

ADDRESSES: Inquiries about participation in the videoconference should be addressed to the contact below, and received by close of business on Monday, November 10, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cora Dickson, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Technology and Electronic Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 4327, Washington, DC 20230; *Telephone:* 202-482-6083; *Fax:* 202-482-5834; *E-mail:* cora.dickson@mail.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Michael Michalak has made education a top priority. The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi hosted an education conference in January as a first step, and expects to hold another one in January 2009. Vietnam currently faces an estimated deficit of \$100 million per year in funding its educational plans, and is trying to close the gap by seeking international support in paying for and helping implement reforms. In the field of ICT, Vietnam is facing a shortage of qualified workers to meet the increasing need for IT skills as it modernizes its infrastructure. U.S. companies also hope to create opportunities for trade and investment as ICT grows stronger in Vietnam.

Dated: October 14, 2008.

Robin Layton,

Director, Office of Technology and Electronic Commerce.

[FR Doc. E8-24880 Filed 10-17-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Individual Fishing Quota Cost Recovery Program 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 December 19, 2008.

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

The Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a Cost Recovery Program to cover the management and enforcement costs of the Alaska Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program. This Cost Recovery Program requires IFQ permit holders to submit information about the value of landings of IFQ species and to calculate and submit fees. The Cost Recovery Program also requires Registered Buyers to submit information about the value and volume of landings of IFQ species.

II. Method of Collection

Reports and payments may be submitted online or mailed.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0398.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,726.

Estimated Time per Response: IFQ Permit Holder Fee Submission Form, IFQ Registered Buyer Ex-vessel Value and Volume Report and appeal process, 2 hours each.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,452.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$3,000 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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: October 15, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-24887 Filed 10-17-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Application and Reports for Scientific Research and Enhancement Permits Under the Endangered Species Act

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 December 19, 2008.

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 Gary Rule, (503) 230-5424 or Gary.Rule@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) imposed prohibitions against the taking of endangered species. Section 10 of the ESA allows permits authorizing the taking of endangered species for

research/enhancement purposes. The corresponding regulations established procedures for persons to apply for such permits. In addition, the regulations set forth specific reporting requirements for such permit holders. The regulations contain two sets of information collections: (1) Applications for research/enhancement permits, and (2) reporting requirements for permits issued.

The required information is used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity on endangered species, to make the determinations required by the ESA prior to issuing a permit, and to establish appropriate permit conditions. To issue permits under ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) must determine that (1) such exceptions were applied for in good faith, (2) if granted and exercised, will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species, and (3) will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

The currently approved application and reporting requirements are being revised to apply only to Pacific salmon and steelhead, as requirements regarding other species are being addressed in a separate information collection. Clarification of some of the instructions will also be provided, based on previous applicants' responses and submitted applications and reports.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms. Methods of submittal include e-mail of electronic forms, and mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0402.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Non-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 131.

Estimated Time per Response: Permit applications, 20 hours; permit modification requests and final reports, 10 hours; and annual reports, 5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 865.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$18,646.

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: October 15, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-24888 Filed 10-17-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XK57

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plan for White Abalone

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability of a final recovery plan for the white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*). This endangered gastropod is a long-lived, slow moving bottom dweller and is a member of the California Haliotids. Currently, isolated survivors have been identified along the mainland coast in Santa Barbara County and at some of the offshore islands and banks along the central California coast. NMFS' ultimate goal is to increase white abalone abundance to viable and self-sustaining levels such that the species can be downlisted to threatened status and eventually removed from the Endangered Species List.

ADDRESSES: The final Plan can be obtained via the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov> or by submitting a request to the Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. You may also

contact NMFS by e-mail at: whiteabalone.recoveryplan@noaa.gov; by facsimile at: 562-980-4027, Attention: Melissa Neuman.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Neuman, NMFS, Southwest Region at 562-980-4115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the endangered species program. A species is considered recovered once the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate the time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

White abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) was listed as the first federally endangered marine invertebrate under the United States Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (ESA) in May 2001. The ESA requires that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species under its jurisdiction, unless it is determined that such plans would not promote the conservation of the species. Accordingly, during the summer of 2002, NMFS appointed a recovery team comprised of experts in the fields of abalone biology and ecology, conservation biology, genetics, population dynamics and modeling, pathology, aquaculture, and marine policy to develop a recovery plan (Plan) as mandated by the ESA.

NMFS sought a scientific review of the draft Plan by 12 experts in October 2005. NMFS requested that the scientific reviewers consider: (1) issues and assumptions relating to the biological and ecological information of the draft Plan, and (2) scientific data relating to the tasks in the proposed recovery program. Four reviewers responded to NMFS' request. The recovery team reconvened in June 2006 to consider the reviewer's comments and incorporate changes to the draft Plan accordingly. On November 2, 2006 (71 FR 64512) the draft Plan was made available for public comment. NMFS considered all substantive comments and information presented during the public comment period in the course of finalizing this Plan. We will forward