# NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 09/21/2018

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 05/11/2018

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201805-0648-005
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Washington Steelhead Anglers Survey
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0768
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: 09/30/2021 DISCONTINUE DATE:

| BURDEN: | RESPONSES | HOURS | COSTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previous | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New | 2,776 | 444 | 0 |
| Difference | | | |
| Change due to New Statute | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change due to Agency Discretion | 2,776 | 444 | 0 |
| Change due to Agency Adjustment | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change due to PRA Violation | 0 | 0 | 0 |

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

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

| List of ICs | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IC Title | Form No. | Form Name | CFR Citation |
| Steelhead angler screener | NA | Steelhead survey (Question 1 and Part 2) | |
| Full steelhead survey | NA | Steelhead survey | |

# PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Title Washington Steelhead Anglers Survey

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

9. Keywords

10. Abstract

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) is undertaking an economics research project to assess the preferences and behavior of recreational steelhead anglers in Washington State. Specifically, the research will assess angler responses to catch rates, season timing, gear restrictions, and hatchery releases, and how these actions affect the value of recreational steelhead fishing. The Washington Steelhead Fishing Survey (WSFS) will provide important data to help inform steelhead conservation and fishery management in Washington State and NOAA's West Coast Region. The WSFS will collect data needed to (1) Evaluate how angler preferences for steelhead fishing opportunities ; (2) assess the economic value of steelhead fishing opportunities in Washington State; and (3) assess the change in these values associated with management policies related to balancing conservation and recreational fishery objectives. In particular, policies related to recreational fishery regulations, hatchery management, and the recovery of ESA-listed steelhead and conservation of other wild steelhead stocks. The estimated preference parameters on steelhead angling will serve as inputs into a

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. P 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 (*check one*)
a. [✔] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents 1,652
b. Total annual responses 2,776
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 95 %
c. Total annual hours requested 444
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference 444
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change 444
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. ___ 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) _____

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: Robby Fonner
Phone: 206-302-2469

## 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<br>signed by Ned Cyr 5-8-18 | Date |
| Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer | |
| Signature<br>BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488<br>Digitally signed by BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488<br>Date: 2018.10.10 15:35:03 -04'00' | Date |

## RESEARCH STATEMENT AND LITERATURE REVIEW

We are proposing a data collection from Washington State steelhead anglers. This document (1) summarizes the Pacific Northwest steelhead angling context, (2) reviews prior literature related to the data collection, (3) describes data products generated by the data collection, and (4) discusses how the proposed data collection can inform management decisions.

### Background

Steelhead are an important and valuable recreational fishery in Washington State despite significant declines in wild steelhead populations compared to historical abundances (Gustafson et al. 2007, Ruckelshaus et al. 2002). Underscoring wild steelhead population declines were the listings of five evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) of steelhead in Washington as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)[1]. Owing to their reduced populations, recreational retention of wild steelhead is prohibited in Washington State. In order to provide harvest opportunities, fish hatcheries release marked juvenile steelhead. Upon their return from the ocean these marked fish can be harvested by anglers or tribal fishers. However, hatcheries operated for fishery enhancement can also have negative consequences for wild steelhead through direct competition and genetic interactions with hatchery (Buhle et al. 2009, Naish et al. 2007); so there may be trade-offs between conservation of ESA-listed fish and the recreational opportunities provided to anglers.

Washington steelhead anglers target both hatchery and wild fish. On the hatchery side, anglers harvested an estimated 78 thousand steelhead in 2016 (Kraig and Scalici 2018). There is also demand for targeting wild steelhead in areas and times when regulations permit. For example, NOAA Fisheries recently approved a catch-and-release fishery for an ESA-listed steelhead stock after wild stocks rebounded (Bernton 2018).

### Literature review

Before turning to the availability of economic values in the existing literature, we find it important to make a clear distinction between two economic metrics: economic value and economic impact.

Measures of economic value are derived by integrating under demand curves for market or nonmarket goods. In this case, the good is recreational steelhead fishing trips in Washington State. The economic value of a steelhead fishing trip is the maximum amount of money or other goods an individual is willing to give up (willingness-to-pay) in order to take the trip. The methods we use also allow the calculation of willingness-to-pay for trip attributes, such as catch rates for hatchery and wild steelhead, and for season long measures, such as closures in a particular river. Economic value is useful for capturing the net benefits associated with a particular management change, in contrast to economic impact. Economic impacts are a measure of the gross economic activity within a particular study region and are estimated by applying input-output models of the regional economy to determine how angler expenditures on trips and

[1] These ESUs, with listing year in parentheses, include: Snake River Steelhead (1997), Lower Columbia River steelhead (1998), Middle Columbia River Steelhead (1999), Puget Sound Steelhead in (2007), and Upper Columbia River Steelhead (2009).

durable goods support jobs and incomes. Without a behavioral model, input-output models provide only gross measures of economic activity and are not capable of quantifying the net benefits of the change to be valued. The primary goal of our proposed study is to estimate economic values, so we do not consider distinct studies that measure only economic impact for steelhead fishing in our review of the literature.

Economic values for goods have been shown to be relatively stable in short time frames, but relying on values from past studies that are decades old in current applications is questionable, and would likely result in large transfer errors (Boman et al. 2011, Johnston and Rosenberger 2010, Rosenberger and Johnston 2009, Zandersen, Termansen, and Jensen 2007). Based on our review of the literature, there are no economic values of steelhead fishing in Washington State that are calculated using survey data from within the last 20 years. The most recent Washington State study that we were able to locate was administered 20 years ago, in 1998 (Layton, Brown, and Plummer 1999). To illustrate the age of potentially relevant steelhead studies among all the studies we examined – including those in other states – we classify each by the number of decades between the current period and the year in which the surveys were fielded. There is one study (in California) that uses data from within the last 10 years (The Program for Applied Research and Evaluation 2013), one study (in Ohio) between 10 and 20 years ago (Kelch et al. 2006), five studies that use data 20 to 30 years old (Layton, Brown, and Plummer 1999, Loomis 1992, 1996, Loomis and White 1996, Olsen, Richards, and Scott 1991), four studies that use surveys between 30 and 40 years old (Donnelly 1985, Johnson and Adams 1988, 1989, Sorg and Loomis 1986), and three studies that rely on data more than 40 years old (Brown, Singh, and Castle 1965, Chou-Yang 1980, Loomis 1988).

There are no studies in the literature that separate out values for hatchery and wild steelhead catch rates. In addition to grouping hatchery and wild steelhead together, a number of studies also group salmon together with steelhead in a way where their values are not separable (Brown, Singh, and Castle 1965, Layton, Brown, and Plummer 1999, Loomis 1996, Loomis and White 1996, Olsen, Richards, and Scott 1991). This lack of distinct values for hatchery and wild steelhead represents a major shortcoming of the current literature – as both fishery managers and anglers consider hatchery and wild fish to have different costs and benefits, our research must be capable of treating them distinctly.

Another issue with the existing studies is related to the framing of value. To evaluate the effects of changes in season length, including closures and changes in hatchery production, we need a behavioral model capable of estimating changes in fishing effort. Instead, some existing studies provide the total economic value to the general population, rather than the change in value to the angling population from changes to the fishery (Layton, Brown, and Plummer 1999, Loomis 1996, Loomis and White 1996, Olsen, Richards, and Scott 1991). These studies seek to quantify the net value to all members of the population, for increases in the viability of steelhead populations. A number of studies come closer our needs, by capturing the value of fishing to the steelhead angling population directly (Brown, Singh, and Castle 1965, Chou-Yang 1980, Donnelly 1985, Johnson and Adams 1988, 1989, Kelch et al. 2006, Loomis 1988, 1992, Sorg and Loomis 1986, The Program for Applied Research and Evaluation 2013). However, all of these provide the value framed in terms of a steelhead fishing day. Using these values for evaluating the effects of changes in management would still require knowing how the number of days fished would change under the relevant management scenarios we seek to evaluate. Such a model does not exist in the literature.

Regional specificity is also an important consideration in determining which values would be the most defensible to transfer from existing studies. Fewer than half of the studies included in this review are specific to Washington State (Brown, Singh, and Castle 1965, Chou-Yang 1980, Layton, Brown, and Plummer 1999, Loomis 1996, Olsen, Richards, and Scott 1991). Although we have considered studies from other states, some of these are very different fisheries where steelhead are actually an introduced species (Kelch et al. 2006) and earlier attempts to transfer benefits across state lines in a seemingly ideal setting (neighboring states) have shown to be problematic (Loomis 1992). Specifically, the equality of values was rejected between steelhead days in Oregon and steelhead days in Idaho. This suggests that attempts to transfer benefits across state lines should be conducted with caution.

Based on these criteria, it is our determination that using a benefit transfer approach using any of the available studies in the literature would not serve as a viable alternative to a primary data collection, on the multiple levels discussed above.

**Products of the planned data collection**

The proposed data collection will employ a choice experiment format to estimate angler preferences for steelhead trips to Washington rivers. In particular, the data collection and subsequent modeling will facilitate estimation of several policy-relevant values that characterize angler preferences for steelhead trip attributes and behavioral responses to changes in management. These values include:

- The economic value of steelhead fishing in individual rivers under (a) current and potential future catch rates for hatchery and wild salmon and (b) current and potential future season lengths / closures

- A model quantifying the number of trips anglers would take, conditional on catch rates and season lengths, and quantifying these changes re-allocate effort to other rivers

In addition to the choice model outputs listed above, the proposed collection will gather individual angler characteristics and trip expenditures by river and angler type. Angler demographics, including income and area of residence, will facilitate characterization of river-specific steelhead fisheries in terms of the anglers who frequent them. As a secondary motivation, the expenditure data can serve as inputs to an economic impact model created by colleagues at our Science Center that estimate the impacts of angler trip expenditures on incomes and employment in the regional economy.

Finally, the proposed data collection will generate estimates of current levels of angling pressure at specific Washington state rivers. At present, estimating angling pressure is typically estimated using Catch Record Card Data that only includes data on retained fish (e.g. NMFS 2017b).

Moreover, the proposed data collection will facilitate research within a body of literature that is examining management of multi-use species, or species whose marginal values can be positive or negative depending on population size (e.g. Rondeau 2001, Zivin, Hueth, and Zilberman 2000). Hatchery steelhead likely fit into this category given their value as a recreational resource coupled with their

potentially negative influence on wild stocks. This collection will also provide a freshwater context to existing literature evaluating heterogeneous angler preferences and substitutability between hatchery and wild fish caught in marine sport fisheries (Anderson and Lee 2013).

**How the proposed data collection can inform policy and management**

Because steelhead fishery and hatchery operations can have negative consequences for wild steelhead stocks, steelhead fisheries plans and steelhead hatchery programs operating in regions with ESA-listed populations are subject to NMFS review. These reviews are conducted to ensure the planned activities are consistent with ESA conservation and recovery goals. In particular, the National Environmental Policy Act requires that NMFS conduct an environmental impact statement (EIS) for resource management plans that have significant negative environmental impacts, including take of ESA-listed species. The EIS process includes consideration of economic effects, and prior EIS evaluations of steelhead management utilize estimates of recreational catch and trip expenditures to estimate economic impacts under alternative management scenarios (e.g. NMFS 2017b, a).

The first section of this document described a steelhead policy landscape in the Pacific Northwest that requires resource managers to balance NMFS conservation objectives and other valuable uses for steelhead. The need to strike this balance is due to the multi-objective nature of current steelhead management. For example, instead of focusing solely on conservation, existing fishery and hatchery management plans seek to provide recreational and tribal harvest opportunities for steelhead while achieving conservation goals (NMFS 2017b, 2018, 2017a). Components of past hatchery management plans in Washington include hatcheries to supplement fisheries, conservation hatcheries, catch-and-release fisheries, and establishment of a network of “Wild Gene Banks” or rivers where wild fish are largely protected from the effects of hatchery programs (WDFW 2018, NMFS 2017b, 2018, 2017a). The proposed data collection will provide information for estimating the economic value of recreational fisheries under multi-objective management alternatives designed to meet conservation objectives while providing valuable angling opportunities.

The data products associated with the proposed data collection will provide estimates of economic value, expenditures, and behavioral responses that can serve as inputs to EIS analyses and other policy evaluation processes. As discussed in the literature review, these estimates represent more recent, rigorous, and fishery-specific estimates compared to the economic data that are currently available.

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**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**
**Washington Steelhead Anglers Survey**
**OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx**

## A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) is undertaking an economics research project to assess the preferences and behavior of recreational steelhead anglers in Washington State. Specifically, the research will assess angler responses to catch rates, season timing, gear restrictions, and hatchery releases, and how these actions affect the value of recreational steelhead fishing. Managing steelhead in Washington State requires consideration of federal statues including the Endangered Species Act and the Mitchell Act. The Washington Steelhead Fishing Survey (WSFS) will provide important data to help managers balance objectives for steelhead conservation under the Endangered Species Act and objectives for fishery management under the Mitchell Act and related federal statutes.

The WSFS will collect data needed to (1) evaluate angler preferences for steelhead fishing opportunities; (2) assess the economic value of steelhead fishing opportunities in Washington State; and (3) assess the change in these values associated with management policies related to balancing conservation and recreational fishery objectives. In particular, policies related to recreational fishery regulations, hatchery management, and the recovery of ESA-listed steelhead and conservation of other wild steelhead stocks.

The data necessary to estimate such models has not yet been collected to our knowledge despite the inherent tradeoffs in balancing management objectives across a set of heterogeneous river systems. The estimated preference parameters on steelhead angling will serve as inputs into a management model for identifying cost-effective strategies for balancing conservation, recreational, and cultural objectives.

All of the protocols that will be used in the final survey will be tested prior to the full survey administration. If the survey needs revision based on this pretest, we will submit the revised instruments as part of a non-substantive change request.

### 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.

The information collected will be used to estimate an economic model of angler behavior, depicting the trade-offs anglers are willing to make among fishing trips with different attributes (catch rates, gear restrictions, season length) and not going fishing. The estimates from this behavioral model will, in turn, be used to develop a model that can simulate the welfare effects of policy alternatives and identify cost-effective management solutions. We anticipate that the model will be used at least biannually to assess potential impacts of management alternatives on

angler welfare and to identify socially beneficial steelhead management policies. The individual sections of the final survey are discussed below in more detail.

Section A: Your Washington State Steelhead Fishing Activity

The first part of Section A asks respondents how many times they fished for steelhead in Washington State in the past 12 months. It is intended to screen out respondents who have not fished for steelhead in Washington State within the past 12 months. If a respondent has done such fishing, a second question in this section asks respondents how many of their trips were taken for winter steelhead to gauge how their angling effort is distributed across winter and summer seasons. If the respondent has not done such fishing, they skip ahead to Section E.

Section B: Your Favorite Washington State Steelhead Rivers

Section B asks respondents to select from a list their favorite three Washington steelhead rivers. Section B then asks about the respondent's trips and catches at these rivers and gathers information on their assessment of fishing conditions at each river. The information collected in Section B is used to help inform our evaluation of what drives trip-taking behavior in Section D.

Section C: Your Angler Profile

Section C gathers information on the respondent's typical trips, including preferred fishing gear, use of boat, length of trips and number of people that go on trips with the respondent. This section also asks respondents to report their typical expenditures within categories including fishing supplies, access fees, and lodging.

Section D: Trips You Would Likely Take During a Season

Section D gathers information on how a respondent is likely to react to different fishing opportunities, as described by catch rates of wild and hatchery steelhead, season-length regulations, and gear restrictions.

Section E: Your Attitudes about Fishery Management and Conservation

Section E asks respondents about their attitudes and perceptions regarding management of steelhead conservation and recovery. Specifically, the section asks respondents' their perceptions about the threats facing wild steelhead populations.

Section F: Information about you and your household

Section E asks a series of demographic and other questions the answers to which can be used to improve the estimation of the recreational fishing behavioral model. These questions will gather information on age, gender, education, household size, household income, and whether the respondent takes time off work to take steelhead fishing trips.

NWFSC 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. Although the information collected is not expected to be disseminated directly to the public, results may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications. 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.

Prior to its public release, the economic model will be reviewed internally by experts at NWFSC and peer reviewed as part of the publication process in academic journals.

**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 data collection does not involve the use of automated, mechanical or other technological techniques with the exception that the survey instrument will be administered online to respondents who prefer that medium to a paper form.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.**

We reviewed the existing literature on recreational activities in the region and could not find any studies that imply our effort is duplicative of any work conducted previously. We also conferred with state officials in Washington with responsibilities for managing recreational steelhead fishing and they could not identify any existing or planned duplicative efforts.

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

The collection of information does not involve small businesses or small entities.

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

As noted before, the survey will collect information needed to develop economic models of recreational steelhead fishing in Washington. This research will provide scientific support for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as resource managers at NOAA's West Coast Region. Not conducting the information collection will undercut the ability to account for the economic value of recreational steelhead fishing, thus limiting the ability of agencies to craft cost-effective conservation and management policies.

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

This is not applicable.

**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 January 11, 2018 (83 FR 40676) solicited public comments. We received a single comment that generally disapproved of spending public funds for the study of recreational fishing and hunting. We have also consulted with personnel at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the data we are collecting.

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

Each survey participation request mailed to potential respondents will contain a $2 cash gift. Research has demonstrated that including small financial incentives of one to five dollars with a survey request can significantly improve the response rate (Dillman, D.A., J.D. Smyth, and L.M. Christian. 2009. Internet, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailor Design Method. Wiley, New York.).

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

To support the anonymity of this research, no participant names will be included on the survey document. Participant names will be tracked in a separate database to code participants for protection during data analysis, confirm receipt of a survey from each individual, and avoid of duplication of responses.

Documents containing names will be kept in a locked container such as a lock box in the field or a locked file cabinet in the office setting. All electronic versions will be kept under password protected systems, accessible only by study researchers.

When writing final reports and publishing the findings of this research, tabulations of individual responses will occur at a high enough level of aggregation so that no single individual may be identified. In addition to the confidentiality protection measures, survey participants are provided the option to skip questions of concern and stop their participation in the survey at any time with no consequence to themselves. Finally, in the event of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, we will protect the confidentiality to the extent possible under the Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

**11. <u>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</u>.**

The survey includes questions that gather demographic information, including information on income. This is considered sensitive information for some households. This information will be used as part of the statistical analysis of survey responses, as is common in estimating economic demand functions.

**12. <u>Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information</u>.**

We estimate the annual burden of this data collection to be 444 hours, 2,776 responses and 1,652 unduplicated respondents. Potential survey participants respond to survey solicitation by completing a screening survey. There will be an estimated 1,652 screening surveys completed online. We estimate that 1,124 of the 1,652 respondents who complete the screening survey will go on to complete the full survey, including 472 completed surveys from steelhead anglers and 652 completed surveys from anglers who have not fished for steelhead in the past year.

Burden estimates were calculated by multiplying the estimated time to complete each contact by the number of estimated contacts of each type. Specifically, we estimate that it will require 25 minutes, 10 minutes, and 5 minutes to complete the survey for a steelhead angler, the survey for a non-steelhead angler, and the screening survey, respectively. We estimate 472 completed surveys from steelhead anglers (197 hours), 652 completed surveys from non-steelhead anglers (109 hours), and 1,652 completed screening surveys (138 hours).

We estimate a 32% response rate for the screener survey and a 22% response rate for the full survey. For more detail, see the response to B1.

The steps in the data collection follow a modified Dillman Method protocol (Dillman 2009), and are as follows. Overall, attempted contacts are first made through a letter by mail. Follow up requests are then made with telephone calls and reminder postcards. We are constructing our potential respondent list from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife angling license database, specifically from a list 2016-2017 license holders who indicated that they intended to fish for steelhead.

<u>Mail attempt for records with addresses</u>:
Each record will be examined to determine whether there is a mailing address. Records that have an address will be contacted by mail with a request to participate in the survey.

<u>Reminders to respond:</u>
License holders who do not go online to complete the screener after being mailed the participation request will be sent a postcard reminder to encourage their participation. For records that include email addresses, an email reminder will be sent first and then a postcard reminder sent several days later if they still have not gone online to take the survey. The mailed participation request will include a phone number for individuals to call if they prefer to be mailed a paper survey to return rather than taking the survey online.

Online screener:
Mailed survey invitations will include a link and access code for the online screener. The online screener will separate the sample into two groups: steelhead anglers and non-steelhead anglers. Steelhead anglers will be given the full web survey while non-steelhead anglers will only answer demographic and attitudinal questions.

Reminders for incomplete surveys:
A reminder postcard will be sent to respondents who complete the online screener but do not complete the survey. For records that include email addresses, an email reminder will be sent first and then a postcard reminder sent several days later if they still have not completed the survey.

These steps are outlined in Figure A1 of the Appendix.

Burden estimates were calculated by multiplying the estimated time to complete each contact by the number of estimated contacts of each type. Specifically, we estimate that it will require 25 minutes, 10 minutes, and 5 minutes to complete the survey for a steelhead angler, the survey for a non-steelhead angler, and the screening survey, respectively. We estimate 472 completed surveys from steelhead anglers (197 hours), 652 completed surveys from non-steelhead anglers (109 hours), and 1,652 completed screening surveys (138 hours). All estimates are annualized.

**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 are no costs excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12. Mailed surveys will be accompanied by a postage-paid envelope.

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

The survey is being administered by an outside contractor. The costs to the federal government are limited to the cost of the contract, which is estimated to total $55,000 in the 2018 fiscal year plus an estimated 60 hours each from two NOAA economists at the ZP3 pay band. Although the economists will be employed full time by the federal government with or without this project, these hours would be diverted to other valuable tasks in the absence of this data collection. We use hourly loaded wage rates to estimate these opportunity costs. Assuming annual salaries of $100,000, and a 40% benefit load, these hours amount to $5,571 annually for salary and benefits related to this data collection.

Therefore, the total estimated annual costs incurred by the federal government as a result of implementing this survey are $60,571.

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

This is a new program.

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

The methodology and results from economic models be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Tabulations of responses will be aggregated in order to maintain sufficient confidentiality, as described in the answer to question 10, above.

**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.**

This is not applicable, as we are not seeking such an approval.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.**

This is not applicable, as we are not seeking such an exception.

**APPENDIX**:
This appendix contains supporting details for the burden estimate contained in this Supporting Statement. In particular, flowcharts of the contacts are provided along with estimates of the factors that affect this calculation, such as the percentage of the population in the sample frame that have a valid mailing address.

**Figure A1**. Contact Flowchart for Survey

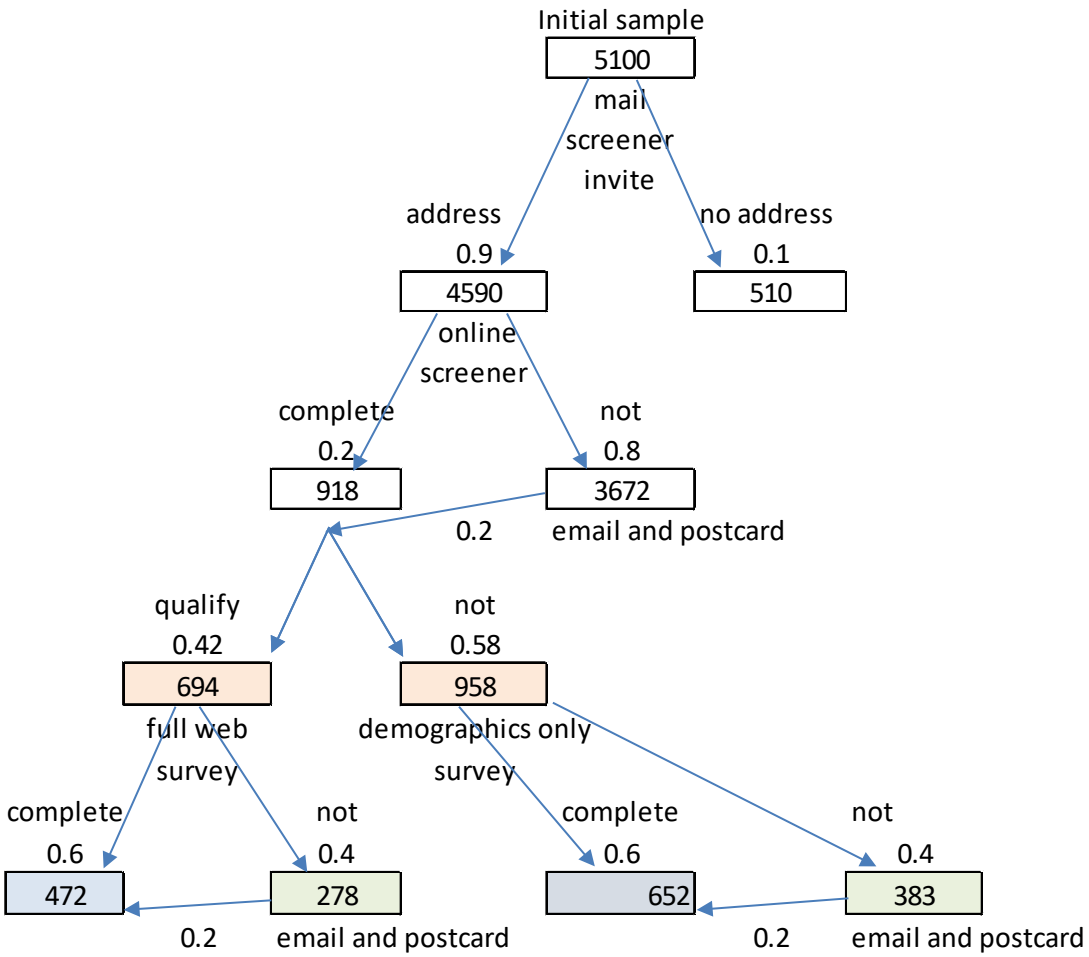

**Table A1**. Factors Contributing to Burden Estimate

| Factor | Estimate |
|---|---|
| Address in licensing database | 90% |
| Percent of individuals mailed screener invitation who complete the online screener without further contact | 20% |
| Percent of individuals who don't complete survey initially that subsequently complete the online screener after receiving a reminder postcard and phone call | 20% |
| Individuals taking the online screener who qualify for the full survey | 42% |
| Individuals who qualify for the full survey that complete the full survey | 60% |
| Percent of qualifying individuals who do not complete the full survey initially but subsequently complete the full survey after receiving a reminder postcard and phone call | 20% |
| Individuals who do not qualify for the full survey but complete the demographics survey | 60% |
| Percent of non-qualifying individuals who do not complete the demographics survey initially that subsequently complete the demographics survey after receiving a reminder postcard and phone call | 20% |
| Minutes to complete, steelhead angler | 25 |
| Minutes to complete, non-steelhead angler | 10 |
| Minutes to complete screener | 5 |

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**
**Washington Steelhead Anglers Survey**
**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 for this survey is Washington State fishing license holders who are resident adults and have fished for steelhead in the preceding 12 month period. The sample frame consists of a recreational fishing license database maintained and held by the state of Washington. The sample frame includes only individuals who, when purchasing their license, indicated they intended to fish for steelhead and requested the necessary steelhead harvest tag. Our initial estimate of the size of this universe is 239,000 anglers overall. Our estimate of the population size will be revised through this process. We plan to select 5,100 individuals from the population using the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife license database. We expect that mailing addresses will be available for 4,590 of the selected individuals, and those individuals will be contacted by mail. We further expect that of the selected individuals, 1,652 will complete the screening survey and a total of 1,124 individuals will complete the full survey. Thus, for the screener and full surveys we expected response rates of 32% and 22%, respectively. Our assumptions are based on prior economic surveys conducted by NOAA Fisheries including the West Coast Saltwater Fishing Survey and the Puget Sound Recreational Shellfish Harvesting Survey.

| Universe | Total Contacted | Total Completed Mail/Web Surveys Steelhead Anglers | Total Completed Mail / Web Surveys Non-steelhead Anglers | Total Completed Web Screening Surveys |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 239,000 | 5,100 | 472 | 652 | 1,652 |

Individuals who purchase a fishing license are asked if they intend on fishing for steelhead. We will sample from the licensing databases where the angler indicated they intended to fish for steelhead.

**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.**

We will use simple random sampling from the population of anglers in the Washington licensing database that held a steelhead harvest tag, required to fish for steelhead. We estimated that we need about 300-500 responses from steelhead anglers to adequately characterize steelhead trip-taking preferences among multiple angler groups in our population. This estimate is based on previous survey collection efforts targeting similar populations and estimating similar types of statistical models.

Data collected through this survey will be used for the estimation of economic models of steelhead behavior intended to support ongoing recreational fishing and conservation policy making on the West Coast. Specifically, we will estimate probabilistic choice models such as the mixed logit using the single trip discrete choice experiment questions (Section 3 in the survey) and we will estimate count models of annual steelhead trips (effort) such as the Poisson and negative binomial using the season-long contingent behavior questions (Section 4 in the survey).

While more accurate data are clearly preferred for both sets of models, standards do not exist regarding the accuracy of data required for estimation of an econometric model. Factors such as the minimization of model specification error also contribute to the quality of the empirical results obtained using survey data. It is not possible to state a level of accuracy that is required for all uses and applications of data collected by this survey. However, 300-500 responses has yielded acceptable results in our previous work, allowing us to test for competing model specifications and uncover both discrete as well as continuous preference heterogeneity in the angling population.

In order to reduce the time cost of reporting, as well as the financial cost to the federal government, we intend to collect similar data no more than every five years. This frequency is adequate to capture changing environmental conditions and angler preferences over time.

**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.**

The information collection will attempt to maximize response rates by following the suggestions of Dillman (2009). In particular, the repeated contacts through multiple mediums (phone and mail) attempt to increase the percentage of sampled anglers who are reached by one or more contacts as well as to allow flexibility with regard to how the respondents choose to respond. Both of these factors are intended to maximize response rates.

Unit nonresponse will be examined through two comparisons. First, we will compare respondent demographics with the demographics available in the license databases. Second, we will

compare the answers from the brief screening and demographics survey given to non-steelhead anglers to answers from the full online and mail surveys. The results of these comparisons will inform the potential benefit of applying weights to address any observed differences.

**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.**

We will conduct an informal pretest of the survey using all of the protocols that will be used in the final survey. The pretest, which will be administered informally to colleagues, will likely consist of around 50 completed surveys. The purpose of the pretest is to determine whether the survey instrument provides the data needed, as well as to test survey procedures and protocol. If the survey needs revision, we will submit the revised instruments as part of a non-substantive change request.

**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.**

Robby Fonner (P.I.)
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Blvd. East
Seattle, WA 98112-2097
Phone: 206-302-2469

Leif Anderson (co-P.I.)
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Blvd. East
Seattle, WA 98112-2097
Phone: 206-302-2403

**Survey of Washington State Steelhead Anglers**

*Note: Survey components highlighted with this green are contingent on the respondent's answers to prior questions*

## I. First contact (mailer)

Hello Washington State steelhead angler,

NOAA Fisheries is conducting a study to evaluate how anglers value recreational angling opportunities in Washington State. Your participation will help scientists and fisheries managers to better understand how to balance recreation and conservation goals in Washington rivers. The survey takes around 25 minutes to complete. We are including $2 to thank you in advance for taking the survey. Your participation and honest feedback are greatly appreciated.

To complete the survey, please go to the survey website. When prompted, enter your survey access code.

Survey website: www.XXXsteelheadsurveyXXX.gov

Access code: XXX-XXX-XXX

If you do not have access to the internet, please call (206)-XXX-XXX and we will send you a paper copy of the survey to complete and return.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 25 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 Robby Fonner, NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112-2097.To support the anonymity of this research, no participant names will be included on the survey document. Participant names will be tracked in a separate database to code participants for protection during data analysis, confirm receipt of a survey from each individual, and avoid of duplication of responses. Documents containing names will be kept in a locked container such as a lock box in the field or a locked file cabinet in the office setting. All electronic versions will be kept under password protected systems, accessible only by study researchers. 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.

## II. Online questionnaire part one

SCREENER

Q1:
How many steelhead fishing trips did you take in Washington state in the past twelve months?
____(# of trips)

➔ If respondent answers one or more, proceed to Q1A. If respondent answers less than one, skip ahead to Part 2.

Q1A:
How many of those trips were for winter-run steelhead?

FAVORITE RIVERS

Q2:
How many rivers have you fished for steelhead over the past three years?

➔ If respondent answers three or more rivers proceed to Q2A and select the three rivers you fished in most frequently.

➔ If respondent answers one or two rivers, select those one or two rivers in Q2B.

Q2A:
Please review the following list of Washington steelhead rivers. Please select the three steelhead rivers you recall fishing most frequently over the past three years.

Q2B:
Please review the following list of Washington steelhead rivers. Please select the {one, two} steelhead rivers you reported fishing over the past three years in the previous question.

River list:

Puget Sound
- Skagit system (including Sauk and Cascade rivers)
- Snohomish
- Snoqualmie
- Skykomish
- Nooksack
- Stillaguamish

Coastal
- Satsop
- Humptulips
- Wynoochee
- Calawah
- Chehalis

Columbia

- Cowlitz
- Kalama
- Lewis
- Wind
- White Salmon

Olympic Peninsula

- Sol Duc
- Bogachiel
- Hoh
- Quinault

Eastern slope

- Klickitat
- Tucannon
- Wenatchee
- Okanogan
- Methow
- Walla Walla
- Washougal
- Snake

Other

- Other _____
- Another other _____

Q3:
Now think back to your steelhead fishing trips over the last twelve months at each of the rivers you selected in the previous question.

i) How many trips did you take to favorite river in the last twelve months? ____ (# of trips)

How long does it take you to reach the access site on favorite river?
____ (# of hours) ____ (# of minutes)

How many days do you typically spend fishing on a trip to favorite river? ____ (# of days)

How many hours do you spend fishing each day? ____ (# of hours)

How many hatchery steelhead did you catch on these trips? ____ (# of steelhead)

How many wild steelhead did you catch on these trips? ____ (# of steelhead)

ii) How many trips did you take to second-favorite river in the last twelve months? ____ (# of trips)

How long does it take you to reach the access site on second-favorite favorite river? ____ (# of hours) ____ (# of minutes)

How many days do you typically spend fishing on a trip to second-favorite favorite river? ____ (# of days)

How many hatchery steelhead did you catch on these trips? ____ (# of steelhead)

How many wild steelhead did you catch on these trips? ____ (# of steelhead)

ii) How many trips did you take to third-favorite river in the last twelve months? ____ (# of trips)

How long does it take you to reach the access site on third-favorite favorite river? ____ (# of hours) ____ (# of minutes)

How many days do you typically spend fishing on a trip to third-favorite favorite river? ____ (# of days)

How many hatchery steelhead did you catch on these trips? ____ (# of steelhead)

How many wild steelhead did you catch on these trips? ____ (# of steelhead)

Q4:
Based on your prior fishing experiences, rate each of these rivers according to their natural beauty, ease of accessibility (e.g. accessibility of bank fishing or boat launch), and level of congestion (i.e. crowding on the river):

Note: The river-characteristic rows will be shown to respondents one at a time.

| | Favorite River | Second Favorite River | Third Favorite River |
|---|---|---|---|
| Natural Beauty (1-not naturally beautiful ; 5-very naturally beautiful) | | | |
| Ease of accessibility (1-very difficult to access; 5-very easy to access) | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Level of congestion<br>(1-very congested;<br>5- no congestion) | | | |

ANGLER TRIP CHARACTERISTICS

Q5:
What types of gear do you use to fish for steelhead?
Bait: {YES / NO}
Artificial lures: {YES / NO}
Artificial fly: {YES / NO}
Which method do you use most frequently? {BAIT/LURE/FLY}

Q6:
Do you typically fish from shore or from a boat? (note: answer "boat" if you typically use a boat to access sites where you fish from the bank)
{SHORE/BOAT}

➔ If respondent answers BOAT, proceed to Q6A. If respondent answers SHORE, skip ahead to Q7.

Q6A:
If boat, do you own the boat? {OWN/FRIEND/GUIDE/OTHER}

Q7: On steelhead fishing trips where you spend the night, is steelhead fishing typically the main purpose of the trip? {YES/NO}
*Note: Q7 only asked for respondents who say they take overnight trips in Q3*

Q8:
Do you typically go steelhead fishing alone of with other people? {ALONE/WITH OTHERS}

➔ If respondent answers WITH OTHERS, proceed to Q8A. If respondent answers ALONE, skip ahead to Q9.

Q8A:
If with other people, many other people typically go on steelhead fishing trips with you?
{1/2/3/4/5+}

Q9: How much money do you typically spend during an entire steelhead trip in each of the expenditure categories below? Please report typical expenditures related to an entire fishing trip away from home, not just the time you spend fishing.

Fishing tackle, gear, and bait (e.g. lures, flies, eggs, shrimp, leader, weights, etc.) $_____

Lodging at motels, cabins, or campgrounds $_____
*Note: Q7 only asked for respondents who say they take overnight trips in Q3*

Food, drink and refreshments $_____

Public transportation (e.g. airplane, train, bus, car rental, ferry) $_____

Parking, access, and boat launching fees $_____

## III. Online choice experiment

*Note: Each respondent will be asked to make a series of about ten discrete choices between hypothetical fishing trips using the format shown below.*

INSTRUCTIONS

"Imagine you are considering taking a steelhead fishing trip and have narrowed your decision between the {respondents favorite rivers from Q2} rivers. Further assume that the management of these rivers, and the abundance of steelhead in the rivers may change compared to your current expectations.

You will now be presented with a series of steelhead trip-taking scenarios, describing the conditions at each of the three rivers you most commonly use. For each scenario, select the steelhead-fishing trip you would take, or if you would not take a trip under the listed conditions, select "Do not take a trip."

As you make your decisions, keep in mind:

- That regulations prohibit the harvest of wild steelhead.
- To please read all of the information provided before making your selection.
- To consider each choice separately, without thinking about previous decisions.
- Your typical process for making steelhead fishing trip decisions, and the amount of time you have to spend fishing.

EXAMPLE CHOICE EXPERIMENT CHOICE

| **Trip characteristics** | **Favorite river** | **Second favorite river** | **Third favorite river** | **Do not take a trip** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Catch rates for wild steelhead | Reported catch rate | Reported catch rate - 25% | Reported catch rate - 25% | |
| Catch rates for hatchery steelhead | Reported catch rate - 25% | Reported catch rate - 25% | Reported catch rate + 25% | |
| Gear restrictions | Fly only | Selective gear (single hook, barbless) | No restrictions | |
| Travel time to site | 2.5 hours | 1 hour | 30 minutes | |
| **Your choice** (choose one) | **[ ]** | **[ ]** | **[ ]** | **[ ]** |

## IV. Online contingent behavior questions

INSTRUCTIONS
Please direct your attention to the table below:

- Row 1 contains information about your trips to the [selected rivers] over the past year.
- Row 2 contains the information about the fishing seasons on those rivers during the past year.
- Row 3 describes the expected fishing seasons on the rivers next year.
- ➢ **In Row 4, please enter the number of trips you expect to take next year, the season described by Row 3.**

EXAMPLE CONTINGENT BEHAVIOR CHOICE

| | **Trip Characteristics** | **Favorite river** | **Second favorite river** | **Third favorite river** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Past steelhead season | Wild steelhead returning | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| | Hatchery steelhead returning | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| | Season length | XXX days | XXX days | XXX days |
| | Gear restrictions | Fly only | Selective | No restrictions |
| Reported trips | | XXX trips | XXX trips | XXX trips |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Next steelhead season (expected) | Wild steelhead returning<br><br>Hatchery steelhead returning<br><br>Season length<br><br>Gear restrictions | XXX<br><br>XXX<br><br>XXX days<br><br>Selective | XXX<br><br>XXX<br><br>XXX days<br><br>Fly only | XXX<br><br>XXX<br><br>XXX days<br><br>No restrictions |
| Expected number of trips next season | | (enter number) | (enter number) | (enter number) |

## V. Online questionnaire part two

OPINIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS HATCHERIES

Q11:
Do you prefer to catch hatchery or wild steelhead? {HATCHERY/WILD/INDIFFERENT}

- ➔ If respondent answered HATCHERY, proceed to Q11A, if answered WILD, proceed to Q12

Q11A:
Why do you prefer to catch hatchery steelhead?
{ALLOWED TO HARVEST/DON'T WANT TO DISTURB WILD FISH/OTHER}

Q12:
Hatcheries are necessary for providing adequate steelhead angling opportunities in Washington state {STRONGLY DISAGREE - STRONGLY AGREE}

Q13:
I would take more steelhead angling trips if opportunities increased for catching and harvesting hatchery steelhead {STRONGLY DISAGREE - STRONGLY AGREE}

Q14:
Opportunities for catching wild steelhead would likely increase over time if hatchery production was reduced in Washington {STRONGLY DISAGREE - STRONGLY AGREE}

DEMOGRAPHICS

Q15.
How long have you lived in Washington state? _____ (years)

Q16.
What is your current age? _____ (years)

Q17.
What is your annual household income, before taxes?
{$0- $25,000; $25,001- $50,000; $50,001-$75,000; $75,001-$100,000; $100,001-$125,000; $125,001-$150,000; $150,001-$175,000; $175,001-$200,000; More than $200,000}

Q18.
What is your highest level of education?
{SOME HIGH SCHOOL; HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE; SOME COLLEGE; ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE; BACHELOR'S DEGREE; GRADUATE or PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL}

Q19.
What is your race?
{ASIAN; BLACK; WHITE; NATIVE AMERICAN; PACIFIC ISLANDER; OTHER}

Q20.
What is your ethnicity?
{HISPANIC; NON-HISPANIC}

Q21.
What is your marital status?
{SINGLE; MARRIED; DIVORCED}

Q22.
How many people are in your household? ____ (persons)

Q23.
Do you ever take off work to go on steelhead fishing trips? {YES/NO}

- ➔ If respondent answers YES, go to Q23A then Q23B, if NO survey is complete

Q23A.
What type of time off work do you typically take to go on steelhead fishing trips?
{I TYPICALLY TAKE PAID TIME OFF; I TYPICALLY TAKE UNPAID TIME OFF; I TAKE PAID AND UNPAID TIME OFF ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT}

Q23B. How often do you take off work to go on steelhead fishing trips?

{ALMOST EVERY TRIP/ABOUT THREE OUT OF FOUR TRIPS/ABOUT HALF OF MY TRIPS/ ABOUT ONE IN FOUR TRIPS/ LESS THAN ONE IN FOUR TRIPS?

END OF SURVEY

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Survey of Recreational Steelhead Fishermen in Washington State

**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 March 12, 2018.

**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 Robby Fonner, (206) 302–2469 or *robby.fonner@noaa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Abstract

This request is for a new collection of information.

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Southwest Fisheries Science Center are undertaking an economics research project to assess the preferences of recreational steelhead anglers for trip attributes including opportunities for catching wild and hatchery steelhead. The Economic Survey of Recreational Steelhead Fishermen (ESRSF) will yield information on angling preferences that will inform management of recreational steelhead resources and steelhead hatchery operations in The Pacific Northwest. More specifically, the ESRSF will collect data needed to (1) assess the socioeconomic characteristics of recreational anglers; (2) assess the economic value of steelhead recreational fishing trips through statistical estimation of models; and (3) assess the change in these values associated with possible changes in recreational steelhead angling opportunities, including catch rates of wild and hatchery fish, site attributes, and travel costs.

#### II. Method of Collection

A sample of Washington State fishing license holders who intended to fish for steelhead will be screened with an email survey (screener), followed by an internet survey. Sampled anglers who do not have an email address in the license database used for sampling will be sent an invitation by mail to the web-based screener and subsequent survey. Respondents to the internet survey will submit data online.

#### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–xxxx.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (new information collection).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 629.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Five minutes for the screening survey; 25 minutes for the full survey.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 102.

*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: January 5, 2018.

**Sarah Brabson,**

*NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018–00312 Filed 1–10–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XF929**

### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) will hold a meeting that is open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Monday, January 29 through Friday, February 2, 2018. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. the first day and at 8:30 a.m. each subsequent day. The meeting will end each day at 5 p.m., or until business for the day has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Pacific Conference Room of the NOAA SWFSC, 8901 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037–1508.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kerry Griffin, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2409 or Dale Sweetnam, SWFSC; telephone: (858) 546–7170.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a methodology review of the NOAA acoustic-trawl survey methodology (ATM), conducted regularly to collect fisheries and oceanographic information in U.S. West Coast waters. The ATM survey has been approved for use in stock assessments for Pacific sardine, but has not yet been approved for use in stock assessments for northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, or jack mackerel. At its April 2018 meeting, the Pacific Council will consider the results of this review, and will consider whether to approve the ATM for use in stock assessments for stocks other than Pacific sardine. An agenda and other meeting materials will be available by January 15, 2018, on the Pacific Council's ftp site: *ftp://ftp.pcouncil.org/pub/2018%20ATM%20Methodology%20Review/*.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be