

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

Three data collections dealing with Federal fishery permits affect participants in the groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California (WOC). The three data collections involve: (1) exempted fishing permits (previously called experimental fishing permits); (2) limited entry permits for commercial fishermen; and (3) Federal permits for groundfish processing vessels over 125 ft (38 m) in length.

Exempted (experimental) fishing permits are issued to applicants for fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited. The information provided by applications allows NMFS to evaluate the consequences of the exempted fishing activity and weigh the benefits and costs. Permittees are required to file reports on the results of the experiments and in some cases individual vessels are required to provide minimal data reports. This information allows NMFS to evaluate techniques used and decide if management regulations should be changed.

A Federal permit is required to commercially catch groundfish, and permits are endorsed for one or more of three gear types (trawl, longline, and fish pot). Participation in the fishery and access to permits have been limited as a way of controlling the overall fleet harvest capacity. Limited entry permits must be renewed annually and are transferable.

NOAA is also considering the implementation of a requirement that fish processing vessels over 125 ft (38 m) in length obtain a Federal fisheries permit to process groundfish in the WOC fishing area. Such a requirement may be needed to obtain adequate information on which to base both in-season and between-season management decisions affecting the Pacific groundfish resource, to know the number of vessels operating for the purpose of deployment of observers, and for enforcement monitoring.

II. Method of Collection

Permit applications are made on NMFS forms. The exempted fishing data reports from individual vessels which may be a verbal data collection submitted in person, faxed, or submitted by telephone by the vessel owner or operator to NMFS or the states of Washington, Oregon, or California.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0203

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Regular submission

Affected public: Business or other for-profit (owners and operators of vessels that fish for or process groundfish in ocean waters 0-200 nautical miles off of Washington, Oregon, or California.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 796

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes for a limited entry or at-sea processor permit application; 60 minutes of an exempted fishing application; 60 minutes for a summary report of actions under an exempted fishing permit, and 10 minutes for data reports on exempted fishing permit activities

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 598

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$26,214

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: December 7, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 120999E]

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

Title: Application Form for Membership on a National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Agency Form Number(s): None.

OMB Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: In use without OMB approval.

Burden Hours: 75 hours.

Number of Respondents: 75.

Average Hours Per Response: 1 hour.

Needs and Uses: Section 315 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act allows the Secretary of Commerce to establish one or more advisory councils to provide advice regarding the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries. The Councils also provide a variety of different perspectives and interests and help link the sanctuary to the community. Councils are individually chartered for each sanctuary to meet the needs of that sanctuary. Once a council has been chartered, the Sanctuary Manager begins a process to recruit members for that council by providing notice to the public and asking interested parties to apply for the available seats. An application and guidelines for a narrative submission must be submitted to the Sanctuary Manager. The application is used to choose the best applicants to serve as members on the Council.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit organizations, or not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

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, DC 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 of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 724 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 6, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

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

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