

type of bycatch reduction device, and turtle excluder device used for each trip. The ELB unit automatically collects fishing effort data and transmits those data via a cellular phone connection activated when the vessel is within non-roaming cellular range. Compliance with the ELB reporting requirements is required to renew the Gulf shrimp permit.

Monitoring shrimp vessels is challenging for NMFS when they operate together with many other fishing vessels of differing sizes, gears types, and fishing capabilities. Monitoring is made even more challenging by seasonal variability in shrimp abundance and price and the broad geographic distribution of the fleet. ELBs provide a precise means of estimating the amount of shrimp fishing effort. Using ELBs to estimate fishing effort serves an important role to help estimate bycatch in the Gulf shrimp fleet.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion when fishing.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

This information collection request may be viewed at 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 this notice publication by email to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or by fax to (202) 395-5806.

Sheleen Dumas,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-27739 Filed 12-23-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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: Green Sturgeon ESA 4(d) rule take exceptions and exemptions.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0613.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular.

Number of Respondents: 45.

Average Hours per Response:

Scientific research or monitoring exception, Habitat restoration exception, State research program report, and Research applications: 40 hours each; Scientific research or monitoring exception report, Habitat restoration exception report, and Research reports: 5 hours each; Emergency fish rescue report, and Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan report: 20 hours each; Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan and Tribal Plan: 160 hours each.

Burden Hours: 1,510.

Needs and Uses: The Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*; hereafter, "Southern DPS") was listed as a threatened species in April 2006. Protective regulations under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) were promulgated for the species on June 2, 2010 (75 FR 30714) (the final ESA 4(d) Rule). To comply with the ESA and the protective regulations, entities must obtain take authorization before they engage in activities that involve take of Southern DPS fish, unless the activity is covered by an exception or exemption. "Take" is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Certain activities described in the "exceptions" provision of 50 CFR 223.210(b) are not subject to the take prohibitions if they adhere to specific criteria and reporting requirements. Under the "exemption" provision of 50 CFR 223.210(c), the take prohibitions do not apply to scientific research, scientific monitoring, and fisheries activities conducted under an approved 4(d) program or plan. Similarly, take prohibitions do not apply to tribal resource management activities conducted under a Tribal Plan for which the requisite determinations described in 50 CFR 223.102(c)(3) have been made.

To ensure that activities qualify under exceptions to or exemptions from the take prohibitions, local, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, and private organizations are asked to submit detailed information regarding their activity on a schedule to be determined by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff. This information is used by NMFS to (1) track the number of Southern DPS fish taken as a result of each action; (2) understand and evaluate the cumulative effects of each action on the Southern DPS; and (3) determine whether

additional protections are needed for the species, or whether additional exceptions may be warranted. NMFS designed the criteria to ensure that actions meeting the criteria would adequately limit impacts on threatened Southern DPS fish, such that additional protections in the form of a federal take prohibition would not be necessary and advisable.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal government; Federal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Written notification describing research, monitoring, habitat restoration, or emergency fish rescue and salvage activities, on occasion; development of fisheries management and evaluation plans, state 4(d) research programs, or tribal fishery management plans, on occasion; fisheries management and evaluation plan reports, biannually; all other reports, annually.

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

This information collection request may be viewed at 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 or faxed to (202) 395-5806.

Sheleen Dumas,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-27744 Filed 12-23-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Law School Clinic Certification Program

ACTION: Notice of renewal of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension of an existing information collection: 0651-0081 (Law School Clinic Program).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 24, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

• *Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov.* Include “0651–0081 comment” in the subject line of the message.

• *Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.*

• *Mail: Kimberly Hardy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Dahlia George, Office of Enrollment and Discipline, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by telephone at 571–272–4097; or by email to Dahlia.George@uspto.gov with “0651–0020 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Public Law 113–227 (Dec. 16, 2014) requires the United States Patent and Trademark Office to establish regulations and procedures for application to, and participation in, the USPTO Law School Clinic Certification Program. The Program allows students enrolled in a participating law school’s clinic to practice patent or trademark law before the USPTO under the direct supervision of a faculty clinic supervisor. Each clinic provides legal services on a pro bono basis for clients who qualify for assistance from the law school’s clinic. By drafting, filing, and prosecuting patent and trademark

applications, students gain valuable experience that would otherwise be unavailable to them while in law school. The program also facilitates the provision of pro bono services to trademark and patent applicants who lack the financial resources necessary for traditional legal representation. In 2019, there were over 60 law schools participating in the program.

This information collection covers the applications from law schools that wish to enter the program, faculty advisors who seek to become a faculty clinic supervisor, and students who seek to participate in this program. The collection also includes the required biannual reports from participating law school clinics and biennial renewals required by the program as well as the request to make special under the Law School Clinic Certification Program, which allows a limited number of applications per semester to be advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination if the applicant makes the appropriate showing, to provide law students with practical experience as they will be more likely to receive substantive examination of applications within the school year that the application is filed.

II. Method of Collection

By mail, facsimile, hand delivery, or electronically to the USPTO.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651–0081.

IC Instruments and Forms: There are two forms associated with this collection.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 903 responses per year. The USPTO estimates that approximately 75% of the annual responses for this collection will be submitted electronically.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public from 0.5 and 40 hours, depending on the complexity of the situation, to gather the necessary information, prepare the appropriate documents, and submit the information to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 690 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent (Hourly) Cost Burden: \$145,575.

The USPTO expects that intellectual property attorneys will complete most of the items in this collection at an estimated rate of \$438 per hour. The attorney rates are found in the 2017 *Report of the Economic Survey* published by the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). Faculty members serving as Clinic Supervisors must be practicing attorneys and registered with the Patent Bar (for those schools handling patent matters before the USPTO on behalf of applicants). The cost for law students applying to participate in the Program is estimated to be at the 10% hourly rate for legal occupations (BLS 23–000 Legal Occupations) which is \$18.04 per hour. This accounts for law students’ possible employment in various entry level legal positions. Using this hourly rate, the USPTO estimates that the total respondent cost burden for this collection is \$145,575 per year.

TABLE 3—BURDEN HOUR/BURDEN COST TO RESPONDENTS

IC No.	Item	Estimated response time (hours)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours	Rate (\$/hr)	Total hourly cost burden
		(a)	(b)	(a) × (b) = (c)	(d)	(c) × (d) = (e)
1	Application by Law School to Enter the Program.	40	1	40	\$438.00	\$17,520
2	Application by Law School Faculty Member to Become a faculty Clinic Supervisor.	1	5	5	438.00	2,190
3	Application by Student to Become a Participant in the Program (PTO–158LS).	0.5	745	373	18.04	6,728
4	Biannual Report Required of Law School Clinics.	1	120	120	438.00	52,560
5	Biennial Renewal Application by Law School	5	30	150	438.00	65,700
6	Request to Make Special Under the Law School Clinic Certification Program.	1	2	2	438.00	876
	Total	903	690	145,575

Estimated Total Annual (Non-hour) Respondent Cost Burden: \$1,721. There are no capital startup, maintenance, or

operating fees associated with this collection. There are, however, annual

(non-hour) costs in the form of postage costs.

Filing Fees

There are no filing fees associated with this collection.

Postage Costs

Currently, the USPTO does not use automated or other technological collection techniques for the items in

this collection of information, but submissions are accepted electronically through email. Submissions are also accepted via postal mail and hand delivery. The USPTO expects that 75 percent of the items in this collection will be submitted electronically. Of the remaining 25 percent, the USPTO

estimates that 99 percent will be submitted by mail—with the remainder submitted by hand delivery—for a total of 225 mailed submissions. The average USPS Priority Mail postage cost for a legal flat rate envelope is estimated to be \$7.65. Table 4 calculates the postage costs associated with this collection.

TABLE 4—ANNUAL (Non-Hour) RESPONDENT COST BURDEN

IC No.	Item	Estimated mailed responses (a)	Estimated postage rate (b)	Total annual (non-hour) cost burden (a) × (b) = (c)
1	Application by Law School to Enter the Program	1	\$7.65	\$7.65
2	Application by Law School Faculty Member to Become a Faculty Clinic Supervisor.	1	7.65	7.65
3	Application by Student to Become a Participant in the Program (PTO–158LS)	185	7.65	1,415.25
4	Biannual Report Required of Law School Clinics	30	7.65	229.50
5	Biennial Renewal Application by Law School	7	7.65	53.55
6	Request to Make Special Under the Law School Clinic Program	1	7.65	\$7.65
	Total	225	1,721

Therefore, the USPTO estimates that the total annual (non-hour) cost burden for this collection, in the form of postage costs is \$1,721 per year.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

The USPTO is soliciting public comments to:

(a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Kimberly Hardy,

Information Collection Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2019–27832 Filed 12–23–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1410–30–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION**Sunshine Act Meetings**

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

PLACE: Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Examinations and enforcement matters. In the event that the time, date, or location of this meeting changes, an announcement of the change, along with the new time, date, and/or place of the meeting will be posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.cftc.gov/>.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Christopher Kirkpatrick, 202–418–5964.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Dated: December 20, 2019.

Robert Sidman,

Deputy Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2019–27931 Filed 12–20–19; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION**Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review**

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

(PRA), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected costs and burden.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 27, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, may be submitted directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in OMB within 30 days of this notice's publication by either of the following methods. Please identify the comments by "OMB Control No. 3038–0096."

- *By email addressed to:* OIRAsubmissions@omb.eop.gov or
- *By mail addressed to:* the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention Desk Officer for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 725 17th Street NW, Washington DC 20503.

A copy of all comments submitted to OIRA should be sent to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "Commission") by either of the following methods. The copies should refer to "OMB Control No. 3038–0096."

- *By mail addressed to:* Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581;