

abundance estimate, NMFS will determine that the numbers of marine mammals taken of a species or stock are small. For more information please see NMFS’ discussion of the MMPA’s small numbers requirement provided in the final rule (86 FR 5438, January 19, 2021).

The take numbers for authorization are determined as described above in the Summary of Request and Analysis section. Subsequently, the total incidents of harassment for each species are multiplied by scalar ratios to produce a derived product that better reflects the number of individuals likely to be taken within a survey (as compared to the total number of instances of take), accounting for the

likelihood that some individual marine mammals may be taken on more than 1 day (see 86 FR 5404, January 19, 2021). The output of this scaling, where appropriate, is incorporated into adjusted total take estimates that are the basis for NMFS’ small numbers determinations, as depicted in table 1.

This product is used by NMFS in making the necessary small numbers determinations through comparison with the best available abundance estimates (see discussion at 86 FR 5322, January 19, 2021; 86 FR 5391, January 19, 2021). For this comparison, NMFS’ approach is to use the maximum theoretical population, determined through review of current stock assessment reports (SAR; <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessment-reports-species-stock>) and model-predicted abundance information (<https://seamap.env.duke.edu/models/Duke/GOM/>). For the latter, for taxa where a density surface model could be produced, we use the maximum mean seasonal (*i.e.*, 3 month) abundance prediction for purposes of comparison as a precautionary smoothing of month-to-month fluctuations and in consideration of a corresponding lack of data in the literature regarding seasonal distribution of marine mammals in the GOM. Information supporting the small numbers determinations is provided in table 1.

fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessment-reports-species-stock) and model-predicted abundance information (<https://seamap.env.duke.edu/models/Duke/GOM/>). For the latter, for taxa where a density surface model could be produced, we use the maximum mean seasonal (*i.e.*, 3 month) abundance prediction for purposes of comparison as a precautionary smoothing of month-to-month fluctuations and in consideration of a corresponding lack of data in the literature regarding seasonal distribution of marine mammals in the GOM. Information supporting the small numbers determinations is provided in table 1.

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS

Species	Authorized take	Scaled take ¹	Abundance ²	Percent abundance
Rice’s whale	0	n/a	51	0
Sperm whale	1,052	445	2,207	20.2
<i>Kogia spp.</i>	³ 398	121	4,373	3.2
Beaked whales	4,644	469	3,768	12.4
Rough-toothed dolphin	798	229	4,853	4.7
Bottlenose dolphin	3,783	1,086	176,108	0.6
Clymene dolphin	2,247	645	11,895	5.4
Atlantic spotted dolphin	1,511	434	74,785	0.6
Pantropical spotted dolphin	10,196	2,926	102,361	2.9
Spinner dolphin	2,732	784	25,114	3.1
Striped dolphin	878	252	5,229	4.8
Fraser’s dolphin	252	72	1,665	4.3
Risso’s dolphin	660	195	3,764	5.2
Melon-headed whale	1,476	435	7,003	6.2
Pygmy killer whale	347	102	2,126	4.8
False killer whale	553	163	3,204	5.1
Killer whale	7	n/a	267	2.6
Short-finned pilot whale	427	126	1,981	6.4

¹ Scalar ratios were applied to “Authorized Take” values as described at 86 FR 5322 and 86 FR 5404 (January 19, 2021) to derive scaled take numbers shown here.

² Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Roberts *et al.*, 2016). For those taxa where a density surface model predicting abundance by month was produced, the maximum mean seasonal abundance was used. For those taxa where abundance is not predicted by month, only mean annual abundance is available. For Rice’s whale and the killer whale, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

³ Includes 21 takes by Level A harassment and 377 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take plus authorized Level A harassment take.

Based on the analysis contained herein of Murphy’s proposed survey activity described in its LOA application and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes (*i.e.*, less than one-third of the best available abundance estimate) and therefore the taking is of no more than small numbers.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the

LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued an LOA to Murphy authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: March 20, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, 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; Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

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

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, which help us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Arica Cox, Telecommunications Policy Analyst, Grants Management and Compliance, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4826, Washington, DC 20230, or by email to broadbandusa@ntia.gov. Please reference "Digital Equity Competitive Application Forms Comment" 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 to Arica Cox, Telecommunications Policy Analyst, Grants Management and Compliance, via telephone at (202) 482-2048, or via email at acox@ntia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2021 (Infrastructure Act or Act), which was adopted on November 15, 2021, and is also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provided \$65 billion of funding for programs to close the digital divide and ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet. NTIA administers multiple broadband connectivity grant programs funded by the Act, including the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program ("Competitive Grant Program"). The Competitive Grant Program provides new federal funding for grants to eligible applicants for the purpose of supporting efforts to achieve digital equity, promoting digital inclusion activities, and spurring greater adoption of broadband among covered populations.

NTIA will use the information collected from each applicant to effectively review the proposed

applications and budgets from political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities of a State; Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations; foundations, corporations, institutions, and associations that are not-for-profit entities and not schools; community anchor institutions; local educational agencies; entities that carry out workforce development programs; and other eligible entities (or partnerships between such entities) for the Competitive Grant Program.

II. Method of Collection

NTIA will collect data through both electronic and mail submission.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0660-XXXX.
Form Number(s): TBD.

Type of Review: Regular submission for a new information collection.

Affected Public: Eligible entities applying for Infrastructure Act Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program funding, including political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities of a State; Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations; foundations, corporations, institutions, and associations that are not-for-profit entities and not schools; community anchor institutions; local educational agencies; and entities that carry out workforce development programs; and other eligible entities (or partnerships between such entities).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Time per Response: 14 hours for consortia applicants; 10 hours for individual applicants.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,200 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$284,816.00.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.
Legal Authority: Section 60305 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021).

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility. 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. Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to

be collected. 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 including 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. 2024-06420 Filed 3-25-24; 8:45 am]

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BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

[Docket No. CFPB-2024-0013]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is requesting the revision of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) approval for an existing information collection titled "Making Ends Meet Survey" approved under OMB Control Number 3170-0080.

DATES: Written comments are encouraged and must be received on or before May 28, 2024 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by the title of the information collection, OMB Control Number (see below), and docket number (see above), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Email:* PRA_Comments@cfpb.gov. Include Docket No. CFPB-2024-0013 in the subject line of the email.
- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Comment Intake, Consumer Financial