

[FR Doc. 2012-30190 Filed 12-18-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XX-C

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Submission for OMB Review;  
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit 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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).  
*Title:* Modification to Gulf of Maine/ Georges Bank Herring Letter of Authorization.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0602.

*Form Number(s):* NA.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 46.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Burden Hours:* 12.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for extension of a current information collection.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Secretary of Commerce has the responsibility for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. We, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Regional Fishery Management Councils are delegated the majority of this responsibility. The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) develops management plans for fishery resources in New England.

In 2009, we implemented modifications to the requirements for midwater trawl vessels issued an All Areas Limited Access Herring Permit and/or an Areas 2 and 3 Limited Access Herring Permit that fish in Northeast (NE) multispecies Closed Area I (CA I). Affected vessels intending to fish in CA I at any point during a trip are required to declare their intention when scheduling a NMFS-approved at sea observer. To ensure 100 percent observer coverage, midwater trawl vessels are not permitted to fish in CA I without an observer.

Midwater trawl vessels in the directed herring fishery that have been assigned a NMFS-approved at-sea observer and that are fishing in CA I, are prohibited, unless specific conditions are met (see below), from releasing fish from the codend of the net, transferring fish to another vessel that is not carrying a

NMFS-approved observer, or discarding fish at sea, unless the fish have first been brought aboard the vessel and made available for sampling and inspection by the observer.

We recognize that there are certain conditions under which fish must be released from the codend without being sampled. Therefore, fish that have not been pumped aboard the vessel may be released if the vessel operator finds that: Pumping the catch could compromise the safety of the vessel; mechanical failure precludes bringing some or all of a catch aboard the vessel; or spiny dogfish have clogged the pump and consequently prevent pumping of the rest of the catch. If a net is released for any of these three reasons, the vessel operator must complete and sign a CA I Midwater Trawl Released Codend Affidavit detailing where, when, and why the net was released as well as a good-faith estimate of both the total weight of fish caught on that tow and the weight of fish released (if the tow had been partially pumped). The completed affidavit form must be submitted to us within 48 hr of the completion of the trip.

Following the release of a net for one of the three exemptions specified above, the vessel is required to exit CA I. The vessel may continue to fish, but may not fish in CA I for the remainder of the trip.

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

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*OMB Desk Officer:*  
*OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *Jjessup@doc.gov*).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to

*OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Dated: December 14, 2012.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

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

[FR Doc. 2012-30536 Filed 12-18-12; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Submission for OMB Review;  
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit 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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Jones and NOAA Awards Nominations.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0598.

*Form Number(s):* NA.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission (revision and extension of a current information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 13.

*Average Hours per Response:* 1.

*Burden Hours:* 13.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for revision and extension of a currently approved information collection.

The 1990 reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) authorized an awards program to "implement a program to promote excellence in coastal zone management by identifying and acknowledging outstanding accomplishments in the field." As authorized in Section 314 of the CZMA, the Walter B. Jones Memorial Awards recognize three categories of excellence: Coastal Steward of the Year, Excellence in Local Government, and Excellence in Coastal and Marine Graduate Study. The CZMA authorizes NOAA to conduct public ceremonies to acknowledge such awards, which allows NOAA to fund invitational travel and purchase awards for the Jones Awards.

In conjunction with the Walter B. Jones Memorial Awards, NOAA instituted several additional categories of awards, to recognize additional contributions to ocean and coastal resource management, including Volunteer of the Year, Nongovernmental Organization of the Year, Excellence in Promoting Cultural and Ethnic Diversity (in honor of Secretary Ronald Brown), Excellence in Business Leadership, and the Susan Snow Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource (NOAA re-named this award in honor of Susan Snow Cotter in 2007).

As part of conducting the awards program, NOAA will distribute a "Call for Nominations" to representatives from Federal, state, local and nongovernmental organizations and Members of Congress that work in, are knowledgeable of or benefit from, ocean and coastal resource management.