

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XB737]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Approved Industry-Funded Monitoring Service Providers

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

ACTION: Notice of approved industry-funded monitoring service providers.

SUMMARY: NMFS has approved four companies to provide industry-funded monitoring services (observing, at-sea monitoring, and/or portside sampling) to Atlantic herring vessels during industry-funded monitoring years 2022–2023 (April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2024). Monitoring coverage regulations require that any entities seeking to provide monitoring services, including services for industry-funded monitoring programs, must apply for and obtain approval from NMFS. This action will allow Atlantic herring vessels to secure industry-funded monitoring services from any of the approved providers during 2022–2023.

ADDRESSES: The list of NMFS-approved industry-funded monitoring service providers is available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/data/observer-providers-northeast-and-midatlantic-programs>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Maria Fenton, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9196.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The New England Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Omnibus Amendment created an IFM program in the Atlantic

herring fishery and set a 50-percent monitoring coverage target on vessels issued an All Areas (Category A) or Areas 2/3 (Category B) limited access Atlantic herring permit. This 50-percent coverage target consists of the combination of Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) coverage and IFM coverage provided to a vessel during the IFM year. Prior to any trip declared into the herring fishery, representatives for vessels issued Category A or B permits are required to notify NMFS for monitoring coverage. If NMFS informs a vessel that a trip is selected for IFM coverage, the vessel is required to obtain at-sea monitoring coverage from a NMFS-approved service provider for that trip. Midwater trawl vessels may also obtain IFM observer coverage in order to fish in a Groundfish Closed Area on a trip that was not selected for SBRM or IFM coverage. Vessels selected for SBRM coverage will continue to follow SBRM procedures, and that coverage will count toward achieving the 50-percent coverage target.

Some Category A or B herring vessels may participate in an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to use an electronic monitoring and portside sampling program in lieu of carrying a human at-sea monitor to fulfill the requirements of the IFM Amendment. If NMFS informs a vessel participating in the EFP that a trip has been selected for IFM coverage, that vessel is required to obtain portside sampling services for that trip. Vessels participating in the EFP may also obtain portside sampling coverage in lieu of carrying an observer in order to fish in a Groundfish Closed Area on a trip that was not selected for SBRM or IFM coverage.

Monitoring Service Provider Approval Process

Monitoring coverage regulations at § 648.11(h)(1) require that any entities seeking to provide monitoring services,

including services for IFM programs, must apply for and obtain approval from NMFS. The regulations at § 648.11(h)(4) describe the criteria for evaluating and approving a monitoring services provider application. NMFS approves service providers based on: (1) Completeness of the applications; and (2) determination of the applicant's ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of a monitoring service provider, as demonstrated in the application. Once approved, service providers must meet the requirements, conditions, and responsibilities specified at § 648.11(h)(5) and (6) in order to maintain eligibility. NMFS must notify service providers, in writing, if approval is withdrawn for any reason.

Approved Industry-Funded Monitoring Service Providers

NMFS received complete applications from four companies to provide IFM services to Atlantic herring vessels during IFM years 2022–2023: Saltwater Inc.; East West Technical Services LLC; A.I.S., Inc.; and Fathom Resources, LLC. We approved all four companies to provide IFM services to Atlantic herring vessels during IFM years 2022–2023 because they met the application requirements and demonstrated their ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of a monitoring service provider. All four companies are currently approved to provide IFM services for the Atlantic herring fishery in 2020–2021. NMFS will closely monitor the performance of approved providers and will be prepared to withdraw approval during the current approval term, or disapprove a future application to provide monitoring services, if it is determined that monitoring provider requirements, conditions, and responsibilities are not being met.

TABLE 1—COMPANIES APPROVED TO PROVIDE IFM SERVICES TO ATLANTIC HERRING VESSELS DURING IFM YEARS 2022–2023

| Provider | Approved IFM service(s) | Contact information | Website |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Saltwater Inc | Portside sampling | 733 N St., Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907–276–3241, Fax: 907–258–5999. | www.saltwaterinc.com . |
| East West Technical Services LLC | Industry-funded observer, ASM, portside sampling. | 91 Point Judith Rd., Suite 26, Unit 347, Narragansett, RI 02882, Phone: 860–910–4957, Fax: 860–223–6005. | www.ewts.com . |
| A.I.S., Inc | Industry-funded observer, ASM, portside sampling. | 540 Hawthorn St., North Dartmouth, MA 02747, Phone: 508–990–9054, Fax: 508–990–9055. | www.aisobservers.com . |
| Fathom Resources, LLC | Industry-funded observer, ASM, portside sampling. | 855 Aquidneck Ave., Unit 9, Middletown, RI 02842, Phone: 508–990–0997, Fax: 508–991–7372. | www.fathomresources.com . |

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 10, 2022.

Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, following the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. This Notice of Information Collection is for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Baseline Report, Performance Report and Annual Report. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding the submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before April 18, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Jennifer Duane, Director, Grants Management, Administration, and Compliance, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, National Telecommunication and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887, Washington, DC 20230, or by email to broadbandusa@ntia.gov. Please reference TBCP Data Collection in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed Jennifer Duane, Director, Grants Management, Administration, and Compliance, via

email at jduane@ntia.gov; broadbandusa@ntia.gov; or via telephone at (202) 482-2048.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division N, Title IX, Section 905(c), Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182 (Dec. 27, 2020) (Act), provides new federal funding for grants to eligible entities to expand access to and adoption of: (i) Broadband service on Tribal Land; or (ii) for programs that promote the use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources. The TBCP will make up to \$980,000,000 available for federal assistance to the following eligible entities: (i) A Tribal Government; (ii) a Tribal College or University; (iii) the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs; (iv) a Tribal organization; or (v) an Alaska Native Corporation. The purpose of the TBCP is to improve the quality of life, spur economic development and commercial activity, create opportunities for remote employment and online entrepreneurship, remote learning, and telehealth by expanding broadband access and providing digital training and inclusion programs to Native American communities.

On June 3, 2021, NTIA published the program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on *Grants.gov* to describe the requirements under which it will award grants for the TBCP.¹ The NOFO required award recipients to submit financial reports, performance (technical) reports, and annual reports to the NTIA Federal Program Officer and the NOAA Grants Officer and Grants Specialist. Award recipients must follow the reporting requirements described in Sections A.01, Reporting Requirement, of the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (dated November 12, 2020). Additionally, in accordance with 2 CFR part 170, all recipients of a federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, must comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-282).

NTIA will use the information collected from each award recipient to

effectively administer and monitor the grant program to ensure the achievement of TBCP program purposes and account for the expenditure of federal funds to deter waste, fraud, and abuse.

II. Method of Collection

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Award recipients will submit financial and performance reports on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31st and September 30th of each year, and an annual report no later than one year after receiving grant funds and until they have expended all funds. The Baseline Report is a one-time collection of information from award recipients covering project plans and details about key outputs and outcomes that is due within 45 days of the issuance of the award. NTIA will collect data through electronic submission.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 06XX-XXXX.

Form Number(s): TBD.

Type of Review: New information collection.

Affected Public: Grant award recipients consisting of Tribal Governments, Tribal Colleges or Universities, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Tribal organizations, or Alaska Native Corporations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 600.

Estimated Time per Response: 33.22.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 30,636.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$816,449.40.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division N, Title IX, Section 905(c), Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182 (Dec. 27, 2020).

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to:

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

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

(c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

(d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

¹ See Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (June 3, 2021), <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=333974> (available under the "Related Documents" tab).