

implementation of this mandate of the MMPA.

Specifically, the data from the Marine Mammal Stranding Report (MMSR) forms provide NMFS with information on the morphology, life history, biology, general health, health and stranding trends, causes of mortality, and distribution of marine mammal species. These data provide information which may help in making assessments on the status of population stocks. Recording data on gross mortalities may serve as an indicator that a particular population is impacted, threatened or at increased risk, and when provided in a timely manner, aid in dynamic management practices. Stranding data also provide an important baseline for detecting and monitoring the impacts of environmental phenomena, such as El Niño and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Minor edits to the current version of the form are proposed, including beginning to collect live, entangled large whale data in this data collection and streamlining the confidence codes.

The Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Disposition Report (MMRDR) provides NMFS with information on the disposition of animals brought in for rehabilitation, the success of medical treatment, and the number of animals released. This information will assist the Agency in tracking marine mammals that move into captive display and in the monitoring of rehabilitation and release. The data will also be used to assess the burden on stranding network centers. This form will be filled out only in the case of live-stranded marine mammals. The form will be required from rehabilitation centers in all five NMFS Regions. Each of the NMFS regions approves and issues a Letter of Agreement (LOA) or other form of agreement to marine mammal rehabilitation centers under § 112(c) of the MMPA, which allows the Secretary to enter into agreements in order to fulfill the general purposes of the Act, and under § 403 of the MMPA, which provides specific authority to enter into such stranding response agreements. These data will be monitored as part of the Rehabilitation Facilities Inspection (RFI) program. No changes are proposed to this form.

The Human Interaction Data Sheet will provide NMFS with consistent and detailed information on signs of human interaction in stranded marine mammals. This form also includes a subjective section that allows the examiner to evaluate the likelihood that human interaction contributed to the stranding of the animal. This information will assist the Agency in

tracking resource conflicts and will provide a solid scientific foundation for conservation and management of marine mammals. With a better understanding of interactions, appropriate measures can be taken to resolve conflicts and stranding data are the best source of information regarding the occurrence of different types of human interaction. No changes are proposed for this form.

## II. Method of Collection

Paper applications, electronic reports, and telephone calls are required from participants, and methods of submittal include internet through the NMFS National Marine Mammal Stranding Database; facsimile transmission of paper forms; or mailed copies of forms.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648–0178.

*Form Number:* None.

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

*Affected Public:* State governments; not-for-profit institutions; business or other for-profits organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 400.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 30 minutes for Stranding Reports and Rehabilitation Disposition Forms; 45 minutes for the Human Interaction Data Sheet.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 14,600.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$203.45.

## 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.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 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:* Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Rationalization Social Study.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0606.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular (extension of an existing collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 410.

*Average Hours per Response:* 1.

*Burden Hours:* 127.

*Needs and Uses:* NOAA Fisheries needs to comply with legal requirements in the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Order 12898, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act to account for the sustained participation and the impacts of individuals and fishing communities participating in the use of marine resources and fishing activities. In order to fully understand the impacts of fisheries management actions on participating individuals and communities, it is necessary to communicate with them, and maintain a regular standard of monitoring. This is accomplished through surveys to see if any impacts that have been identified have changed or been addressed. This survey identifies sociocultural impacts of the catch shares program, which extends beyond income and fishing indicators, and identifies quality of life and family impacts that can be directly attributed to changes in behaviors related to fishing regulations. Survey participants are able to communicate their successes and concerns. New data collections are compared to past data collections to measure change over time as well as identify new trends occurring

in the fishery. Information obtained through this study informs fisheries managers, is utilized in management reviews, is communicated back to the end users, and is made available to the public. This data collection also complies with the aforementioned legal requirements, and greatly increases our knowledge of fishing communities.

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

*Frequency:* Once every 5 years.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

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](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Coral Reef Conservation Program

**AGENCY:** Office for Coastal Management (OCM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management has prepared a draft programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) for its Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), which is managed by NOAA's National Ocean Service in Silver Spring, MD, and implemented in coastal areas and marine waters of Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands, and

targeted international regions including the wider Caribbean, the Coral Triangle, the South Pacific, and Micronesia.

Publication of this document begins the public comment period for the draft PEIS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the draft PEIS will be accepted on or before January 27, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the CRCP's draft PEIS by any of the following methods:

- *Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/NOAA-NOS-201-0127>. Click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- *Mail:* Please direct written comments to Harriet Nash, Deputy Director, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East-West Highway, N/OCM6, Room 10404, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Liz Fairey, NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, [liz.fairey@noaa.gov](mailto:liz.fairey@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NOAA has prepared a draft PEIS for coral reef conservation and restoration activities conducted by NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) throughout parts of the United States, including the South Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Remote Pacific Islands, and priority international areas (*i.e.*, wider Caribbean, Coral Triangle, South Pacific, and Micronesia). The draft PEIS assesses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of NOAA's proposed action to continue funding and otherwise conducting coral reef conservation and restoration activities through the CRCP's existing programmatic framework and related procedures. The CRCP is implemented consistently with the requirements of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (CRCA) and Executive Order 13089. Projects implemented or funded by NOAA vary in terms of their size, complexity, geographic location, and NOAA involvement, and often benefit diverse coral species, habitats, and ecosystem types. The CRCP conducts research and monitoring to gather data on the existence and condition of coral reef ecosystems to support conservation and restoration efforts. NOAA implements the CRCP across four of its line offices (*i.e.*, National Ocean Service, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Marine Fisheries Service, and National Environmental

Satellite, Data, and Information Service) and in coordination with other federal agencies, state and local agencies, private conservation organizations, and research and academic institutions. A significant amount of this support is administered through grants and cooperative agreements. CRCP activities are prioritized based on available funding and the responsiveness to the priorities in its strategic plan, including jurisdictional needs. The draft PEIS identifies and evaluates the general environmental impacts, issues, and concerns related to the comprehensive management and implementation of the CRCP, including potential mitigation. NOAA anticipates that some environmental effects will be caused by site-specific, project-level activities implementing the CRCP; therefore, the final PEIS will be used to support tiered, site-specific National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) reviews by narrowing the scope of environmental impacts and facilitating focused, project-level reviews. NOAA also intends for this draft PEIS to establish a tiered environmental decision-making framework that will support efficient compliance with other statutes protecting natural resources such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act to the extent they apply. Since the CRCP will use the Final PEIS to conduct tiered analyses, this document does not evaluate the environmental impacts of any project-level activities. The draft PEIS analyzes three program-level alternatives:

- *No Action Alternative:* The No Action Alternative would involve continued operation of the CRCP based on minimizing the three primary threats to coral reefs (*i.e.*, fishing impacts, land-based sources of pollution, and climate change) and supporting research and possible application of novel coral restoration and intervention techniques to respond rapidly to imminent threats, such as increased bleaching and disease, to corals and coral reef ecosystems. CRCP operations would include monitoring, research activities, watershed and coral reef restoration, reduction of physical impacts to coral reefs, outreach and education, and program support. The CRCP would continue to be implemented using available appropriations, across four NOAA line offices, using a mix of internal and external funding, across existing geographic areas, and in collaboration with similar partners. The CRCP would continue to conduct program activities with mandatory mitigation measures developed in