

take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 5, 2006.

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 and instructions should be directed to Peter Christopher, 978-281-9288 or peter.christopher@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Region manages the Atlantic sea scallop (scallop) fishery of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the East Coast under the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (Scallop FMP). The regulations implementing the Scallop FMPs are at 50 CFR part 648. On June 16, 2006, NMFS implemented an emergency action that re-activated the industry-funded observer program in the Scallop FMP, wherein scallop vessels are required to procure observer coverage from an approved observer service provider. The observer service providers are required to submit an application to NMFS for approval, and once approved, are required to submit various information to support the observer program. Scallop vessel owners or operators are required to contact approved observer service providers in order to procure an observer for trips on which an observer is required. NMFS requests information from candidate scallop fishery observer service providers to evaluate applications for approval. NMFS also requests information from approved scallop fishery observer service providers to monitor activity for compliance with observer service provider requirements and to evaluate observer data; and information from participating scallop fishery participants to assign observers to selected vessels.

II. Method of Collection

Paper applications and telephone calls are required from participants. Facsimile transmission of paper forms, mail, and express mail are the methods of information submittal.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0546.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions, and business or other for-profits organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 805.

Estimated Time per Response: Application for approval of observer service provider, 10 hours; applicant response to denial of application for approval of observer service provider, 10 hours; observer service provider request for observer training, 30 minutes; observer deployment report, 10 minutes; observer availability report, 10 minutes; safety refusal report, 30 minutes; submission of raw observer data, 5 minutes; observer debriefing, 2 hours; biological samples, 5 minutes; rebuttal of pending removal from list of approved observer service providers, 8 hours; vessel request to observer service provider for procurement of a certified observer, 25 minutes; vessel request for waiver of observer coverage requirement, 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 611.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$6,000.

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 29, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-10501 Filed 7-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southwest Region Permit Family of Forms

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 5, 2006.

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 and instructions should be directed to Patricia A. Culver, 562-980-4239 or Trisher.Culver@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Permits are required for persons to participate in Federally-managed fisheries off the West Coast. There are two types of permits, for coastal pelagic and highly migratory fisheries. Appeals and certain waiver requests can also be submitted. Transfer applications may also be required. Permits for the Western Pacific fisheries have been included in this information collection, but will now be covered under 0648-0490, Pacific Islands Permit Family of Forms.

The permit application forms provide basic information about permit holders and the vessels and gear being used. This information is important for understanding the nature of the fisheries and provides a link to participants. It also aids in enforcement of regulations.

II. Method of Collection

Forms are available on the Internet; paper applications are also available and may be submitted by mail or FAX.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0204.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,407.

Estimated Time Per Response: Permit applications and transfers, 30 minutes; additional information (when requested) for the coastal pelagic fishery, 1 hour; appeals, 2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 333.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$575.

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 29, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-10502 Filed 7-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061606A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plans

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability for public review of the draft updated Recovery Plan (Plan) for the fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*). NMFS

is soliciting review and comment from the public and all interested parties on the Plan, and will consider all substantive comments received during the review period before submitting the Plan for final approval.

DATES: Comments on the draft Plan must be received by close of business on September 5, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Angela Somma, Chief, Endangered Species Division, Protected Resources Division, NMFS. Comments may be submitted by: (1) E-mail:

finwhale.recoveryplan@noaa.gov, include in the subject line the following document identifier: Fin Whale Recovery Plan. E-mail comments, with or without attachments, are limited to 5 megabytes; (2) Chief, Endangered Species Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; (3) Fax: (301) 427 2523. Interested persons may obtain the Plan for review from the above address or on-line from <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Monica DeAngelis, (562-980-3232), e-mail Monica.DeAngelis@noaa.gov; or Shannon Bettridge, (301-713-2322 ext. 141), e-mail Shannon.Bettridge@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (15 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that NMFS develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species under its jurisdiction, unless it is determined that such plans would not promote the conservation of the species. Accordingly, NMFS provided a contract for preparation of a draft Recovery Plan for fin and sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*) whales that was released for public comment and review in 1998 (63 FR 41802). The draft Recovery Plan for the fin and sei whale was never finalized. NMFS has since determined that the recovery plans for the fin and sei whales should be separated. This Plan updates the 1998 Recovery Plan's information for the fin whale and discusses the natural history, current status, and the known and potential human impacts to fin whales. Actions needed to promote the recovery of this species are identified and discussed. The Plan will be used to direct U.S. activities, and to encourage international cooperation to promote the recovery of this endangered species. NMFS' goal is to restore endangered fin whale populations to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems, and no longer need the protections of the ESA. NMFS will consider all substantive comments and information

presented during the public comment period in the course of finalizing this Plan.

Dated: June 29, 2006.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-10558 Filed 7-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061606B]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plans

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability for public review of the draft Recovery Plan (Plan) for the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*). NMFS is soliciting review and comment from the public and all interested parties on the Plan, and will consider all substantive comments received during the review period before submitting the Plan for final approval.

DATES: Comments on the draft Plan must be received by close of business on September 5, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Angela Somma, Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS. Comments may be submitted by: (1) E-mail:

spermwhale.recoveryplan@noaa.gov, include in the subject line the following document identifier: Sperm Whale Recovery Plan. E-mail comments, with or without attachments, are limited to 5 megabytes; (2) Mail to: Chief, Endangered Species Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; (3) Fax: (301) 427 2523. Interested persons may obtain the Plan for review from the above address or on-line from <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Monica DeAngelis, (562-980-3232), e-mail Monica.DeAngelis@noaa.gov; or Shannon Bettridge, (301-713-2322 ext. 141), e-mail Shannon.Bettridge@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (15