

GCAs are defined by points of latitude and longitude. The rockfish conservation areas (RCAs) are a sub-group of GCAs that are defined by points that approximate fathom curves for depth ranges where overfished rockfish species are commonly found. Deep-water fisheries between these points have been permitted in areas seaward of the RCAs, and near shore fisheries have been permitted in areas shoreward of the RCAs. Vessels intending to fish in the deep-water slope fisheries are allowed to transit through the RCAs, providing their gear is properly stowed. Target fisheries with relatively low catch rates of overfished species, such as midwater trawling for pelagic species and pink shrimp trawling with finfish excluders, have been allowed to occur in the RCAs. Various state-managed fisheries where groundfish are incidentally taken also occur in the RCA; however, groundfish retention is restricted or prohibited within the RCAs.

In 2006, NMFS implemented an additional sub-group of GCA to protect bottom habitat from fishing gear impacts, as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These areas are referred to as Essential Fish Habitat conservation areas (EFHCA). Like the RCAs, the EFHCAs are defined by points of latitude and longitude.

Traditional enforcement methods (such as aerial surveillance, boarding at sea via patrol boats, landing inspections and documentary investigation) are especially difficult to use when the

closed areas are large-scale and the lines defining the areas are irregular. Furthermore, when management measures allow some gear types and target fishing in all or a portion of the conservation area, while other fishing activities are prohibited, it is difficult and costly to effectively enforce closures using traditional methods. Scarce state and federal resources also limit the extent to which traditional enforcement methods can be used effectively.

To ensure the integrity of the GCAs and RCAs, a pilot Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) program was implemented on January 1, 2004 (OMB Control No. 0648-0478). The pilot program required vessels registered to Pacific Coast groundfish fishery limited entry (LE) permits to carry and use VMS transceiver units while fishing off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The VMS program was expanded on January 1, 2007, to include all open access groundfish fisheries in addition to the limited entry fisheries. Expanding coverage of the VMS program has enhanced state and federal enforcement's ability to monitor vessel compliance with GCAs, RCAs, and EFH conservation areas. This information collection was previously merged with OMB Control No. 0648-0478, Vessel Monitoring Program for the Pacific Groundfish Fishery, and covers both the limited entry and open access commercial groundfish fisheries.

The VMS units that have been type-approved for this fishery range in costs and service features. This allows the vessel owner the flexibility in choosing the model that best fits the needs of their vessel. Vessels that have already purchased VMS transceiver units for other fisheries or personal purposes are allowed to retain existing VMS transceivers providing they are on the list of type-approved models and have been upgraded to the level required for the fishery.

To support the VMS monitoring program, the following information must be submitted to NMFS: 1) VMS transceiver installation/activation certification reports, 2) hourly position reports, 3) exemption reports, and 4) declaration reports.

Installation/activation certification reports require vessel owners and operators to follow specific procedures when installing or re-installing a VMS transceiver unit. Upon activation the VMS installer must complete, sign, and return the certification form to NMFS. The form contains information on the VMS hardware and satellite communications services that are provided by private communications companies approved by NMFS. The installation and activation reports request contact information from open access vessels only. Vessels participating in the limited entry fishery are required to have permits registered to the vessels. Contact information for vessels registered to limited entry permits are obtained from the permits database. There are no federal permit requirements for open access fishery participants.

Hourly position reports are automatically transmitted to NMFS via satellite once the VMS transceiver unit is installed and activated. Vessels that are required to have VMS must operate the mobile transceiver unit continuously 24 hours a day throughout the fishing year, except when a valid exemption report has been received by NMFS. The number of annual transmissions depends on the VMS transceiver that the vessel owner purchases and the number of fishing days per year in waters off the west coast. Many of the systems have a sleep function that automatically reduces the transmission reports when a vessel is in port. The sleep function allows for port stays without significant power drain or power shutdown. When the vessel goes to sea, the unit restarts and normal position transmissions automatically resume. Because the unit is continuously operable, NMFS may query the unit at any time to obtain a position report.

Exemption reports are optional. The exemption reports are sent by the vessel owner or operator when they want their vessel to be excused from the requirement to operate the mobile transceiver unit continuously 24 hours a day throughout the fishing year. Such exemptions are only allowed for: vessels operating outside of the EEZ for more than 7 consecutive days, vessels that are continuously out of the water for more than 7 consecutive days, vessels that transfer the limited entry permit from the vessel and do not engage in any fishing off the west coast for the remainder of the year, vessels that depart the open access fishery for an extended period after the end of the fishing year, and for vessels that have had an emergency situation that resulted in vessel damage such as fire, flooding or other extensive physical damage that would require the VMS or power source to be disconnected. A vessel may be exempted from the requirement to operate the mobile transceiver unit continuously 24 hours a day if a valid exemption report is received by NMFS, Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) and the vessel is in compliance with all conditions and requirements of the exemption. An exemption report is valid until a second exemption report is sent to cancel the existing exemption.

Declaration reports are submitted to NMFS OLE by telephone and are valid until revised by the vessel operator. Vessel operators making declaration reports receive a confirmation number that verifies that the reporting requirements were satisfied. After a vessel has made a declaration report to NMFS and has been confirmed for a specific gear category, it cannot fish with any gear other than a gear type that has been declared for the vessel. If a vessel operator intends to use the vessel to fish in a different fishing category, a new declaration report must be submitted to revise the old declaration report.

The requirements for this information collection are codified in [50 CFR 660.13](#) and [660.14](#), Recordkeeping and Reporting and VMS Requirements.

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.

Installation/activation certification reports are used by NMFS OLE to confirm that a type-approved VMS unit was installed according to the prescribed procedures and that service has been arranged with an approved communications service provider. Activating the unit and requiring confirmation from NMFS OLE that automatic position reports are being received without error ensures the integrity of the monitoring program. Each VMS transceiver unit has a unique transmission signal that needs to be linked with a specific vessel for processing position reports.

Vessels registered to limited entry permits are required to have contact information on file with NMFS. However, vessels participating in the open access fisheries do not have federal permits. Therefore it is necessary to collect contact information from open access fishers. Having contact information is necessary to provide conformation on the activation and in the event that there are problems with the VMS reports. If there are transmission problems, NMFS will need to have ready access to contact information and installation information. NMFS can then apply troubleshooting techniques and as necessary, contact the vessel operator and discern whether the problem is associated with the transmitting hardware or the service provider.

Vessel owners are required to provide these reports following initial installation and after a reinstallation or when the hardware or communications service provider changes. A vessel is expected to submit a report the first time it participates in a fishery where VMS is required. Because the service life of a VMS unit is approximately 4 years, respondents are expected to submit 1 report every 4 years.

Hourly position reports are used by NMFS to maintain the integrity of large geographical areas where fishing activities are restricted. On a broad level, the VMS vessel location reports are a cost effective tool used to facilitate enforcement of time/area closures in the fishery. The hourly position reports, are transmitted 24 hours per day throughout the fishing year (note: that some type-approved models have a sleep mode that automatically reduces the transmissions after an extended period of inactivity and resumes transmission when the vessel moves) and provide NMFS and USCG with real-time vessel location and activity information. Position information will also be used by NMFS fishery managers to evaluate fishing effort and determine whether further management measures are needed to protect low abundance species.

Exemption reports are sent by the vessel owner or operator when they want their vessel to be excused from the requirement to operate the mobile transceiver unit continuously 24 hours a day throughout the fishing year. Exemption reports are optional. The exemption reports allow flexibility to the industry participants while providing NMFS OLE with the information needed to determine why a position report is not being received from the vessel. Approximately 500 vessels are projected to send 2 exemption reports each per year. Following consultation with fishery participants prior to implementation of the VMS program in the limited entry fisheries, it was determined that some vessels prefer to reduce the costs of reporting when leaving the EEZ off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. Because a substantial number of permitted vessels also fish in waters off Alaska and in areas outside the EEZ, and because vessels are commonly pulled out of the water for extended periods, a VMS hourly report exemption option was added, which included an exemption report. During the development of the expanded VMS program additional exemptions were considered for: vessels that transfer the limited entry permit from the vessel and do not engage in any fishing of the west coast for the remainder of the year, vessels that depart the open access fishery for an extended period after the end of the fishing year, and for vessel that have had an emergency situation that resulted in vessel damage such as fire, flooding or other extensive physical damage that would require the VMS or power source to be disconnected. Exemption reports are optional. The exemption reports allow flexibility to the industry participants while providing NMFS OLE with the information needed to determine why a position report is not being received from the vessel.

Declaration reports are used by NMFS OLE to identify the fisher's intended use for the vessel and if the vessel will participate in a particular fishery with a specific gear. Because area restrictions are specific to the gear type and target fisheries, declaration reports are needed to adequately assess the vessel's activity in relation to the area restrictions. In addition to the groundfish fishery, there are numerous state and federal fisheries that occur in the EEZ off Washington, Oregon, and California. Because many of the groundfish vessels also participate in fisheries other than groundfish, during an enforcement flyover or from a VMS position report alone it is difficult to determine if they are fishing for groundfish or for a species and with a gear for which harvest is allowed in the closed area. Because groundfish regulations do not allow switching between fishing strategies on a single fishing trip, the declaration report can be used to affirm which regulations the participant is subject to on a particular fishing trip. Similarly, the

declaration system assists the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program and NMFS OLE to know what vessels should have observer coverage. Therefore, a declaration report is necessary to identify what gear the vessel operator intends to use.

A single gear type is typically used for multiple trips. Allowing each declaration report to be valid until a new declaration is made or until an exemption report is received reduces the reporting burden. This information is used in combination with VMS to more efficiently and effectively direct the use of enforcement resources throughout the fishing year. Each vessel is estimated to send up to 20 declaration reports per year. The submission of declaration reports was initially proposed as per trip reports. Following consultation with fishery participants, it was determined that the needs of NMFS OLE and the USCG could be met with less frequently made declaration reports. Therefore, it was determined that a declaration report identifying the type of gear being used by a vessel would remain valid until revised by the vessel operator or an exemption report was sent. This results in a significant reduction in the number of reports.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

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.

Installation/activation certification reports are available on the internet. Due to the need for the owner's signature, NMFS will use facsimile submission for the installation report. NMFS OLE will accept mailed submissions if the vessel owner prefers this method.

Hourly position reports are automatically sent from VMS transceivers installed aboard vessels. Once per hour, the unit automatically determines the vessel's location and transmits that position to a processing center via a communication satellite. The VMS transceiver units type-approved for use in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery include models that automatically reduce the number of transmissions, and thus the transmission costs after an extended period of inactivity by the vessel. In addition, vessel owners may choose to take advantage of the VMS technology by linking personal computers to VMS transceiver units to improve communication (by adding email capacity) and add other services such as newspapers or weather reports.

Exemption reports and Declaration reports are submitted by phone on a toll-free number. This form of reporting, available 24 hours per day, creates minimal burden for fishermen reporting, as well as for NMFS staff entering information into the database where it can be used in reports to monitor fishing activity. NMFS has prepared an example of a worksheet - not for submission to NMFS - that can be used by the caller to organize report information (available on the website).

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There are no alternate sources of this information or duplicative requirements.

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

Most of the respondents qualify as small businesses. The burden on fishery participant was considered and only the minimum data needed to monitor compliance with regulations are being requested from respondents.

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

Installation/activation certification reports -- The use and submission of installation/activation certification reports is required once for the initial installation, and again for a re-installation or when the hardware or communications service provider changes. Less frequent reporting would prevent NMFS and the vessel operator from confirming that the system is functioning properly.

Hourly position reports -- If the VMS was not operational, NMFS OLE agents and USCG would be tasked with monitoring closed areas via air and surface patrols. Because the USCG engages in multi-purpose missions, that include at sea surveillance of fisheries, homeland defense, search and rescue, and pollution response, monitoring efforts may be diverted from monitoring depth-based and EFH conservation areas. VMS provides a level of coverage that cannot be attained by these more traditional enforcement methods at a substantially lower cost.

A more liberal depth-based management regime is only possible if the integrity of the depth-based RCAs can be ensured. Without VMS it is likely that the depth-based management strategies are discontinued. VMS is necessary to ensure the integrity of the RCAs. If this were the case, the management structure would revert back to very restrictive limits on healthy stocks in order to protect low abundance species.

Less frequent position reports would be ineffective in deterring the illegal activity. Along some areas of the coast, the RCAs and EFH areas are narrow or prime fishing grounds are near the boundary line. If reports were less frequently it would be possible for some vessels to fish within the restricted areas without being detected. This would undermine the integrity of the RCAs.

Exemption reports allow vessels to reduce or discontinue the VMS signal under specific conditions. If the reporting frequency were reduced, VMS signals would have to continue 24 hours per day throughout the calendar year. The reporting frequency has been reduced to the minimum amount needed to maintain the integrity of the RCAs.

Declaration reports are needed to determine if the vessels is engaged in an activity (i.e., fishing, transiting, or research) that is allowed or prohibited in the closed area. The declaration reports allow traditional enforcement resources to be directed towards RCA or EFHCA incursions efficiently and effectively throughout the fishing year. The reporting frequency has been reduced to the minimum amount needed to maintain the integrity of the RCAs. In addition, the declaration reports are needed to identify a vessel's intent to participate in a fishery with a

specific gear. Because groundfish regulations do not allow switching between fishing strategies on a single fishing trip, the declaration report can be used to affirm which regulations the participant is subject to on a particular fishing trip. Thus, the declaration report helps support enforcement efforts for participants that are not following the regulations for the fishery they have declared. Similarly, the declaration system assists the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program and NMFS OLE to know what vessels should have observer coverage. Therefore, a declaration report is necessary to identify what gear the vessel operator intends to use.

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

The 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.

A Federal Register Notice published on October 31, 2016 (81 FR 75383) solicited public comments. No comments were received.

After the comment period closed, five VMS suppliers were contacted directly by phone and/or email to solicit comments. These suppliers were asked specifically to comment on the frequency of the collection and the estimated hours relative to the installation, time required annually for system maintenance unit life expectancy, and time required completion and submission of an activation reports. One response of “no comment” was received. One supplier did respond in agreement with the time burden estimates for installation and report submission. None of the comments received voiced any concern over the reporting burden.

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

No payments or gifts are provided under this program at this time.

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

Efforts were made in the design of the VMS program to ensure security of all individual vessel location data, including analysis and storage. The system includes measures to minimize the risk of direct or inadvertent disclosure of fishing location information. In addition, VMS data is considered confidential under [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#), Confidentiality of Fishery Statistics, and is subject to the confidentiality protection of Section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

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 of a sensitive nature are asked.

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

Total burden hours and annual costs for the VMS unit installation and operation are presented in Table 1 below.

There are 1,000 respondents annually. The total number of annual responses for submission of activation reports, exemption reports, and declaration reports is 11,250. The total annualized hours are 771. Total annualized labor costs at \$30 per hour are \$23,130 (771 * \$30).

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).

Total annual cost burden for the VMS unit installation and operation are presented in Table 1 below. Total annualized capital expenses on average are \$837,500. Total annualized expenses (for VMS maintenance, activation reports and transmission costs) on average are \$1,095,750 (add values from Table 1 labeled 14b). Total overall expenses are \$1,933,250.

Exemption and Declaration reports – Aside from the cost in time (see response to question 12) to summarize and call in a report, there are no additional cost burden for respondents. All respondents are assumed to have access to a telephone. The telephone calls are placed through a toll-free number so the respondent will not pay for the call. All respondents are assumed to have access to a touch-tone telephone.

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

NMFS is required to ensure that VMS units have been installed properly and are operational. In addition, review of the data transmissions are required to maintain the integrity of the restricted GCAs, RCAs, and EFHCA. NMFS has five full-time employees who are dedicated to monitoring the system annual labor costs are \$461,636. Recurring operational costs for equipment are \$8,364. The estimated cost of the total program is \$470,000 a year. The total annualized cost into the future is expected to range between \$450,000 and \$500,000.

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

Adjustments:

- This extension also revises the number of respondents. After several years of VMS monitoring, NMFS is better able to estimate the number of participants in a given year.
 - In the limited entry fishery the number of overall permits has increased from 350 to 400.
 - The open access fishery respondents are being reduced from 650 to 600. In the

open access fishery, vessels are not required to have groundfish permits which results in variability in the number of participants between years.

There is no net change in number of responses or costs associated with the responses.

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

No formal scientific publications based on these collections are planned at this time. The data will be used for management reports and fishery management plan amendments and evaluations by NMFS and the Council. However, subsequent use of the data collected over a series of years may be included in scientific papers and publications.

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

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

Not Applicable.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

No statistical methods are employed.

Table 1. Total burden hours and annual costs for the VMS unit installation and operation			
Installation/Activation			83i
Estimated VMS number of respondents	400 Limited Entry + 600 Open Access	~1,000	13a
Initial cost of VMS unit (vessel owner purchases type-approved model that best suits their need)		\$3,100-\$3,600 (\$3,350)	
Cost of units for all respondents to purchase VMS transceiver unit	(unit cost * 1,000 respondents)	\$3,100,000 - \$3,600,000 (\$3,350,000)	
Annual cost of transceiver unit for all respondents	(unit cost/4 year service life)	\$775,000 - \$900,000 (\$837,500)	14a
Annual number of installation/activation reports	(estimated at less than 1/4 of respondents per year)	250	13b
Hours per respondent to prepare installation/activation report		5 minutes	
Total hours for all respondents to prepare and submit installation/activation reports	(5 min * 1,000 respondents)	83	
Annual hours for installation/activation reports per year	(5 min * 1,000 respondents/4 year service life)	21	13c
Total cost to fax installation and activation reports	(\$3 per fax* 1,000 of respondents)/ 4 year service life)	\$750	14b
Total annual cost for maintenance	\$300 per unit	\$3,000	14b
Hourly Position Reports			
Estimated VMS number of respondents		1,000	
VMS position report transmission costs per respondent	(\$1-\$5/day * 365 days)	\$365 - \$1,825 (\$1,095)	
Annual VMS position report transmission costs for all respondents	(\$365-\$1,825 * 1,000 respondents)	\$365,000 - \$1,825,000 (\$1,095,000)	14b
Exemption Reports			
Estimated VMS number of respondents		1,000	
Annual number of exemption reports per year	(500 vessels at 2 times per year)	1000	13b
Hours per response to prepare and submit exemption report		5 min	
Annual hours for all respondents to prepare and submit exemption reports	(0.08 hours * 1000 reports)	83	13c
Declaration Reports			
Estimated VMS number of respondents		1,000	
Annual number of declaration report	(10 is the estimated average per respondent * 1,000 respondents)	10,000	13b
Hours per response to prepare and submit declaration reports		4 minutes	
Annual hours for all respondents to prepare and submit declaration reports	(4 min * 10,000 reports)	667	13c

Declaration Report Worksheet

This worksheet is for your own use and is intended to help you organize information that will be submitted in a declaration report.
Please do not submit this worksheet to NMFS.

- 1) Dial 1-888-585-5518 to connect to the West Coast Groundfish Declaration Line.
- 2) You will be connected to a live operator during normal business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday) to file a declaration or be asked to leave a voice mail declaration after hours, on weekends or holidays.
- 3) Provide your vessel identification number to the operator or voicemail.

Vessel Number						

- 4) Provide your 5 digit vessel pass code to the operator or voicemail.

Vessel Pass code				

- 5) Provide the two digit code from the list below, to the operator or voicemail.

Code		

- 10 - Limited entry fixed gear, not including shorebased IFQ
- 11 - Limited entry groundfish non-trawl, shorebased IFQ
- 20 - Limited entry midwater trawl gear, non-whiting shorebased IFQ,
- 21 - Limited entry midwater trawl, Pacific whiting shorebased IFQ
- 22 - Limited entry midwater trawl, Pacific whiting catcher/processor sector
- 23 - Limited entry midwater trawl, Pacific whiting mothership sector (catcher vessel or mothership)
- 30 - Limited entry bottom trawl, shorebased IFQ, not including demersal trawl
- 31 - Limited entry demersal trawl, shorebased IFQ
- 33 - Open access longline gear for groundfish
- 34 - Open access groundfish trap or pot gear
- 35 - Open access line gear for groundfish

- 40 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for ridgeback prawn
- 41 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for pink shrimp
- 42 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for CA halibut
- 43 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for sea cucumber
- 50 - Tribal trawl gear
- 60 - Open access prawn trap or pot gear,
- 61 - Open access Dungeness crab trap or pot gear,
- 62 - Open access Pacific Halibut longline gear
- 63 - Open access salmon troll gear
- 64 - Open access California halibut line gear
- 65 - Open access sheephead trap or pot gear
- 66 - Open access Highly Migratory Species line gear
- 67 - Open access Coastal Pelagic Species net gear
- 68 - Open access California gillnet complex gear
- 69 - A gear that is not listed above
- 70 - Other

6) For your records, record the confirmation number provided by the operator. Re-enter the confirmation number in the area provided below.

Confirmation Number						

7) Ask the operator to review the information in your declaration. Once you confirm that your declaration report is correct you may disconnect from the West Coast Groundfish Declaration Line.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Karen Palmigiano, National Marine Fisheries Service/Northwest Region, at karen.palmigiano@noaa.gov.

This information is confidential under Section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Vessel Monitoring Systems Installation and Activation Report for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

This Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Installation and Activation report for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery is provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to the regulatory requirements of 50 C.F.R. 660.14(d). The vessel owner or operator must follow the indicated procedures when installing or re-installing a type-approved VMS transceiver unit.

This VMS installation and Certification Report is applicable for the VMS transceiver units and communications service providers currently approved for use in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. Type-approved VMS units and communication service providers are posted on the NMFS West Coast Region web site at: <http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/vms.html>

Follow the steps for the particular transceiver unit selected by the vessel owner. The vessel owner is responsible for all installation and activation costs. After the installation is complete and unit is activated, the owner must mail or fax the Installation and Activation Certification Report to NMFS, Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), Northwest Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349. Fax (206) 526-6528.

INSTALLATION AND ACTIVATION

Begin by consulting the “NOAA Fisheries Service Type-Approved VMS Units” list for VMS units approved for Fisheries of the West Coast of the United States. This document lists type-approved transceiver units and communications service providers and is available on the NMFS OLE web site: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/about/our_programs/vessel_monitoring.html or from NMFS OLE by calling (206) 526-6135.

A VMS transceiver unit reimbursement opportunity may be available to fishing vessel owners and/or operators that have purchased an approved VMS transceiver unit in order to comply with fishery management regulations. To determine reimbursement eligibility, please review the information available from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission web site, at:

<http://www.psmfc.org/program/vessel-monitoring-system-reimbursement-program-vms?pid=17/>

Purchasing, installing and activating a new VMS transceiver unit:

Step 1: Contact the entities identified as VMS Equipment Provider Contacts on the “NOAA Fisheries Service Type-Approved VMS Units” list. Indicate to the providers that you will be using the VMS transceiver unit for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery and you would like to obtain purchase and installation information on the units they provide. Determine the transceiver unit and communications service provider that best suits your needs. Select which satellite system to use for the fishing vessel’s VMS.

Step 2: Install the VMS transceiver unit and antenna according to the installation instructions contained in the manual supplied by the manufacturer, or contact a marine electronics specialist or dealer to install the unit. **In order to be eligible for VMS transceiver unit reimbursement, a vessel owner and/or operator must have the VMS transceiver unit properly installed on the vessel by an authorized dealer or installer and activated utilizing a type approved communications provider.**

Step 3: Run the cable connecting the unit in the wheelhouse to the antenna mounted outside, through a solid, immovable and permanent part of the vessel such as a bulkhead, deck, or console.

Step 4: Turn on the power to the vessel transceiver.

Step 5: Confirm by phone, with your communications service provider’s Customer Service that periodic position reports are now automatically being sent to NOAA OLE.

Step 6: Once you transceiver unit is installed and activated and you have confirmed with your customer service provider that the unit is operational, fill out the “VMS Installation and Certification Report” and mail or fax it to NMFS.

VMS INSTALLATION AND ACTIVATION CERTIFICATION REPORT

The vessel owner must sign this statement certifying compliance with the installation procedures defined for VMS transceiver unit, then submit this certification to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NMFS, Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), Northwest Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349. Fax (206) 526-6528. Before participating in a fishery requiring VMS transmissions, you must obtain a confirmation from NMFS OLE that the VMS transmissions are being received without error.

Vessel Name: _____

Documentation number: _____ Federal Groundfish Permit Number: _____

VMS Unit Manufacturer: _____ VMS Unit serial number: _____

INMARSAT Serial number (ISN): _____ INMARSAT mobile number (INM): _____

Is this VMS unit a primary or back-up unit? Primary Back-up

VMS Communications Service Provider: _____

(The information listed above should have been provided by the VMS unit manufacture)

Has the VMS Transceiver Unit you are registering been previously registered to another vessel that operated in marine waters off the coast of Washington, Oregon or California? Yes No

Note: Registering a VMS transceiver unit to more than one vessel at the same time is prohibited. If this VMS Transceiver Unit was previously registered to another vessel that operated in marine waters off the coast of Washington, Oregon or California, you must submit with this activation report and proof of ownership of the VMS transceiver unit or proof of service termination from the communication service provider.

Certification: In accordance with 50 C.F.R. 660.14(d), as the owner of a vessel participating in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, I hereby certify that the VMS system on my vessel has been installed in compliance with the applicable procedures and the manufactures instructions.

Vessel Owner Name: _____

Vessel Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

PRA STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 4 hours per installation, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. The burden for submission of this VMS Installation and Activation Certification Report is estimated at 5 minutes per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Office of Law Enforcement, Northwest Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349. The information collection described above is confidential under section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fisheries Statistics.

Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: October 26, 2016.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2016-26155 Filed 10-28-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Expanded Vessel Monitoring System Requirement in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

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 December 30, 2016.

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 Karen Palmigiano, (206) 526-4491 or *Karen.palmigiano@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has established large-scale depth-based management areas, referred to as Groundfish Conservation Areas (GCAs), where groundfish fishing is prohibited

or restricted. These areas were specifically designed to reduce the catch of species while allowing healthy fisheries to continue in areas and with gears where little incidental catch of overfished species is likely to occur. Because NOAA needs methods to effectively enforce area restrictions, certain commercial fishing vessels are required to install and use a vessel monitoring system (VMS) that automatically send hourly position reports. Exemptions from the reporting requirement are available for inactive vessels or vessels fishing outside the monitored area. The vessels are also required to declare what gear will be used.

To ensure the integrity of the GCAs and Rockfish Conservation Areas, a pilot VMS program was implemented on January 1, 2004. The pilot program required vessels registered to Pacific Coast groundfish fishery limited entry permits to carry and use VMS transceiver units while fishing off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. On January 1, 2007, the VMS program coverage was expanded on to include all open access fisheries in addition to the limited entry fisheries. Finally, in 2010, NMFS expanded the declaration reports to include several more limited entry categories.

II. Method of Collection

The installation/activation reports are available over the Internet. Due to the need for the owner's signature, installation reports must be faxed or mailed to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Hourly position reports are automatically sent from VMS transceivers installed aboard vessels. Exemption reports and declaration reports are submitted via a toll-free telephone number.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0573.

Form Number(s): None.

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

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,500.

Estimated Time per Response: VMS installation: 4 hours; VMS maintenance: 4 hours; installation, exemption and activation reports: 5 minutes each; and declaration reports: 4 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 12,872.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$4,350,375.

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 26, 2016.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2016-26159 Filed 10-28-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Licensing of Private Remote-Sensing Space Systems.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0174.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Number of Respondents: 18.

Average Hours per Response: 0 hours for the submission of a license application; 10 hours for the submission of a data protection plan; 5 hours for the submission of a plan describing how the licensee will comply with data collection restrictions; 3 hours for the submission of an operations plan for restricting collection or dissemination of imagery of Israeli territory; 3 hours for submission of a data flow diagram; 2 hours for the submission of satellite sub-systems drawings; 3 hours for the