

should be visible at distance from the sea and in the air. These markings provide law enforcement personnel with a means to monitor fishing, at-sea processing, and other related activities, and to determine whether observed activities on the vessel are in accordance with those authorized for that vessel. NMFS, the United States Coast Guard, and other marine agencies use the identifying official number in monitoring compliance, issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Vessels that are authorized for particular fisheries are readily identified and gear violations are more readily prosecuted, thereby enabling for more cost-effective enforcement.

In addition to vessel marking, requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner is crucial to enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The requirements imposed on U.S. fisheries in the southeast region apply to aquacultured live rock; golden crab traps; spiny lobster traps and buoys; black sea bass pots, buoys, and buoy lines; Spanish mackerel gillnet buoys; and buoy gear.

## II. Method of Collection

Markings, such as numbers, are placed directly on fishing vessels and gear.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0358.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission—extension of a current information collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10,031.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* Vessel marking: 75 minutes. Gear marking: aquacultured live rocks, 10 seconds each; golden crab traps, 2 minutes each; spiny lobster traps and buoys, 7 minutes each; black sea bass pots, buoys, and buoy lines, 16 minutes each; and Spanish mackerel gillnet buoys, 20 minutes each; and buoy gear, 10 minutes each.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 40,335.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$544,752 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

## IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments 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 information collection review. 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.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Application for Appointment in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 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 helps 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 July 8, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0047 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 LCDR Andrew Reynaga, Chief, NOAA Corps Recruiting Branch, (301) 713–7727, or [chief.noaacorps.recruiting@noaa.gov](mailto:chief.noaacorps.recruiting@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This is a request for revision and extension of an existing information collection.

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps is the uniformed service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a bureau of the United States Department of Commerce. Officers serve under Senate-confirmed appointments and Presidential commissions (33 U.S.C. chapter 17, subchapter 1, sections 853 and 854). The NOAA Corps provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines who serve their country by supporting NOAA's mission of surveying the Earth's oceans, coasts, and atmosphere to ensure the economic and physical well-being of the Nation.

NOAA Corps officers operate vessels and aircraft engaged in scientific missions and serve in leadership positions throughout NOAA. Persons wishing to apply for an appointment in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps must complete an application package, including NOAA Form 56–42, at least three letters of recommendation, a resume, and official transcripts. A personal interview must also be conducted. Eligibility requirements include a bachelor's degree with at least 48 credit hours of science, engineering,

math, or other disciplines related to NOAA's mission, excellent health, and normal color vision with uncorrected visual acuity no worse than 20/400 in each eye (correctable to 20/20).

The revision includes updates that reflect the current status of the NOAA Corps. This includes amending the essay questions and updating the instructions to reflect a new direct-to-aviation recruitment model. NOAA Form 56–80A is a required summary of Aviation experience for those applying to become NOAA Aviators. Members of the public who wish to apply to the Direct-to-Aviation NOAA Corps program are required to complete NF 56–80A.

## II. Method of Collection

Applicants must utilize the online E-recruit electronic application to complete and digitally submit the forms, including the Direct-to-Aviation Summary for NOAA Corps. An in-person interview is also required.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0047.  
*Form Number(s):* NOAA 56–42, NOAA 56–42A, and NOAA Form 56–80A.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission. Revision and extension of an existing information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 300.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Written applications, 2 hours; interviews, 5 hours; references, 15 minutes; and Direct to Aviation Summary form, 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,425.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$21,750.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

*Legal Authority:* 33 U.S.C. chapter 17, subchapter 1, sections 853 and 854.

## 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 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.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD743]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Sitka Seaplane Base Construction

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of two incidental harassment authorizations.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued two consecutive incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs) to City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) to incidentally harass marine mammals during construction activities associated with the CBS' Sitka Seaplane Base project, in Sitka, Alaska.

**DATES:** The authorizations are effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-city-and-borough-sitka-seaplane-base-construction-activities>. In case of

problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jenna Harlacher, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are proposed or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed IHA is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of the species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of the takings are set forth. The definitions of all applicable MMPA statutory terms cited above are included in the relevant sections below.

##### Summary of Request

On September 1, 2023, NMFS received a request from CBS for two IHAs to take marine mammals incidental to the Sitka seaplane base construction project in Sitka, Alaska, over the course of 2 years. Following NMFS' review of the application and a revised version, CBS submitted a final version on November 15, 2023. The application was deemed adequate and complete on December 1, 2023. The notice of proposed IHAs published for public comment on January 11, 2024 (89 FR 1884). For both IHAs, CBS's request is for take of seven species of marine mammals by Level B harassment and, for a subset of three of these species, Level A harassment. Neither CBS nor