

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,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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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; Groundfish Trawl Catcher Processor Economic Data Report (EDR)

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 September 9, 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 0648–0564 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 Scott A. Miller, Economist, Sustainable Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668, by phone at 907–586–7228, or by email at scott.miller@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting extension of the currently approved information collection for the Annual Trawl Catcher/Processor Economic Data Report (the EDR).

The EDR collects economic data for the groundfish trawl fleet established by Amendment 80 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. Amendment 80 primarily allocates several Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands non-pollock trawl groundfish fisheries among fishing sectors, and facilitates the formation of harvesting cooperatives among vessels in the non-American Fisheries Act (non-AFA) Trawl Catcher/Processor Cooperative Program. This program established a limited access privilege program for the non-AFA trawl catcher/processor sector.

Data collected through the EDR includes labor information, revenues received, capital and operational expenses, and other operational or financial data. NMFS and the Council use this to assess the economic effects of Amendment 80 on vessels or entities regulated by the non-AFA Trawl Catcher/Processor Cooperative Program, and impacts of major changes in the groundfish management regime, including allocation of prohibited species catch species and target species to harvesting cooperatives.

The EDR is submitted annually by each person who held an Amendment 80 Quota Share permit or was an owner or leaseholder of an Amendment 80 vessel, or was an owner or leaseholder of a vessel named on a License Limitation Program groundfish license with catcher/processor vessel and trawl gear designations and endorsed for the Gulf of Alaska during a calendar year. The EDR requirements are located at 50 CFR 679.94.

II. Method of Collection

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has been designated by NMFS as the Data Collection Agent. PSMFC mails EDR announcements and filing instructions to respondents by April 1 of each year.

Respondents are encouraged to complete the form online on the PSMFC website at www.psmfc.org/goatrawl/. The EDR is also available as a fillable PDF on the PSMFC website and may be submitted by mail or fax.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0564.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 22.

Estimated Time per Response: Annual Trawl Catcher/Processor Economic Data Report: 20 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 440.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$110 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 16 U.S.C. 1801 *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. 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,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

Adoption of Categorical Exclusions Under the National Environmental Policy Act

AGENCY: Northern Border Regional Commission.

ACTION: Notice of adoption of categorical exclusions.

SUMMARY: The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is adopting categorical exclusions (CEs) established by the United States Forest Service that cover categories of actions that NBRC proposes to take pursuant to Section 109 of the National Environmental Policy Act. This notice identifies the Forest Service CEs and NBRC's categories of proposed actions for which it intends to use the Forest Service CEs and describes the consultation between the agencies.

DATES: The CEs identified below are available for the NBRC to use for its proposed actions effective upon publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Waring, NBRC Executive Director, telephone number: 603–369–3001, email: swaring@nbrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

National Environmental Policy Act and Categorical Exclusions

Congress enacted the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321–4347, (NEPA) in order to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and the environment, recognizing the profound impact of human activity and the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare of humankind. 42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331. NEPA seeks to ensure that agencies consider the environmental effects of their proposed major actions in their decision-making processes and inform and involve the public in that process.

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review of any major federal action—an environmental impact statement (EIS),

environmental assessment (EA), or categorical exclusion (CE). 42 U.S.C. 4336. If a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, the agency must prepare an EIS and document its decision in a record of decision. 42 U.S.C. 4336(b)(1). If the proposed action is not likely to have significant environmental effects or the effects are unknown, the agency may instead prepare an environmental assessment (EA), which involves a more concise analysis and process than an EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336(b)(2). Following the EA, the agency may conclude that the action will have no significant effects and document that conclusion in a finding of no significant impact. 42 U.S.C. 4336(b)(2). If the analysis concludes that the action is likely to have significant effects, however, then an EIS is required.

Under NEPA, a Federal agency also can establish CEs—categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment—in their agency NEPA procedures. 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1). If an agency determines that a CE covers a proposed action, it then evaluates the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. If no extraordinary circumstances are present, the agency may apply the CE to the proposed action without preparing an EA or EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336(a)(2). If the extraordinary circumstances have the potential to result in significant effects, the agency is required to prepare an EA or EIS.

Section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allows a Federal agency to “adopt” or use another Federal agency’s CEs for proposed actions. 42 U.S.C. 4336c. To use another agency’s CEs under Section 109, the borrowing agency must identify the relevant CEs listed in another agency’s (“establishing agency”) NEPA procedures that covers the borrowing agency’s category of proposed actions or related actions; consult with the establishing agency to ensure that the proposed adoption of the CE for a category of actions is appropriate; identify to the public the CE that the borrowing agency plans to use for its proposed actions; and document adoption of the CE. 42 U.S.C. 4336c. NBRC has prepared this notice to meet these statutory requirements.

NBRC's Programs

Created in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a federal-state partnership whose mission is to help alleviate economic distress and encourage private sector job

creation in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. In its sixteen-year history, the NBRC has awarded over 400 grants through its primary grant program and other special initiatives.

Since 2008, the NBRC has grown each year, both in size and appropriations, and was included in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) passed by Congress, which appropriated \$150 million to the Commission for deployment across its four-state footprint in support of a wide range of economic development projects. Eligible recipients for NBRC grant funds include: State and local governments, Indian tribes, and public and nonprofit organizations.

Through its grantmaking, the NBRC funds projects in the following categories, as prescribed in 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V, § 15501:

- (1) to develop the transportation infrastructure of its region;
- (2) to develop the basic public infrastructure of its region;
- (3) to develop the telecommunications infrastructure of its region;
- (4) to assist its region in obtaining job skills training, skills development and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development;
- (5) to provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas of its region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services;
- (6) to promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals;
- (7) to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources;
- (8) to grow the capacity for successful community economic development in its region; and
- (9) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this subtitle.

II. Forest Service's Categorical Exclusions

NBRC is in the process of developing its own list of CEs and, in the interim, has identified specific CEs developed by the Forest Service and codified in 36 CFR 220.6(d) and (e) as appropriate for NBRC to adopt. Because the Forest Service and NBRC programs have similar purposes that combine community economic development with resource preservation and conservation, the Forest Service CE categories closely align with the types of actions NBRC anticipates categorically excluding at this time.