

Checklist.¹⁴ In accordance with 19 CFR 351.226(e)(1), Commerce intends to issue its preliminary circumvention determination no later than 150 days from the date of publication of the notice of initiation of this circumvention inquiry in the **Federal Register**.

This notice is published in accordance with section 781(b) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.226(d)(1)(iii).

Dated: December 12, 2024.

Abdelali Elouaradia,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Request for Information; Data for Marine Spatial Studies Related to Transmission Planning in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama

AGENCY: National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY: NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), hereafter NOAA, in partnership with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Deployment Office (GDO) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is working to build on existing spatial planning capacity in the United States (U.S.) Gulf of Mexico region. Through this Request for Information, NOAA is seeking public input to identify coastal and marine spatial data or other critical information to inform spatial analyses for transmission planning in state and Federal waters off Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The input we receive from the data development workshop meeting, as well as the responses to the items listed in the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document, will be used to inform potential coastal and ocean development activities in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico region, such as renewable energy development.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to provide input in response to this Request for Information through January

24, 2025. Late-filed input will be considered to the extent practicable.

Verbal input will be accepted during a public meeting to be held at the InterContinental Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 14–15, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to provide input using one of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit electronic written public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA-NOS-2024-0138 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

- **Verbal submission:** NOAA will accept verbal input at a data development workshop. The meeting will be held at the InterContinental Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) and Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST. There will be a registration window from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. CST each day before the start of the meeting. Advanced registration is required for the meeting by completing the registration form at <https://forms.gle/BmTDiD5zV3ZuXHuN8> or by providing an RSVP to Joshua Chastain at joshua.chastain@noaa.gov. The registration deadline is Friday, January 3, 2025.

Reports of meeting results will also be published and made available to the public in the weeks following the meeting. If you are unable to provide electronic written comments or participate in the meeting, please contact Joshua Chastain at joshua.chastain@noaa.gov or (843) 267-5641 for alternative submission methods.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Morris, NOAA NCCOS, at james.morris@noaa.gov or (252) 666-7433.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

NOAA is an agency of the United States Federal Government that works to conserve and manage coastal and

marine ecosystems and resources. NOAA works to make fisheries sustainable and productive, provide safe seafood to consumers, conserve threatened and endangered species and other protected resources, and maintain healthy ecosystems. NOAA has jurisdiction and responsibility for its trust marine resources in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico region as well as significant interest in supporting the resilience of coastal and marine-dependent communities and promoting equity and environmental justice. For these reasons, it is important for NOAA to invest in research that informs marine spatial studies in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico region, including socioeconomic research that ensures meaningful participation of local communities and supports equitable processes for planning and siting of new and existing marine industries and conservation areas.

NOAA has been engaged with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to support siting and environmental review for offshore wind energy areas in U.S. Federal waters (<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy>) to ensure protection of trust resources in any offshore development activities.

II. Purpose of This Request for Information

The purpose of this Request for Information is to promote data development to inform coastal and marine spatial studies related to transmission planning in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, with an emphasis on data needs for offshore wind and transmission planning. In addition to input received from the public through the electronic and verbal submissions, NOAA aims to inform the public about its coastal and ocean planning processes and capabilities, discuss the current data available for each ocean sector (e.g., national security, fisheries, industry, metocean, natural, cultural, and social resources), and gather ideas for other data sources. NOAA hopes to come out of the meetings with a strengthened relationship with the public and a list of best available data and data gaps.

III. Specific Information Requested To Inform Marine Spatial Studies Related to Transmission Planning in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama

Through this Request for Information, NOAA seeks written public input to inform coastal and marine spatial studies related to transmission planning in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico region. NOAA is particularly interested in

¹⁴ See Circumvention Initiation Checklist at 13.

receiving input concerning the items listed below. Responses to this Request for Information are voluntary, and respondents need not reply to items listed. When providing input, please specify if you are providing general feedback on marine spatial studies and/or if you are responding to one of the specific item number(s) below:

1. Specific datasets related to ocean sectors, natural resources, and/or human activities you recommend NOAA use in coastal and marine spatial studies.

Major concerns you have related to use of any specific datasets that may be used in coastal and marine spatial studies.

2. Major concerns you have related to gaps in scientific knowledge or data that could impact coastal and marine spatial planning efforts.

3. Specific data or information you recommend NOAA or other partners collect, if it is not currently available or has not been previously collected.

4. Ways in which NOAA can better engage and collaborate with the public and local communities to promote economic, social, and ecological resilience as well as protect trust resources.

5. Ways in which NOAA can build upon existing capacity and resources for regional ocean spatial planning.

Sean Corson,

Director, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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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; Applications and Reports for Scientific Research and Enhancement Permits Under the Endangered Species Act

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 February 18, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at *NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov*. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0402 in the subject line of your comments. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted on *https://www.regulations.gov* without change. 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 Rob Clapp, Section 7 Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232, (503) 231-2314 or *Robert.Clapp@NOAA.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request for renewal of an approved information collection. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) imposes prohibitions against the taking of threatened and endangered species. Section 10 of the ESA allows permits authorizing the taking of such species for research and enhancement purposes. The corresponding regulations established procedures for persons to apply for such permits. In addition, the regulations set forth specific reporting requirements for such permit holders. The regulations thus require two sets of information collections: (1) Applications for research/enhancement permits, and (2) prescribed reports for such permits once they are issued.

The required information is used to evaluate the impacts that research and enhancement activities have on endangered species, to make the determinations required by the ESA before issuing any such permit, and to establish appropriate permit conditions. To issue permits under ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) must determine that (1) such exceptions were applied for in good faith, (2) if granted and exercised, will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered

species, and (3) will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the ESA. This collection is not being revised in any way.

II. Method of Collection

Information may be collected through the internet, email, or paper format.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0402.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Affected Public: Federal government; State, local, or tribal governments; academic institutions; non-profit organizations; businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 176.

Estimated Time per Response: Permit applications, 12 hours; permit modification requests, 6 hours; annual reports, 2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 850.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$500 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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

Legal Authority: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *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 information collection request. 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