

Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: October 8, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-27013 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101299A]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Title: Individual Fishing Quotas for Pacific Halibut and Sablefish in the Alaska Fisheries.

Agency Form Number: None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0272.

Type of Request: Existing collection in use without an OMB approval number.

Burden: 22,775 hours total but 4,005 hours for the requirements being approved.

Number of Respondents: 6,700 (multiple responses).

Avg. Hours Per Response: Varies between 5 minutes and 30 minutes depending on the requirement.

Needs and Uses: Participation in the U.S. groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska grew faster than anticipated after the cessation of the foreign groundfish harvesting operations. The rapid expansion in the U.S. fishery placed increased pressure on the resource and eventually led to overcapitalization and a dangerous "race for fish" in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska. To prevent this, an Individual Fishing Quota Program for fixed gear Pacific halibut and sablefish fisheries off Alaska was established. This request is for the requirements established to administer this program including, but not limited to, vessel clearance and departure reports, dockside sales receipts, transshipment authorization, shipment reports, and requests for administrative waivers.

Affected Public: Individuals or household, businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion, recordkeeping. Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: October 6, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-27016 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

[Docket No. 990921258-9258-01]

National Weather Service (NWS) Modernization and Associated Restructuring; Final Certification of No Degradation of Service for the Combined Consolidation, Automation, and Closure of the Victoria, TX, Weather Service Office (WSO)

AGENCY: NWS, NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On October 7, 1999, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere transmitted to Congress a notice of consolidation, automation, and closure certification for WSO Victoria, Texas. Public Law 102-567 requires the final certifications be published in the FR. This notice satisfies that requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the final certification package should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 11426, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Beaver at 301-713-0300 ext. 136.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The WSO Victoria, Texas, consolidation

certification was proposed in the April 11, 1997, FR, Vol 62, No. 70, page 17785. The 60-day public comment period closed on June 10, 1997. No public comments were received. At its June 25, 1997, meeting, the Modernization Transition Committee (MTC) endorsed the WSO Victoria consolidation certification as not resulting in a degradation of service. The automation and closure certifications for WSO Victoria, Texas, were proposed in the October 2, 1997, FR, Vol 62, No. 191, pages 51644-51655. The 60-day public comment period closed on December 1, 1997. Nineteen individual letters and over 2100 forms were received. See attached summary of public comments and NWS response.

At its December 10, 1997, meeting, the MTC endorsed the WSO Victoria automation and closure certifications as not resulting in a degradation of service. While the MTC endorsed the certifications, it was concerned about the number of comments reporting time delays in receiving NWS products. The MTC stated, "The MTC received a briefing from the Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) of the Corpus Christi NEXRAD Weather Service Office, which has service responsibility for the Victoria area. The MTC notes that the MIC has met with the Victoria community on several occasions and attempted to rectify the problem, but believes that further efforts are needed. The MTC requests an update on NWS efforts in 6 months time."

On March 18, 1998, the MTC heard public comments from representatives of the Victoria, Texas, community and the NWS. The MTC rescinded its endorsement of the certifications for WSO Victoria and agreed to hold its June meeting in Victoria, Texas, to gather additional information.

On June 18, 1998, the MTC met in Victoria, Texas, listened to public comments, and tabled further consideration of the consolidation, automation, and closure certifications pending responses to issues it identified concerning community outreach, the Automated Surface Observing System, and local infrastructure.

On September 30, 1998, the MTC heard responses from the community and the NWS concerning the issues identified at the June 18, 1998, MTC meeting. The MTC also reviewed correspondence and received presentations from individuals representing Senators Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison and Representatives Ron Paul and Pete Sessions. Based on all the information received, the MTC endorsed and