

copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Steven P. Freese, NOAA NMFS(NWR), Sustainable Fisheries Division, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA, 98115 (206) 526-6113.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Northwest Emergency Assistance Plan (NEAP) provides assistance to salmon fishermen in the Pacific Northwest who have been affected by a fishery resource disaster, while providing conservation benefits to salmon resources. These disaster relief funds, which first were made available under the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) and more recently under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, initially were applied to the following three programs, administered by the following intermediaries: a vessel permit buyback program—Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); (2) a habitat restoration jobs program—Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); and, (3) a data collection jobs program—Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). The habitat program is no longer in effect and the data collection program expires on January 31, 1999. Any information collection burden relevant to the data collection program (October–December 1998) would be quite small as most of the funded projects will be concluded by August 1998 and less than 20 fishermen are expected to be hired after August 1998. Many of these fishermen have already completed the necessary forms. Therefore the reporting burden associated with the data collection program is assumed to be within the estimates provided herein for the Washington State buyback program.

Under the NEAP, Washington state permits for Columbia River gillnet, ocean troll and salmon delivery, and charterboat permits were purchased under two successive bidding rounds. In response to the winter 1996–97 floods, Congress appropriated \$3.5 million to continue a salmon fishing buyback program and the State of Washington is providing \$1.17 million in required matching funds. Unlike the previous buyback rounds, this third round will include Puget Sound permits and exclude charterboat permits. With respect to information requirements, bidding procedures will be similar or simpler to the previous buyback rounds.

II. Method of Collection

A salmon fisherman who wishes to sell a valid Washington State salmon permit will submit: (1) An “offer sheet” designed by WDFW; (2) a “landings permission” form also may be used if WDFW wishes to undertake auditing of fishermen’s offers, or should the fisherman give WDFW authorization to find his records instead of him supplying backup documentation to his request; and/or (3) a “letter of acceptance and acknowledgment” if the buyback offer is accepted. These forms will be returned to WDFW by mail or in person as an original signature is needed on all three forms.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0288.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit (commercial salmon fishermen licensed to operate in the State of Washington).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,300.

Estimated Time Per Response: 4 hours per offer form, 8 hours per appeal, and 6 minutes per acceptance form.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,035 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$7,000.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 1, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,
Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-14943 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Southwest Region Vessel Identification Requirements

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Alvin Katekaru, Pacific Islands Area Office, Southwest Region, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808) 973-2985.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) NOAA is responsible for management of the Nation’s marine fisheries. As part of its efforts to enforce fishery regulations, NOAA has included in some of those regulations requirements that fishing vessels be clearly identified through painting or display of an identification number on its deckhouse, hull, and/or weather deck. The ability to identify vessels from air platforms greatly enhances the ability to enforce fishery regulations and determine whether a particular vessel is authorized to participate in a fishery or engage in the activities observed.

NOAA has previously received Paperwork Reduction Act clearance for all of its gear-marking requirements under one Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number, 0648-0306, but for internal management reasons NOAA has concluded that future clearances will be obtained on a regional or fishery basis. This notice is

for the requirements imposed in the Southwest Region's pelagic longline, crustaceans, bottomfish and seamount groundfish, precious corals, and northern anchovy fisheries.

II. Method of Collection

In these fisheries, the official number of the vessel must be clearly displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deck house or hull and on a weather deck. Minimum marking sizes are set as well as a requirement to keep the numbers visible without interference from gear or rigging.

III. Data

OMB Number: None (Previously cleared under 0648-0306).

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 175.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 per marking, 45 minutes per vessel.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 169 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,500.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 1, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-14944 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Southwest Region Gear Identification Requirements

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) NOAA is responsible for management of the Nation's marine fisheries. As part of its efforts to enforce fishery regulations, NOAA has included in some of those regulations requirements that fishing gear be marked. The ability to link gear to its owner or operator is essential for enforcement in these fisheries, and the identification of gear is also useful in actions concerning the damage or loss of gear. NOAA has previously received Paperwork Reduction Act clearance for all of its gear-marking requirements under one Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number, 0648-0305, but for internal management reasons NOAA intends that future clearances will be obtained on a regional or fishery basis. This notice is for the requirements imposed in the Southwest Region's pelagic longline and crustaceans fisheries.

II. Method of Collection

Fishermen in these fisheries must mark their fishing gear. Longline vessel operators must ensure that the official number of the vessel is affixed to every longline float and buoy, whether or not the float or buoy is deployed. The lobster vessel's official number must be marked legibly on all traps and floats.

III. Data

OMB Number: None (Formerly cleared under 0648-0305).

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 175.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2-5 minutes per mark.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,202 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$33,000.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 1, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-14945 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Gear Marking and Call-in Requirements for Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.