

nation or one that is otherwise prohibited from exporting tuna to the United States. Forms are submitted by importers, processors, and/or purse seine vessel operators.

II. Method of Collection

Forms may be submitted by fax, mail, or electronically.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0335.

Form Number: NOAA Form 370.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 350.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes for a processor response; and 5 minutes for a Captain's statement.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,033.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$100.

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: September 26, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-25144 Filed 10-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092903F]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR)

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

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 December 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patsy Bearden, 907-586-7008, or e-mail Patsy.Bearden@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Owners of catcher/processor vessels and motherships in the groundfish fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska (Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska) are required to complete the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR). The COAR provides information on ex-vessel and first wholesale values for statewide fish and shellfish products. This information enhances the socio-economic database that is used to analyze and measure the impact of proposed or enacted management measures.

II. Method of Collection

A paper form is submitted.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0428.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.
Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 134.

Estimated Time Per Response: 8 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,072.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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: September 26, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-25145 Filed 10-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Federal Consistency Appeal by Islander East Pipeline Company From an Objection by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (Commerce).

ACTION: Supplemental notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: This notice provides scheduling information concerning a public hearing to be held by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in New Haven, Connecticut. The hearing involves an administrative appeal filed with the

Department of Commerce by the Islander East Pipeline Company (Consistency Appeal of Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C.).

DATES: The hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 5, 2003. Speaker registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the hearing. Public comments on the appeal must be received by November 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing and speaker registration will be held at the Omni New Haven Hotel, 155 Temple Street, New Haven, Connecticut. Written comments may be submitted at the hearing. All e-mail comments on issues relevant to the Secretary's decision of this appeal may be submitted to

IslanderEast.comments@noaa.gov.

Apart from the hearing, comments may also be sent by mail to the Office of the General Counsel for Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Materials from the appeal record are available at the Internet site <http://www.ogc.doc.gov/czma.htm> and at the Office of the General Counsel for Ocean Services. Also, public filings made by the parties to the appeal are to be available for review at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Branden Blum, Senior Counselor, via email at gcos.inquiries@noaa.gov, or at 301-713-2967, extension 186.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Islander East Pipeline Company filed an administrative appeal with the Department of Commerce, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended, asking that the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) override the State of Connecticut's (State) objection to Islander East's proposed natural gas pipeline. The pipeline would extend from near North Haven, Connecticut, across the Long Island Sound to a terminus in Suffolk County (Long Island), New York. Connecticut's objection is based on the project's potential effects on the natural resources or land and water uses of Connecticut's coastal zone.

On February 4, 2003, NOAA published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing that it would hold a public hearing concerning the Islander East appeal at a location to be determined in the State of Connecticut. See 68 FR 5620. The notice also indicated the hearing was expected to be held in the Spring of 2003. Subsequently, proceedings in the appeal

were temporarily halted at the request of one or both parties in order to accommodate settlement negotiations and then to allow the State of Connecticut to reconsider its objection to the pipeline project. On August 19, 2003, a **Federal Register** notice advised that processing of the appeal had resumed and that details concerning the previously announced public hearing would be forthcoming. See 68 FR 49760. This notice provides scheduling information for the hearing.

The hearing, to be held on November 5, 2003, will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Omni New Haven Hotel, and continue throughout the day with afternoon and evening sessions. Intermissions are expected near noon and in the late afternoon (approximately 4:30 p.m.). In addition, a temporary recess may be scheduled for periods when all registered speakers have had an opportunity to testify. Typically the evening session is crowded, and it is suggested that, if possible, speakers attend the morning or afternoon sessions. Speakers must register on the day of the hearing, on site, at the hotel. Registration of speakers will begin at 8:30 a.m. Each organization that registers should expect to receive a total of five minutes for its representatives to present oral comments. Individuals from the general public who register will receive approximately three minutes to speak. Speakers will be recognized in the order in which they register (a first-come-first-serve basis), alternating between individuals from the general public and those representing organizations. A specific period is also expected to be designated during the morning and afternoon sessions for remarks by elected officials.

Written comments may be submitted to NOAA at the hearing by any person in attendance. For submissions at the hearing, we request, but do not require, that you provide three copies for inclusion into the administrative record. Apart from the hearing, written comments may be submitted by e-mail to IslanderEast.comments@noaa.gov or forwarded via mail to NOAA's Office of the General Counsel for Ocean Services. Comments must be submitted by November 20, 2003, the close of the public comment period. Comments will be made available to the parties; they are also expected to be posted on the Department of Commerce's CZMA appeals Web site at <http://www.ogc.doc.gov/czma.htm>.

This hearing is being held to obtain information on issues the Secretary will likely consider in deciding Islander East's appeal. A summary of relevant issues as well as additional background

on the appeal appears in a January 24, 2003 **Federal Register** notice announcing the filing of the appeal (see 68 FR 3513), a copy of which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.ogc.doc.gov/czma.htm>.

Questions concerning the hearing may be sent via e-mail to gcos.inquiries@noaa.gov or made by telephone to 301 713-2967, extension 186.

Dated: September 26, 2003.

James R. Walpole,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03-24832 Filed 10-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032603B]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking of California Sea Lions, Pacific Harbor Seals and Northern Elephant Seals Incidental to Research Surveys at San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take small numbers of marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to the assessment of black abalone populations at San Nicolas Island (SNI), CA, has been issued to Dr. Glenn R. VanBlaricom, Ph.D.

DATES: Effective from September 18, 2003, through September 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the IHA and/or the application is available by writing to Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225, or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Hagedorn, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2322, ext 117; or Christina Fahy, Southwest Regional Office, NMFS, (562) 980-4023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: