

Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Fax number (202) 395-7285, or David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: September 18, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-22233 Filed 9-23-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Pacific Islands Region Seabird-Fisheries Interaction Recovery Reporting.

Form Number(s): None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0456.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 3.

Number of Respondents: 1.

Average Hours per Response: 3 hours.

Needs and Uses: Seabird mitigation measures to reduce interactions between seabirds and the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery include a requirement for longline vessel operators to notify NMFS in the event an endangered short-tailed albatross (STAL) is hooked or entangled during fishing operations. Following the retrieval of a STAL from the ocean, as required by Federal regulations, the vessel captain must record the condition of the injured STAL on a recovery data form. The information is used by a veterinarian in providing advice to the captain caring for the STAL. If the albatross is dead, the vessel captain must attach an identification/information tag to the STAL carcass, as well as the specimen bag, to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) biologists in follow-up studies on the specimen. This collection is one of the terms and conditions contained in a biological opinion issued by FWS.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.
OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker,
(202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395-7285, or David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: September 18, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-22234 Filed 9-23-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Survey of Housing Starts, Sales and Completions.

Form Number(s): SOC-Q1/SF.1, SOC-Q1/MF.1.

OMB Control Number: 0607-0110.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden Hours: 14,615.

Number of Respondents: 22,200.

Average Hours Per Response: 5 minutes.

Needs and Uses: Government agencies and private companies use statistics from the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions, otherwise known as the Survey of Construction (SOC) to monitor and evaluate the large and dynamic housing construction industry. Data for two principal economic indicators are produced from the SOC: New Residential Construction (housing starts and housing completions) and New Residential Sales. In addition, a number of other statistical series are produced, including extensive information on the physical characteristics of new residential buildings, and indexes measuring rates of inflation in the price

of new buildings. These statistics are based on a sample of residential buildings in permit-issuing places and a road canvass in a sample of land areas not covered by building permit systems.

The field representatives (FRs) mail forms SOC-Q1/SF.1 and SOC-Q1/MF.1 to new respondents to complete. A few days later, the FRs either call or visit the respondents to enter their survey responses into a laptop computer using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) software formatted for the SOC-Q1/SF.1 and SOC-Q1/MF.1 forms. The respondents are homebuilders, real estate agents, rental agents, or new homeowners of sampled residential buildings. FRs contact respondents multiple times based on the number of projects in the sample and the number of months required to complete the project.

The CAPI software for all SOC data collection has been rewritten and modernized to work on laptop computers with the Microsoft Windows operating system. The new software has been used in the field since May 2008. The new software provides the opportunity to modify the questionnaire to introduce new data items that are of interest to data users. After working with key data users and testing potential new data items, we identified seven new data items to be added to the single-family questionnaire and three new items for the multi-family questionnaire. We request approval to add these questions to the electronic questionnaire in December 2008 to allow tabulation of these characteristics for buildings started, completed, or sold in 2009.

The Census Bureau also worked with key data users to review the existing data items for relevance and determined that information about whether closing costs are included in the sales price is of limited usefulness because the dollar value of these costs is not collected. Data users had little interest in the data so the question has been eliminated.

The previous SOC questionnaire software required that all characteristics of new single-family units be re-asked at time of completion to identify any changes that occurred during the construction process. Census staff studied the data and determined that the square footage of the house and basement were the only characteristics that changed significantly upon completion of the house and need to be re-asked. Data users requested updates to the sale price, contract price, and intent at time of completion, so these questions will also be re-asked. Because several questions will no longer be re-

asked, the overall length of the average interview will not change.

The Census Bureau uses the information collected in the SOC to publish estimates of the number of new residential housing units started, under construction, completed, and the number of new houses sold and for sale. The Census Bureau also publishes many financial and physical characteristics of new housing units. Government agencies use these statistics to evaluate economic policy, measure progress towards the national housing goal, make policy decisions, and formulate legislation. For example, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System uses data from this survey to evaluate the effect of interest rates in this interest-rate sensitive area of the economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the data in developing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The private sector uses the information for estimating the demand for building materials and the many products used in new housing and to schedule production, distribution, and sales efforts. The financial community uses the data to estimate the demand for short-term (construction loans) and long-term (mortgages) borrowing.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 9(b), 161, and 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Brian Harris-Kojetin, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (bharrisk@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: September 19, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-22412 Filed 9-23-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for the 2010 Census Program for Evaluations and Experiments

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau.

ACTION: Notice.

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: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before November 24, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Jason Machowski, Bureau of the Census, HQ-3H470C, Washington, DC 20233; (301) 763-4173.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau will conduct the 2010 Census Program for Evaluations and Experiments (CPEX) to evaluate the current census and to build a foundation on which to make early and informed decisions for planning the next one in 2020. Program planners designed CPEX to measure the effectiveness of the 2010 Census design (including operations, systems, and processes), in addition to determining how the design impacts data quality.

The 2010 CPEX consists of assessments, experiments, and evaluations. Assessments document final volumes, rates, and costs for individual operations or processes; they do not involve unique data collections, and therefore will not be submitted for clearance. Experiments are quantitative studies that occur during a decennial census. The decennial environment is required for experimental studies because it provides the best conditions to learn about the value of new methods and to accurately measure their

effectiveness and feasibility. Finally, evaluation studies analyze, interpret, and synthesize the effectiveness of census components, and their impact on data quality and coverage. Evaluation studies use data collected from census operations, processes, systems, and auxiliary data collections.

The 2010 CPEX program will operate as a generic clearance. This public notice specifically accounts for data collection plans for four experiments and three evaluations. The balance of evaluations that potentially require independent data collections in the 2010 CPEX will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on a flow basis, as more detail of the activities are known. The estimated number of respondents and annual reporting hours being requested cover both the known and yet to be submitted experiments and evaluations.

The Census Bureau plans four experimental designs: Alternative Questionnaire Experiment (AQE); 2010 Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) Contact Strategy Experiment; 2010 Deadline Messaging (DM) Experiment, and 2010 Privacy Notification (PN) Experiment. Most of the experimental designs have been developed to test more than one research objective, resulting in multiple treatments per study. All experimental questionnaires received will be treated as the respondents' official census form. This public notice also includes three evaluations: 2010 AQE Reinterview Evaluation; 2010 Content Reinterview Evaluation; and 2010 Alternative Group Quarters (GQ) Questionnaire Evaluation.

Alternative Questionnaire Experiment (AQE)

The AQE has several objectives. The overall goal of the study is to continue efforts to develop a user-friendly mailout questionnaire that can be accurately completed by respondents. This experiment will test various designs on how the Census Bureau asks respondents to provide their data on the paper form. A large focus of the 2010 AQE is on methods to improve the completeness and accuracy for reporting of race and Hispanic origin. Four panels will test the performance of a combined race and Hispanic origin question (these data are currently collected by asking two separate questions: one on race and one on Hispanic origin). In addition to testing a combined question on race and Hispanic origin, seven panels will be devoted to potential refinements of the current separate-question approach, for a total of eleven panels devoted to race and Hispanic origin research. Other topics covered by the AQE include an examination of true residence status by