

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050799C]

Proposed Agency Information Collection; Certified Observer Contractors of the North Pacific

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

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 12, 1999.

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 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Sustainable Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802, telephone (907) 586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

NMFS is requesting renewal of OMB approval of the information collection to support the Certified Observer Contractor Program. Information must be submitted by persons wishing to become certified observers or contractors who can then provide observer services to the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management areas. Certified contractors and observers must submit additional information as part of the on-going observer process.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents would comply with requirements set forth in 50 CFR part 679.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0318.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Contractor business.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 540.

Estimated Time Per Response: The response times for this proposed information collection are 60 hours per application to be certified as a contractor; 3 minutes to supply a certificate of insurance; 7 minutes to register for training, briefing, or debriefing; 2 minutes submit a notification of an observer's physical examination; 2 hours for an observer's actual physical examination; 7 minutes for observer assignment information; 7 minutes for weekly deployment/logistics reports; 15 minutes to provide copies of contracts; 2 hours to provide reports on observer harassment, observer safety concerns, or observer performance problems; 40 hours for appeals of suspension or decertification of a contractor; and 4 hours for appeals of suspension of decertification of an observer.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,106.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$38,904.

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 5, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050599C]

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's (Council) Salmon Technical Team (STT) will meet in a work session which is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 1999 and continue on Thursday, June 3, 1999 from approximately 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council office in Portland, OR.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Coon, Salmon Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to review and clarify the STT's internal administrative procedures, plan and begin work on an overfishing review assignment from the Council, review the problems encountered in the 1999 preseason salmon management process and make recommendations for improvements to the Council, assess STT work products and responsibilities with regard to meeting new requirements resulting from the Sustainable Fisheries Act and Amendment 14 to the salmon fishery management plan, and discuss other pertinent issues with regard to fulfilling STT technical and analytical responsibilities.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Team for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. John Rhoton at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.