

protect personnel and property on board U.S.-Flag vessels.

**Need:** 46 U.S.C. 3306 authorizes the Coast Guard to promulgate regulations for the safety of personnel and property on board vessels. Various sections within parts 61 and 62 of Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations contain these rules.

**Forms:** None.

**Respondents:** Owners, operations, shipyards, designers, and manufacturers of certain vessels.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Hour Burden Estimate:** The estimated burden has increased from 39,900 hours to 46,500 hours a year due to an increase in the estimated annual number of responses.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 12, 2016.

**Thomas P. Michelli,**  
U.S. Coast Guard, Deputy Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2016-01010 Filed 1-19-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2015-1097]

#### Information Collection Request to Office of Management and Budget; OMB Control Number: 1625-0027

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Sixty-day notice requesting comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Coast Guard intends to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), requesting approval of revisions to the following collection of information: 1625-0027, Vessel Documentation. Our ICR describes the information we seek to collect from the public. Before submitting this ICR to OIRA, the Coast Guard is inviting comments as described below.

**DATES:** Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before March 21, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Coast Guard docket number [USCG-2015-1097] to the Coast Guard using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. See the "Public participation and request for comments" portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for

further instructions on submitting comments.

A copy of the ICR is available through the docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Additionally, copies are available from: Commandant (CG-612), Attn: Paperwork Reduction Act Manager, U.S. Coast Guard, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE., Stop 7710, Washington, DC 20593-7710.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Anthony Smith, Office of Information Management, telephone 202-475-3532, or fax 202-372-8405, for questions on these documents.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Public Participation and Request for Comments

This Notice relies on the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended. An ICR is an application to OIRA seeking the approval, extension, or renewal of a Coast Guard collection of information (Collection). The ICR contains information describing the Collection's purpose, the Collection's likely burden on the affected public, an explanation of the necessity of the Collection, and other important information describing the Collection. There is one ICR for each Collection.

The Coast Guard invites comments on whether this ICR should be granted based on the Collection being necessary for the proper performance of Departmental functions. In particular, the Coast Guard would appreciate comments addressing: (1) the practical utility of the Collection; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden of the Collection; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of information subject to the Collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the Collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. In response to your comments, we may revise this ICR or decide not to seek approval of revisions of the Collection. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

We encourage you to respond to this request by submitting comments and related materials. Comments must contain the OMB Control Number of the ICR and the docket number of this request, [USCG-2015-1097], and must be received by March 21, 2016.

##### Submitting Comments

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material

cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions. Documents mentioned in this notice, and all public comments, are in our online docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that Web site's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, you may review a Privacy Act notice regarding the Federal Docket Management System in the March 24, 2005, issue of the **Federal Register** (70 FR 15086).

##### Information Collection Request

**Title:** Vessel Documentation.

**OMB Control Number:** 1625-0027.

**Summary:** The information collected will be used to establish the eligibility of a vessel to: (a) be documented as a "vessel of the United States", (b) engage in a particular trade, and/or (c) become the object of a preferred ship's mortgage. The information collected concerns citizenship of owner/applicant and build, tonnage and markings of a vessel. **Need:** Title 46 U.S.C. Chapters 121, 123, 125 and 313 requires the documentation of vessels. A Certificate of Documentation is required for the operation of a vessel in certain trades, serves as evidence of vessel nationality, and permits a vessel to be subject to preferred mortgages.

**Forms:** CG-1258, Application for Initial, Exchange, or Replacement of Certificate of Documentation/Redocumentation; CG-1258, Section A—Additional Vessels; CG-1258, Section H—Additional Owners; CG-1258, Section L—Attachment to Limited Liability Company; CG-1258, Section L—Attachment to Partnership; CG-1258, Section L—Attachment to Joint Venture or Association; CG-1258, Section L—Attachment to Trust Arrangement; CG-1261, Builder's Certification and First Transfer of Title; CG-1270, Certificate of Documentation; CG-1280, Vessel Renewal Notification Application for Renewal; CG-1340, Bill of Sale; CG-1356, Bill of Sale by Government Entity Pursuant to Court Order or Administrative Degree of Forfeiture; CG-4593, Application, Consent, and Approval for Withdrawal of Application for Documentation or Exchange of Certificate of

Documentation; CG-5542, Optional Application for Filing; CG-7042, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions; and CG-7043, Abstract of Title/Certified COD Request.

**Respondents:** Owners/builders of yachts and commercial vessels of at least 5 net tons.

**Frequency:** Annually.

**Hour Burden Estimate:** The estimated burden has increased from 67,882 hours to 77,619 hours a year due to an increase in the estimated annual number of responses.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 12, 2016.

**Thomas P. Michelli,**

*Deputy Chief Information Officer, U.S. Coast Guard.*

[FR Doc. 2016-01014 Filed 1-19-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9110-04-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-ES-2015-N234; FF07CMM00-FX-FR133707PB00]

#### U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission; Maintenance of Annual Taking Limit for the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On October 22, 2015, the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission (Commission), established under the *Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population*, unanimously agreed to maintain the annual taking limit adopted in 2010 for the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population. In 2010, the Commission established an annual taking limit on the number of bears that may be removed from this population as a result of human activities, such as bears taken for subsistence purposes and in defense of human life. This annual taking limit, which corresponds with the annual sustainable harvest level for this population, is 58 polar bears per year, of which no more than 19 will be females. Under the Agreement, the annual taking limit is to be shared equally between the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Hilary Cooley, Polar Bear Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503; by telephone (907-786-800); or by facsimile (907-786-3816). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

The *Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population* (2000 Agreement), signed in 2000 and ratified by the United States in 2007, provides legal protections for the population of polar bears found in the Chukchi and Northern Bering Seas. The Agreement is implemented in the United States through Title V of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and builds upon the protections provided to this population of polar bears through the *Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears* (the 1973 Agreement), which was a significant early step in the international conservation of polar bears.

The 1973 Agreement is a multilateral treaty to which the United States and Russia are parties with other polar bear range states—Norway, Canada, and Denmark (on behalf of Greenland). While the 1973 Agreement provides authority for the maintenance of a subsistence harvest of polar bears and provides for habitat conservation, the 2000 Agreement establishes a common legal, scientific, and administrative framework directed specifically for the conservation and management of the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population.

As a shared population, polar bears within the Alaska-Chukotka population readily move between the United States and Russian Federation. Article 3 of the 2000 Agreement defines the geographic boundaries of the Agreement, which correspond to the areas within the jurisdiction of the United States and Russian Federation, in which the joint polar bear population may be found. Under Article 3, the geographic boundaries of the Agreement are “bounded on the west by a line extending north from the mouth of the Kolyma River; on the east by a line extending north from Point Barrow; and on the south by a line describing the southernmost annual formation of drift ice.” Thus, the Agreement recognizes the need for a unified, common management regime to provide for the long-term sustainability of this shared population, while assisting in

safeguarding the social, cultural, and subsistence needs of Alaska Natives and native people of Chukotka. For example, the Agreement requires the Commission, the bilateral authority established under the 2000 Agreement, to determine a “sustainable harvest level” that is based upon reliable scientific information, does not exceed net annual recruitment to the population, and maintains the population at or near its current level.

Article 8 of the Agreement sets forth the composition and responsibilities of the Commission. The Commission includes a U.S. Section and Russian Section, with each national section comprised of two members appointed by their respective parties to provide for the inclusion of a member representing the country’s native people in addition to a Federal representative. Under the Agreement, each section has one vote, and all decisions of the Commission may be made only with the approval of both sections. Among other duties under Article 8, the Commission must promote cooperation among the Parties and the native people, make scientific determinations, establish annual taking limits, and adopt other restrictions on take of polar bears for subsistence purposes within the framework of the established annual taking limits. Article 8 further requires the establishment of a scientific working group (SWG) to advise the Commission on its decisions.

At its first annual meeting, held in Moscow, Russia, September 23–25, 2009, the Commission identified members of the SWG and tasked the SWG with reviewing the current level of take of polar bears and providing recommendations to the Commission on the sustainable harvest level. Recommendations from the SWG help guide the research necessary to address present and future polar bear conservation issues in the shared Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population.

The second annual meeting of the Commission took place June 7–10, 2010, in Anchorage, Alaska. During this meeting the Commission reviewed the recommendations of the SWG and, consistent with the SWG’s recommendation, determined that establishing a limit to the total allowable take, including subsistence harvest, of polar bears from the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population was needed. Thus, consistent with the 2000 Agreement, the Commission adopted an annual taking limit that corresponds with, but does not exceed, the sustainable harvest level of no more than 58 polar bears per year, of which no more than 19 animals may be females, that may be removed from the