
This information collection includes the forms used by participants in the CR Program to apply for or renew permits; transfer or lease individual fishing quota (IFQ), individual processor quota (IPQ), quota share (QS), or processor quota share (PQS); and apply for exemption from regional delivery requirements. This information collection also includes the following reports for which no collection forms are used:

- The North or South Region Delivery Exemption Report is submitted by IFQ holders who signed a preseason application. This report provides NMFS with the means to assess how the industry is exercising the exemption opportunity, and whether implementing regulations are sufficient to meet the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Statement of Intent for Amendment 41 to the FMP.
- The Community Impact Report or IPQ Holder Report is submitted by a community entity or IPQ holder, respectively, and provides documentation needed by NMFS to evaluate the efficacy of privately administered contracts.
- The CDQ Group Notification of Community Representative is submitted by the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups representing Saint Paul and Saint George to designate to NMFS a single entity as the regional representative for these two communities.
- The Eligible Crab Community Organization (ECCO) Annual Report is submitted by the ECCO. It details the use of the crab QS and IFQ and is intended to ensure that the ECCO maintains the QS and IFQ to benefit residents of eligible communities.

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected primarily by mail and fax. The following may be submitted online through eFISH on the NMFS Alaska Region website at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-crab-rationalization-applications-and-reporting-forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0514. Form Number(s): None.

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

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 496.

Estimated Time per Response:
- Application for Annual Crab IFQ Permit: 2.5 hours; Application for Annual Crab IPQ Permit: 2 hours; Application for Annual Crab Harvesting Cooperative IFQ Permit: 23 hours; Application for Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) Permit: 30 minutes; Application for BSAI Crab Hired Master (skipper) Permit: 1 hour; Application for Federal Crab Vessel Permit (FCVP): 20 minutes; Application for Transfer of Crab QS: 2 hours; Application for Transfer of Crab PQS: 2.5 hours; Application for Transfer (lease) of Crab IFQ: 2.5 hours; Application for Transfer of IFQ between Crab Harvesting Cooperatives: 2 hours; Application for Transfer (Lease) of Crab IPQ: 2.5 hours; Application for Converted CPO QS and CPO IFQ: 30 minutes; Application for CR Program Eligibility to Receive QS/ PQS or IFQ/IPQ by Transfer: 2 hours; Application for Annual Exemption from Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab West Region Delivery Requirements: 2 hours; Application for Exemption from CR Crab North or South Region Delivery Requirements: 20 hours; North or South Region Delivery Exemption Reporting: 20 hours; Voluntary Community Impact Report or IPQ Holder Report (N or S Response Report): 2 hours; CDQ Group Notification of Community Representative: 5 hours; Application to Become an ECCO: 2.5 hours; Application for Transfer of Crab QS/IPQ to or from an ECCO: 2 hours; ECCO Annual Report: 4 hours; BSAI Crab Rationalization Program QS Beneficiary Designation Form: 30 minutes; File an Appeal to NMFS: 4 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,597 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $11,430 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

Respondent’s Obligation: Voluntary; Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits; Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

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

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before you include your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,
Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2023–20377 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–P–2023–0008]

Elimination of the Postal Postcard in the Patent Center Electronic Office Action Program

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) transitioned to the Patent Center Electronic Office (e-Office) Action program in April 2023. The Patent Center e-Office Action program is designed to modernize the e-Office
The USPTO has determined that maintaining postal postcards is not necessary. Eliminating the postal postcard will reduce paper waste and mitigate the impact of potential postal delays. Furthermore, exclusively using e-postcards will enable the USPTO to continue to furnish courtesy reminders while more effectively streamlining service delivery processes. Therefore, the USPTO is eliminating the postal postcard as an option for all Patent Center e-Office Action program users. Instead, the USPTO will send a courtesy e-postcard notifying Patent Center e-Office Action program users if none of the Office communications listed in the email notification are viewed or downloaded through Patent Center within seven calendar days after the date of the email notification and at least one of the listed Office communications requires the applicant’s reply. The USPTO will email courtesy e-postcards to the same email addresses assigned to the Customer Number for the correspondence address.


Katherine K. Vidal,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2023–20351 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]