

included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 15, 2015.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015-12197 Filed 5-19-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Observer Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 20, 2015.

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 (or via the Internet at Jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patsy Bearden, (907) 586-7008 or patsy.bearden@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program (Observer Program) plays a critical role in the conservation and management of Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska groundfish and halibut fisheries. Five observer contracting companies provide observer services (see http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/FMA/observer_providers.htm). Observers collect biological samples and fishery-dependent information on total catch and interactions with protected species. Managers use data collected by observers to monitor quotas, manage groundfish and prohibited species

catch, and document and reduce fishery interactions with protected resources. Scientists use observer-collected data for stock assessments and marine ecosystem research.

All sectors of the groundfish fishery, including vessels less than 60 feet length overall and the commercial halibut sector, are now included in the Observer Program. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has the flexibility to decide when and where to deploy observers based on a scientifically defensible deployment plan reviewed annually by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The Observer Program places all vessels and processors in the groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska into one of two observer coverage categories: A full coverage category and a partial coverage category.

II. Method of Collection

This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

Electronically submitted landing information submitted by managers of shoreside processors and stationary floating processors (SFPs) is used to assess the observer fee liability for each landing. Managers of shoreside processors and SFPs access reports generated by NMFS' Web-based application for a receipt of the observer fee liability associated with each landing. NMFS makes electronic monitoring available as an alternative tool for fulfilling observer coverage requirements. The electronic monitoring option does not change the funding mechanism or fee amount, but does provide an alternative to carrying a human observer.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0318.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 959.

Estimated Time per Response: 8 hr to review and 1 hr to submit candidate college transcripts and statements, Observer provider; 1 hr for Observer training registration; 7 minutes for Observer briefing registration; 7 minutes for Projected observer assignment; 5 minutes for Physical examination verification; 7 minutes for Observer deployment/logistics report; 30 minutes for Observer debriefing registration; 12 minutes for Certificates of insurance; 30 minutes for Observer provider contracts; 1 hr for Other reports; 30 minutes for

Industry Request for Assistance in Improving Observer Data Quality Issues; 60 hr for Observer provider permit application; 30 minutes for Observer provider invoice copies; 15 minutes each for Update to provider information, Observer declaration and deployment system (ODDs), Observer fee calculation and submittal and Notification of one-time election of observer coverage; 4 hours for Observer appeal; 1 hr for Request for electronic monitoring as exemption for observer coverage.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,130.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$3,256.

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: May 14, 2015.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015-12155 Filed 5-19-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD946

Permits; Foreign Fishing

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of application for permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes for public review and comment information regarding a permit application for transshipment of Atlantic herring by Canadian vessels, submitted under

provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). This action is necessary for NMFS to make a determination that the permit application can be approved.

DATES: Written comments must be received by June 3, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action, identified by RIN 0648- XD946, should be sent to Melissa Garcia in the NMFS Office for International Affairs and Seafood Inspection at 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: (301) 427-8385, fax: (301) 713-2313, email: melissa.garcia@noaa.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Garcia at (301) 427-8385 or by email at melissa.garcia@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 204(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1824(d)) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to issue a transshipment permit authorizing a vessel other than a vessel of the United States to engage in fishing consisting solely of transporting fish or fish products at sea from a point within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or, with the concurrence of a state, within the boundaries of that state, to a point outside the United States. In addition, Public Law 104-297, section 105(e), directs the Secretary to issue section 204(d) permits for up to 14 Canadian transport vessels to receive Atlantic herring harvested by United States fishermen and to be used in sardine processing. Transshipment must occur from within the boundaries of the State of Maine or within the portion of the EEZ east of the line 69 degrees 30 minutes west and within 12 nautical miles from Maine's seaward boundary.

Section 204(d)(3)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides that an application may not be approved until the Secretary determines that "no owner or operator of a vessel of the United States which has adequate capacity to perform the transportation for which the application is submitted has indicated . . . an interest in performing the transportation at fair and reasonable rates." NMFS is publishing this notice as part of its effort to make such a determination with respect to the application described below.

Summary of Application

NMFS received an application requesting authorization for four Canadian transport vessels to receive transfers of herring from United States purse seine vessels, stop seines, and

weirs for the purpose of transporting the herring to Canada for processing. The transshipment operations will occur within the boundaries of the State of Maine or within the portion of the EEZ east of the line 69°30' W. longitude and within 12 nautical miles from Maine's seaward boundary.

Dated: May 13, 2015.

John Henderschedt,

Director, Office for International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-12271 Filed 5-19-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD951

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Advisory Panels (AP) to discuss and make recommendations on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

DATES: The Guam Mariana Archipelago FEP AP will meet on Friday, June 5, 2015, between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and the CNMI Mariana Archipelago FEP AP will meet on Friday, June 5, 2015, between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. All times listed are local island times.

For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The Guam Mariana Archipelago FEP AP will meet at the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association Lanai in Hagatna, Guam, and the CNMI Mariana Archipelago FEP AP will meet at the Division of Fish and Wildlife Conference Room in Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public comment periods will be provided in the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The

meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for the Guam Mariana Archipelago FEP AP Meeting

6 p.m.–7:30 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2015

1. "Hafa Adai" Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of the Agenda
3. Issues to be discussed at 163rd Council Meeting
 - A. Upcoming Council Action Items
 - i. Cooperative Research Priorities
 - ii. Five-year Research Priorities
 - B. Mariana Archipelago FEP-Guam Community Activities
4. Mariana Archipelago FEP-Guam Issues
 - A. Report of the Subpanels
 - i. Island Fisheries Subpanel
 - ii. Pelagic Fisheries Subpanel
 - iii. Ecosystems and Habitat Subpanel
 - iv. Indigenous Fishing Rights Subpanel
 - B. Other Issues
5. Public Comment
6. Discussion and Recommendations
7. "At the end of the day" Other Business

Schedule and Agenda for the CNMI Mariana Archipelago FEP AP Meeting

5 p.m.–7 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2015

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of the Agenda
3. Issues to be discussed at 163rd Council Meeting
 - A. Upcoming Council Action Items
 - i. Cooperative Research Priorities
 - ii. Five-year Research Priorities
 - B. Mariana Archipelago FEP-CNMI Community Activities
4. Mariana Archipelago FEP-CNMI Issues
 - A. Report of the Subpanels
 - i. Island Fisheries Subpanel
 - ii. Pelagic Fisheries Subpanel
 - iii. Ecosystems and Habitat Subpanel
 - iv. Indigenous Fishing Rights Subpanel
 - B. Other Issues
5. Public Comment
6. Discussion and Recommendations
7. Other Business

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*