

use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 5, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-6185 Filed 3-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Economic Performance Data for West Coast (California—Alaska) Commercial Fisheries; Proposed Collection

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 11, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Dave Colpo, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526-4251, dave\_colpo@psmfc.org; Steve Freese, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115 (206) 526-6113, Steve.Freese@noaa.gov; or Joe Terry, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526-4253, Joe.Terry@noaa.gov.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Abstract**

Economic performance data for select West Coast (California-Alaska) commercial fisheries will be collected

for each of the following four groups of operations: (1) On-shore processors; (2) motherships; (3) catcher/processor vessels; and (4) catcher vessels. Companies associated with these groups will be surveyed for expenditure, earnings and employment data. In general, questions will be asked concerning ex-vessel and wholesale prices and revenue, variable and fixed costs, expenditures, dependence on the fisheries, and fishery employment. Data will be collected for participants in the commercial groundfish and salmon marine fisheries, including charter boats operations for California, Oregon and Washington, and for participants in the commercial groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska. The data collection efforts will be coordinated to reduce the additional burden for those who participate in multiple fisheries. Each year the principal focus of this data collection program will be on a different set of fisheries or on a different set of participants in these fisheries. The data will be used for the following three purposes: (1) To monitor the economic performance of these fisheries and various components of these fisheries through primary processing; (2) to analyze the economic performance effects of current management measures; and (3) to analyze the economic performance effects of alternative management measures. The measures of economic performance to be supported by this data collection program include the following: (1) Contribution to net National benefit; (2) contribution to income of groups of participants in the fisheries (i.e., fishers, vessel owners, processing plant employees, and processing plant owners); (3) employment; (4) regional economic impacts (income and employment); and (5) factor utilization rates. As required by law, the confidentiality of the data will be protected.

In each year, the data collection effort will focus on a different component of the West Coast fisheries and more limited data will be collected for the previously surveyed components of these fisheries. The latter will be done to update the models that will be used to track economic performance and to evaluate the economic effects of alternative management actions. This cycle of data collection will result in economic performance data being available and updated for all the components of the West Coast fisheries identified above.

The large scale of most of the processing operations involved in these fisheries and of many of the harvesting operations, and the concentration of ownership in many of these fisheries,

particularly off Alaska, means that improved economic data for the management of these fisheries is a high priority for the individuals who will provide data for these fisheries. This is demonstrated by the fact that associations representing many of the Alaskan participants in these fisheries support this data collection effort and have volunteered to assist in proving the data.

##### **II. Method of Collection**

Data will be collected from a sample of the owners and operators of catcher vessels, catcher/processors, on-shore processing plants, and motherships that participate in these fisheries. The data are expected to be collected principally by NMFS and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission economists. Questionnaires will be mailed to the selected members of each of the four survey groups, and in many cases those individuals will be interviewed to ensure the clarity of their responses. To the extent practicable, the data collected will consist of data that the respondents maintain for their own business purposes. Therefore, the collection burden will consist principally of transcribing data from their internal records to the survey instrument and participating in personal interviews. In addition, current data reporting requirements will be evaluated to determine if they can be modified to provide improved economic data at a lower cost to respondents and the Agency. Similarly, it will be determined if some of these data can be collected more effectively and efficiently from the firms that provide bookkeeping and accounting services to participants in West Coast commercial marine fisheries. This data collection method would be used only after obtaining permission to do so from participants in the fisheries.

Response to the surveys described in this **Federal Register** Notice will be voluntary. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has recommended the development of additional mandatory reporting requirements for economic data. If such requirements are implemented, the data collected with voluntary surveys in Alaska would be decreased.

##### **III. Data**

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Businesses and other for-profit (selected harvesters and processors who participate in select West Coast commercial marine fisheries.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* (3-year average): 1,471 in total

consisting of 600 small catcher vessel owners, 630 large catcher vessel owners, 206 primary processor owners, including factory trawlers, motherships and on-shore processing plants, 5 secondary processors and 130 charter boat operators.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 1 hour per small catcher vessel; 2 hours per large catcher vessel and charter boat; 5 hours per primary and secondary processor.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,675 hours (3-year average).

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0. Respondents will not be required to purchase equipment or materials to respond to this survey.

#### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 5, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-6186 Filed 3-10-98; 8:45 am]

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### COMMISSION ON STRUCTURAL ALTERNATIVES FOR THE FEDERAL COURTS OF APPEALS

#### Public Hearings Notice

**AGENCY:** Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals.

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals has scheduled six public hearings to allow interested persons to comment on the Commission's work. The hearings will

be in the following cities. The precise times and locations will be announced later.

Atlanta, March 23

Dallas, March 25

Chicago, April 3

New York, April 24

Seattle, May 27

San Francisco, May 29

Congress created the Commission late last year under Public Law 105-119, section 305 (28 U.S.C. 41 note) and charged it with studying the structure and alignment of the federal appellate system, with particular reference to the Ninth Circuit. In December 1998 the Commission is to report to the President and Congress any recommendations for changes in circuit boundaries or structure, consistent with fairness and due process. To assist its work, the Commission is interested in obtaining views on whether each federal appellate court renders decisions that are reasonably timely, are consistent among the litigants appearing before it, are nationally uniform in their interpretations of federal law, and are reached through processes that afford appeals adequate, deliberative attention of judges.

At the public hearings, the Commission specifically requests that witnesses address the following:

1. What problems or difficulties do you perceive in the federal appellate system's structure, organization, alignment, processes, and personnel that may interfere with its ability to render decisions that meet the above objectives? What criteria or standards can be used to answer this question?

2. What measures should be adopted by Congress or the courts to ameliorate or overcome perceived problems in the federal appellate system or any of its circuits? What are the advantages or disadvantages of any proposed measures?

3. What is working well in the federal appellate courts?

Persons may request to testify at any single hearing by mailing or faxing a one-page letter to the Commission stating their interest in the question identified above, the hearing at which they desire to appear, and if applicable, the name of the organization on whose behalf they will be appearing. The letter must be received by the Commission at least 21 days before the hearing date. Persons who are invited by the Commission to testify will be expected to submit a written statement of not more than 2,500 words at least five days before the hearing.

In lieu of testifying at a hearing, interested persons may submit a

statement in writing to the Commission anytime prior to June 1, 1998.

Statements should be submitted in hard copy, typed, double-spaced, and also on a computer diskette in a format readable by a standard word processing program.

Letters and statements should be sent to: Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals, Washington, DC 20544, Fax: 202-208-5102.

Dated: March 3, 1998.

**Daniel J. Meador,**

*Executive Director, Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals.*

[FR Doc. 98-6298 Filed 3-10-98; 8:45 am]

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### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[OMB Control Number 0704-0359]

#### Information Collection Requirements; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Part 232, Contract Financing

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of an approved information collection requirement.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), DoD announces the proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of DoD, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. This information collection requirement is currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use through September 30, 1998, under OMB Control Number 0704-0359. DoD proposes that OMB extend its approval for use through September 30, 2001.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 11, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to: