

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: March 10, 2005.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-5241 Filed 3-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Northeast Region Sea Scallop Framework 16 Adjustment**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

**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.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 16, 2005.

**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](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Don Frei, 978-281-9221 or [don.Frei@noaa.gov](mailto:don.Frei@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

Recent Atlantic sea scallop fishery management actions included a controlled Area Access Program as a key part of scallop management. To ensure compliance with the Area Access Program, participating vessels are required to use a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to enroll in the program and to report catch. On November 2, 2004, Framework 16 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

(FMP) and Framework 39 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP (Joint Frameworks) were implemented and included these same provisions for a new Area Access Program. In addition, the Joint Frameworks extended the Area Access Program, and VMS reporting requirements to include the general category scallop vessels, which were not previously eligible to fish in the Area Access Program. The reporting requirements for the general category scallop vessels are currently approved through June 30, 2005, and would be extended for 3 years through this action.

**II. Method of Collection**

General category scallop vessels fishing in the Area Access Program are required to install and operate VMS units, and report catch and related information through the VMS e-mail messaging system. The vessels must send notification of intent to fish in the Area Access Program through the VMS e-mail system at least 72 hours prior to the opening of an access area. All Area Access Program vessels must also notify the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), via VMS message, of their intent to fish in the Area Access Program for any given month (5 days prior to the beginning of the month). These notifications to NMFS are necessary in order to allow for the assignment of at-sea observers on some trips. The VMS is polled every 30 minutes consistent with the requirement for other vessels participating in the Area Access Program.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0509.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 274.

*Estimated Time Per Response:*

Installation of VMS, 1 hour; verification requirement of VMS unit, 5 minutes (0.083 hour); daily reporting requirements with observer on board, 10 minutes (0.17 hour); daily reporting requirements without observer on board, 10 minutes (0.17 hour); VMS/5-day notification before month of fishing, 2 minutes (0.033 hour); VMS/72-hour departure notification to a controlled access area, 2 minutes (0.033 hour); notification for the day vessel leaves on the area access trip, 2 minutes (0.033 hour); VMS polling-daily, twice per hour, 6 seconds (0.0014 hour).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 13,152.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$491,000.

**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: March 10, 2005.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-5242 Filed 3-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Characterization of the U.S. Recreational Fishery for Atlantic White Marlin**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

**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.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 16, 2005.

**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](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection

instrument and instructions should be directed to: Eric D. Prince, (305) 361-4248, [eric.prince@noaa.gov](mailto:eric.prince@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

According to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Atlantic white marlin has been severely overfished for several decades and the stock continues to decline. These unfortunate circumstances have prompted several conservation groups to petition NOAA Fisheries to list white marlin under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). One of the main objectives of the Atlantic Billfish Research Plan ([http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/PDFdocs/ABRP\\_01\\_30\\_04.pdf](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/PDFdocs/ABRP_01_30_04.pdf)) is to develop better information for management and rebuilding of the stocks. This project is designed to investigate characteristics of the offshore recreational white marlin fishery, including identification of specific fishing techniques and potential variables that might be included in post-release survival experiments. Specific in-depth knowledge of fishing techniques is essential to evaluate recreational fishing impacts and to develop relevant research and management approaches to reduce mortality for this sector of the fishery.

Information will be obtained through a survey and complemented and confirmed by on-board observers in the Ocean City, Maryland area, which is known as the "White Marlin Capital of the World." The project will serve as a pilot program to develop and hone survey techniques and gain general acceptance for the survey through meetings, face-to-face dialogue and word of mouth. It is important to develop rapport with the boat captains and mates to obtain information on the methods and specific techniques used to catch white marlin, which might be closely guarded information. This work attempts to form a current and knowledgeable information source on which to base appropriate research and conservation measures relative to the U.S. recreational fishery for Atlantic white marlin.

**II. Method of Collection**

Paper applications, electronic reports, and telephone calls are required from participants, and methods of submittal include Internet and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions and business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 500.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 85.

*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: March 10, 2005.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-5243 Filed 3-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Application for Commercial Fisheries Authorization Under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

**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.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 16, 2005.

**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](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patricia Lawson, (301) 713-2322 or [Patricia.Lawson@noaa.gov](mailto:Patricia.Lawson@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires any commercial fisher operating in Category I and II fisheries to register for a certificate of authorization that will allow the fisher to take marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations. Category I and II fisheries are those identified by NOAA as having either frequent or occasional takings of marine mammals.

Some States have integrated the NMFS registration process into the existing State fishery registration process and fishers in those fisheries do not need to file a separate Federal registration. If applicable, vessel owners will be notified of this simplified registration process when they apply for their State or Federal permit or license.

**II. Method of Collection**

Most fishers have their information imported directly into the MMAP from their State. Otherwise they can fill out the forms on NMFS' Web page or mail in application for exemption made available to them in the NMFS regions.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0293.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 12,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,000 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$304,550.

**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