

ownership of foreign affiliates; research and development; royalties and license fees for the use of intellectual property and manufacturing activities.

The consolidated 2012 COS/Census will request company-level information from the entire universe of multi-establishment enterprise, which comprises roughly 164,000 parent companies and more than 1.6 million establishments with industrial activities in-scope of the 2012 Economic Census. COS inquiries sent to each of the 164,000 multi-establishment enterprises will include inquiries on ownership or control by a domestic parent, ownership or control by a foreign parent, and ownership of foreign affiliates; research and development; company activities, such as employees from a professional employer organization, operating revenue and net sales, royalties and license fees for the use of intellectual property, and manufacturing activities. Establishment inquiries include questions on operational status, mid-March employment, first-quarter payroll, and annual payroll of establishments.

The 2012 COS will request additional information from 15,000 multi-location establishments with industry classifications that are out-of-scope of the Economic Census. For those out-of-scope establishments, we will collect the following basic operating data for each listed establishment: End-of-year operating status, mid-March employment, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. The Economic Census will collect data for all other establishments of multi-establishment enterprises, including those items above.

In addition to the 164,000 multi-establishment enterprises, the 2012 COS will include approximately 120,000 single-location companies (including 20,000 ASM companies) to continue to capture data for the Enterprise Statistics Program (ESP) on Form NC-99801. Questions will include inquiries on ownership or control by a foreign parent, and ownership of foreign affiliates; research and development; royalties and license fees for the use of intellectual property and manufacturing. In 2010 the Census Bureau pretested ESP questions under its Generic Clearance for pretesting research. In 2011 the COS collected data from all multi-location companies and will use these data to baseline the 2012 Economic Census data.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Farms; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Government.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 131, 182, 224, and 225.

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

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at jjessup@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 email (bharrisk@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: March 23, 2012.

Glenna Mickelson,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-7417 Filed 3-27-12; 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: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Highly Migratory Species Permit Family of Forms.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0327.

Form Number(s): NA.

Type of Request: Regular submission (revision and extension of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 37,177.

Average Hours per Response: Initial vessel permit applications, 30 minutes; renewals, 6 minutes; initial dealer permits, 15 minutes; renewals, 5 minutes.

Burden Hours: 9,801.

Needs and Uses: This request is for revision and extension of a current information collection.

Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for management of the nation's marine fisheries. In addition, NMFS must comply with the United States' obligations under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16

U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). NMFS issues permits to fishing vessels and dealers in order to collect the information necessary to comply with domestic and international obligations, secure compliance with regulations, and disseminate necessary information.

Current regulations at 50 CFR 635.4 require that vessels participating in commercial and recreational fisheries for Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) and dealers purchasing Atlantic HMS from a vessel, obtain a Federal permit issued by NMFS. Current regulations at 50 CFR 300.182 require that individuals entering for consumption (importing into the Customs territory of the United States or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession, for domestic use), exporting, or re-exporting consignments of bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, or frozen bigeye tuna obtain an HMS International Trade Permit (ITP) from NMFS. This action addresses the renewal of permit applications currently approved under this collection, including both vessel and dealer permits. Vessel permits include Atlantic tunas, HMS charter/headboats, HMS angling, smoothhound sharks, and incidental HMS squid trawl permits. Dealer permits include Atlantic tunas dealer permits and the HMS ITP.

Revision: Shark and swordfish dealer and vessel permits were found to be included also in OMB Control No. 0648-0205, Southeast Region Permit Family of Forms, and will be removed from this information collection. There have also been reductions in some permit fees.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer:

OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at Jjessup@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: March 23, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-7467 Filed 3-27-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for the 2020 Census Field Tests

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau,
Commerce.

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 May 29, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-0336 (or via the Internet at jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Erin Love, Census Bureau, HQ-3H468E, Washington, DC 20233; (301) 763-2034 (or via the Internet at erin.s.love@census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau is committed to conducting research towards a 2020 Census that costs less while maintaining high quality results. The Census Bureau plans to conduct a series of small-scale tests to research and evaluate how the use of automation can improve field data collection activities. These tests will explore how the Census Bureau can use automated processes to improve efficiency, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden. Examples of census operations that might be included are: mapping and address listing; enumeration; and quality control checks.

This information collection will operate as a generic clearance. The estimated number of respondents and annual reporting hours requested cover both the known and yet to be determined tests. A generic clearance is needed for these tests because though each share similar methodology, the exact number of tests and the explicit details of each test to be performed has yet to be determined. The Census Bureau plans to conduct each test in small geographic areas. Once information collection plans are defined, they will be submitted on an individual basis in order to keep OMB informed as these tests progress.

The Census Bureau plans to test the use of mobile computing devices and applications in field data collection tasks. Field data collection tasks can include: Address listing and mapping, enumeration functions (including the administration of a questionnaire, scheduling of visits, collecting housing unit status, and adding new households); and quality control functions for both listing and enumeration.

Address Listing and Mapping Tasks

The scope of these tests will research using a mobile computing device and applications to: Create, add, delete, and correct an address list; load work assignments; measure production, record GPS coordinates; transmit and download data; and use geographic information obtained from other data sources. The overall goal of the tests is to improve accuracy and productivity in field activities while collecting the necessary data. Address and feature information will be primarily collected by observation. In cases where address or feature information is not observable or verifiable, a household or other knowledgeable respondent may be contacted to collect this information.

Enumeration Functions

The enumeration functions research will focus on using various applications and mobile computing devices to enumerate households and persons. The research and evaluation may include: developing an automated enumeration questionnaire, usability issues; conducting interviews; scheduling return visits; recording contact outcomes, recording the status of a housing unit (such as occupied or vacant); adding addresses; making work assignments; measuring production; ability to toggle to a Spanish instrument; enumerator routing; and transmission of data. To test enumeration functions, the Census Bureau may conduct the enumeration directly with a household

member or knowledgeable respondent. The Census Bureau has not yet determined the questions to ask households or knowledgeable respondents but will inform OMB as tests are developed.

Quality Control Functions

The quality control functions research is to test quality control functions and applications on different mobile computing devices for both listing and enumeration. The scope of the tests may include: revisiting areas and households to verify information collected in previous operations; correcting and adding map features, addresses, and households; apply pass/fail requirements; and to use and record map spots in GPS and manual modes. The Census Bureau has not yet determined the questions to ask households or knowledgeable respondents to test quality control functions but will inform OMB as tests are developed.

II. Method of Collection

The information will be collected on mobile computing devices through observations, face-face interviews, and/or telephone interviews.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number: Not yet determined.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,000 total.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 723 hours annual average, total estimate of 2,167.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: There is no cost to the respondent other than time to answer the information request.

Respondents Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C. Sections 141 and 193.

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