

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award will meet Thursday, July 27, 2006. The Judges Panel is composed of ten members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of this meeting is to review the stage 1 process, Judges' individual review of the stage 1 scoring data, consideration for moving applicants forward, discussion of stage 1 data and selection of applicants for consensus, questions and answers on stage 2 and stage 3 process documentation, and summary of Improvements Day. The applications under review contain trade secrets and proprietary commercial information submitted to the Government in confidence.

DATES: The meeting will convene July 27, 2006 at 8:15 a.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. on July 27, 2006. The entire meeting will be closed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building, Lecture Room B, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on December 27, 2005, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of Award applicant data from U.S. companies and a discussion of this data as compared to the Award criteria in order to recommend Award recipients, may be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, because the meetings are likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person which is privileged or confidential.

Dated: June 28, 2006.

Hratch G. Semerjian,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E6-10495 Filed 7-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Subsistence Fishery for Pacific Halibut in Waters Off Alaska: Registration and Marking of Gear

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 5, 2006.

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 A. Bearden, 907-586-7008 or patsy.bearden@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This submission seeks renewal of collection-of-information requirements that are part of the program for the Pacific halibut subsistence fishery. The program includes requirements for registration to participate in the fishery, and the marking of certain types of gear used in this fishery. The registration requirement is intended to allow qualified persons to practice the long-term, customary, and traditional harvest of Pacific halibut for food in a non-commercial manner. The gear-marking requirement aids in enforcement and in actions related to gear damage or loss. The registration information may be submitted by an individual or as a list of multiple individuals from an Alaska Native tribe.

II. Method of Collection

Applications may be submitted online or as email attachments; paper forms may be sent by mail or FAX.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0460.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; state, local, and tribal government; and individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,350.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes, Subsistence halibut registration; 15 minutes Subsistence halibut gear marking.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,739.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$25,000.

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: June 28, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-10498 Filed 7-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Northeast Region Observer Providers Requirements

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 5, 2006.

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 Peter Christopher, 978-281-9288 or peter.christopher@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Region manages the Atlantic sea scallop (scallop) fishery of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the East Coast under the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (Scallop FMP). The regulations implementing the Scallop FMPs are at 50 CFR part 648. On June 16, 2006, NMFS implemented an emergency action that re-activated the industry-funded observer program in the Scallop FMP, wherein scallop vessels are required to procure observer coverage from an approved observer service provider. The observer service providers are required to submit an application to NMFS for approval, and once approved, are required to submit various information to support the observer program. Scallop vessel owners or operators are required to contact approved observer service providers in order to procure an observer for trips on which an observer is required. NMFS requests information from candidate scallop fishery observer service providers to evaluate applications for approval. NMFS also requests information from approved scallop fishery observer service providers to monitor activity for compliance with observer service provider requirements and to evaluate observer data; and information from participating scallop fishery participants to assign observers to selected vessels.

II. Method of Collection

Paper applications and telephone calls are required from participants. Facsimile transmission of paper forms, mail, and express mail are the methods of information submittal.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0546.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 805.

Estimated Time per Response:

Application for approval of observer service provider, 10 hours; applicant response to denial of application for approval of observer service provider, 10 hours; observer service provider request for observer training, 30 minutes; observer deployment report, 10 minutes; observer availability report, 10 minutes; safety refusal report, 30 minutes; submission of raw observer data, 5 minutes; observer debriefing, 2 hours; biological samples, 5 minutes; rebuttal of pending removal from list of approved observer service providers, 8 hours; vessel request to observer service provider for procurement of a certified observer, 25 minutes; vessel request for waiver of observer coverage requirement, 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 611.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$6,000.

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: June 29, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-10501 Filed 7-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southwest Region Permit Family of Forms

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 5, 2006.

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 Patricia A. Culver, 562-980-4239 or Trisher.Culver@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Permits are required for persons to participate in Federally-managed fisheries off the West Coast. There are two types of permits, for coastal pelagic and highly migratory fisheries. Appeals and certain waiver requests can also be submitted. Transfer applications may also be required. Permits for the Western Pacific fisheries have been included in this information collection, but will now be covered under 0648-0490, Pacific Islands Permit Family of Forms.

The permit application forms provide basic information about permit holders and the vessels and gear being used. This information is important for understanding the nature of the fisheries and provides a link to participants. It also aids in enforcement of regulations.

II. Method of Collection

Forms are available on the Internet; paper applications are also available and may be submitted by mail or FAX.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0204.