

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: May 12, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-12956 Filed 5-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Alaska Region Gear Identification; 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 July 14, 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 Patsy A. Bearden, F/ AK01, NOAA/NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907-586-7228).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Participants in the groundfish fishery in the Alaska Region are required to identify all longline marker buoys carried onboard or used by any vessel. This requirement is currently cleared under OMB Control Number 0648-0305, which dealt with all NOAA gear-marking requirements, but those

requirements will now be submitted on a regional basis.

II. Method of Collection

The vessel's name, Federal fisheries permit number, or the vessel's registration number shall be in characters at least 4 inches (10.16 cm) in height and 0.5 in. (1.27 cm) in width in a contrasting color visible above the water line and shall be maintained so the markings are clearly visible.

III. Data

OMB Number: New Number to be Assigned.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Individuals, Business and other for-profit (commercial fishermen).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,916.

Estimated Time Per Response: 0.25 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,450 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: The cost to fishermen is minimal. Materials needed are paint and paint brush, or permanent ink applicator, and possibly a stencil. Labor costs probably range between \$10 and \$15 per hour with the average estimated time varying from 1 to 5 minutes to paint/mark each buoy. Total estimated cost per vessel varies greatly with the type and amount of gear being used. Given the adverse weather conditions and salt water, we expect each number will need to be repainted, repaired, or replaced annually.

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: May 12, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-12957 Filed 5-14-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Northwest Region Gear Identification Requirements; 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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 14, 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 William L. Robinson, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, 206-526-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on regulatory compliance. Requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate endorsement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to endorsement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to govern domestic and foreign fishing, and the Atlantic Tunas Convention act. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings.

The regulations specify fishing gear must be marked with the vessel's official number, federal permit or tag number, or some other specified form of identification. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked,