

the CMECS to reflect those recommendations found to be valuable for implementation of the CMECS and supportive of the user community needs.

Information is compiled quarterly by the CMECS Implementation Working Group, an interagency group of CMECS technical experts. This information is used to assess needs for revisions to the CMECS. Information is not disseminated to the public.

## II. Method of Collection

This information is collected by an electronic form posted on the CMECS website. However, we also accept paper format for anyone unable to access the form through the internet. Some follow up interviews may occur to better understand recommendations as needed.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0799.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular (Extension of current information collection.)

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal government; Federal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 100.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* 0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* The FGDC requires periodic reviews and maintenance of federal standards. Collection of information from users is critical to this process.

## 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.*

[FR Doc. 2024–14005 Filed 6–25–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–08–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE012]

### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery; Applications for Exempted Fishing Permits; 2024–2025 Fishing Year

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that two exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications warrant further consideration. Both applications are from the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) and request an exemption from the expected prohibition on primary directed fishing for Pacific sardine during the 2024–2025 fishing year to collect Pacific sardine as part of industry-based scientific research. NMFS requests public comment on the applications.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by July 26, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2024–0058, by the following method:

- *Electronic Submissions:* Submit all public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit <https://www.regulations.gov> and type NOAA–NMFS–2024–0058 in the Search box. Click the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach

your comments. The EFP applications will be available under Supporting and Related Materials through the same link.

*Instructions:* Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://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. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katie Davis, West Coast Region, NMFS, (323) 362–2126, [katie.davis@noaa.gov](mailto:katie.davis@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Approving the EFP applications would be authorized under the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745, which allow NMFS Regional Administrators to authorize EFPs for fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited.

At its April 2024 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended that NMFS approve two EFP applications for the 2024–2025 Pacific sardine fishing year. Both applications are from the CWPA and are renewal requests for an exemption from the expected prohibition on primary directed fishing for Pacific sardine during the 2024–2025 fishing year; the purpose of the requests are to collect Pacific sardine as part of industry-based scientific research. The Council considered these EFP applications concurrently with the 2024–2025 annual harvest specifications for Pacific sardine because Pacific sardine catch under each EFP would be accounted for under the proposed 2024–2025 annual catch limit (ACL), which is 6,005 metric tons (mt). A summary of each EFP application is provided below:

(1) *Request renewal of exempted fishery permit (EFP) to allow take of Pacific sardine in point sets in 2024–2025 in support of the CPS–NCA research program:* The CWPA submitted a renewal application for their CPS Nearshore Cooperative Survey (NCS) program. The purpose of this EFP project is to collect data for estimating CPS biomass in shallow waters that are not accessible to NOAA ships. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the CWPA, has been conducting aerial surveys to

estimate the biomass and distribution of Pacific sardine and certain other CPS in nearshore waters in the Southern California Bight since 2012, and in the Monterey-San Francisco area since the summer of 2017. The CPS–NCS survey would capture CPS schools identified by aerial spotter pilots, and weigh and sample the catch onshore to validate the biomass and species composition of the schools observed in the nearshore aerial survey. If approved, this EFP would allow up to eight participating vessels to directly harvest a total of 150 mt of Pacific sardine during the 2024–2025 fishing year. A portion of each point set (*i.e.*, an individual haul of fish captured with a purse seine net) would be retained for biological sampling, and the remainder would be sold by participating fishermen and processors to offset research costs and avoid unnecessary discard.

(2) *Request renewal of exempted fishery permit (EFP) to allow fishing of Pacific sardine for biological samples in 2024–2025 nearshore research program:* The CFWPA submitted a renewal application for their biological sampling EFP project. The primary directed fishery for Pacific sardine has been closed since 2015 and, consequently, scientists at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) have a limited amount of fishery-dependent data to use in their stock assessment. The goal of this EFP project is to provide fishery-dependent catch data, including biological data (*i.e.*, age and length data from directed harvest), for potential use in Pacific sardine stock assessments. If approved, this EFP would allow up to eight participating vessels to directly harvest up to 520 mt of Pacific sardine during the 2024–2025 fishing year. A portion of each landing would be retained for biological sampling by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the remainder would be sold by participating fishermen and processors to offset research costs and avoid unnecessary discard.

Altogether, these EFP projects total 670 mt. If NMFS does not issue one or more of these EFPs, the requested tonnage would be available for harvest by other permissible fishing activities during the 2024–2025 fishing year (*e.g.*, live bait or minor directed harvest).

After publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS may approve and issue permits to participating vessels after the close of the public comment period. NMFS will consider comments submitted in deciding whether to approve the applications as requested. NMFS may approve the applications in their entirety or may

make any alterations needed to achieve the goals of the EFP projects and the FMP. NMFS may also approve different amounts of Pacific sardine allocation for each EFP project if any changes are made to the 2024–2025 proposed sardine harvest specifications before final implementation.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: June 21, 2024.

**Karen H. Abrams,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024–14010 Filed 6–25–24; 8:45 am]

**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; Generic Clearance for Marine Recreational Information Program: Design & Field Test Studies

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite 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. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on April 10, 2024 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce

*Title:* Generic Clearance for Marine Recreational Information Program: Design & Field Test Studies

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission [new information collection].

*Number of Respondents:* 46,000.

*Average Hours Per Response:* Surveys five minutes, Cognitive interviews one hour, focus groups one hour, and panel designs fifteen minutes.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 4,375.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is to initiate a new information collection using a generic clearance to allow the

Marine Recreational Information Program to develop, test, and improve its surveys and methodologies. Marine recreational anglers are surveyed to collect catch and effort data, fish biology data, and angler socioeconomic characteristics. This request is part of an on-going initiative to improve MRIP surveys as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852) and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 1881) and recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. Marine recreational fishing catch and effort data are collected through a combination of mail surveys, telephone surveys and on-site intercept surveys with recreational anglers. The procedures utilized to this effect will include but are not limited to experiments with levels of incentives for various types of survey operations, focus groups, cognitive laboratory activities, pilot testing, exploratory interviews, experiments with questionnaire design, and usability testing of electronic data collection instruments.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* On Occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852) and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 1881).

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering the title of the collection.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

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