

partnership. This information is used to determine if individuals own or hold sablefish permits in excess of the limit of 3 permits. Also, for transfer requests made during the sablefish primary season (April 1st through October 31st), the permit owner is required to report the remaining tier pounds not yet harvested on the sablefish endorsed permit at the time of transfer.

Applicants for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) must submit written information that allows NOAA Fisheries and the Pacific Fishery Management Council to evaluate the proposed exempted fishing project activities and weigh the benefits and costs of the proposed activities. The Council makes a recommendation on each EFP application and for successful applicants, NOAA Fisheries issues the EFPs which contains terms and conditions for the project including various reporting requirements. The information included in an application is specified at 50 CFR 600.745(b)(2) and the Council Operating Procedure #19. Permit holders are required to file preseason harvest plans, interim and/or final summary reports on the results of the project and in some cases individual vessels and other permit holders are required to provide data reports (logbooks and/or catch reports). The results of EFPs are commonly used to explore ways to reduce effort on depressed stocks, encourage innovation and efficiency in the fishery, provide access to constrained stocks which directly measuring the bycatch associated with such strategies and evaluate/revise current and proposed management measures.

II. Method of Collection

Renewal forms are mailed to all permit owners and they must submit by mail or in person. Ownership interest forms and permit transfer forms are available from the region's Web site but must be submitted to NOAA Fisheries by mail or in person. Applications for an exempted fishing permit must be submitted in a written format. The exempted fishing permit data reports may be submitted in person, faxed, submitted by telephone or emailed by the monitor, plant manager, vessel owner or operator to NOAA Fisheries or the states of Washington, Oregon, or California.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0203.
Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

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

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 536.

Estimated Time per Response: Permit renewals, 20 minutes; Permit transfers, 30 minutes; Sablefish ownership interest form, 10 minutes ; EFP Applications, 32 hours; EFP Trip Notifications 2 minutes; EFP Harvest Plans: 16 hours; EFP Data Reports: 2 hours;; EFP Summary Reports: interim report, 4 hours; final report, 20 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 983.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$56,247.

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 3, 2016.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2016-05226 Filed 3-8-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE448

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas Activities in Cook Inlet, Alaska in 2016

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Services announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of issuing annual Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the taking of marine mammals incidental to oil and gas activities in Cook Inlet, AK during 2016. The Draft EA is available for review and comment at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/energy_other.htm.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than March 28, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft EA should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The mailbox address for providing email comments is itp.young@noaa.gov. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. NMFS is not responsible for comments sent to addresses other than those provided here.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

An electronic copy of the Draft EA may be obtained by writing to the address specified above, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Young, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 12, 2015, NMFS published a Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment on the Issuance of Incidental Take Authorizations in Cook Inlet, Alaska in 2016 (80 FR 48299), to help NMFS assess the effects of multiple one-year incidental take authorizations and consider mitigation and monitoring measures in the context of the multiple activities. In furtherance of that goal NMFS requested applicants for ITAs to submit their applications by October 1 of the year preceding the requested ITA

year. NMFS received applications for ITAs from ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC (see 81 FR 6376, February 5, 2016) (Notice of Proposed Incidental Harassment Authorization); SAExploration Inc.; and BlueCrest Alaska Operating LLC. Potential impacts from these actions are assessed in the Draft EA available at the above web address.

On February 5, 2016, NMFS published a Proposed Issuance of an Incidental Take Authorization for ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC (see 81 FR 6376, February 5, 2016), which stated that the Draft EA would be available for review concurrently with the proposed Authorization. The Draft EA was not available for the majority of the public comment period of the proposed Authorization. Due to the delay in making the Draft EA publically available, NMFS will be accepting public comment on the Draft EA until March 28, 2016.

Dated: March 3, 2016.

Perry F. Gayaldo,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-05236 Filed 3-8-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southeast Region Logbook Family of Forms

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

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 9, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at Jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be

directed to Dr. David Gloeckner, (305) 361-4257 or david.gloeckner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a current information collection.

Participants in most Federally-managed fisheries in the Southeast Region are currently required to keep and submit catch and effort logbooks from their fishing trips. A subset of these vessels also provide information on the species and quantities of fish, shellfish, marine turtles, and marine mammals that are caught and discarded or have interacted with the vessel's fishing gear. A subset of these vessels also provide information about dockside prices, trip operating costs, and annual fixed costs.

The data are used for scientific analyses that support critical conservation and management decisions made by national and international fishery management organizations. Interaction reports are needed for fishery management planning and to help protect endangered species and marine mammals. Price and cost data will be used in analyses of the economic effects of proposed regulations.

II. Method of Collection

The information is submitted on paper forms. Logbooks are completed daily and submitted on either a by trip or monthly basis, depending on the fishery. Fixed costs are submitted on an annual basis. Other information is submitted on a trip basis.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0016.

Form Number(s): None.

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

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,634.

Estimated Time per Response: Annual fixed-cost reports, 30 minutes; Colombian fishery logbooks, 18 minutes; discard logbooks, 15 minutes; headboat, golden crab, reef fish-mackerel, economic cost/trip, wreckfish, and shrimp logbooks, 10 minutes; no-fishing responses for golden crab, reef fish-mackerel, charterboat, wreckfish and Colombian fisheries, 2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 17,038.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 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: March 3, 2016.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2016-05229 Filed 3-8-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Community BroadbandUSA Connectivity Initiative Workshop

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), through the BroadbandUSA program, will hold a half-day workshop on March 22, 2016, to engage stakeholders in developing meaningful measures for community broadband access, adoption, policy and use as part of its efforts to develop the Community Connectivity Initiative. The Community Connectivity Initiative will provide a framework to enable local leaders to better assess their community connectivity and strengthen efforts to align broadband technology with local policies and priorities. The Community Connectivity Initiative will include a tool for helping communities assess their broadband readiness. Stakeholder participation is critical to the design and implementation of the self-assessment tool. NTIA will convene this workshop to provide opportunities for participants to share insights and suggestions on the design of the program. NTIA also