

Dated: January 16, 2009.

Stephen J. Claeys,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. E9-1720 Filed 1-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Progress Reports

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 March 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 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 Robin Bruckner, 301-713-0174 or via the Internet at Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) provides financial assistance on a competitive basis to implement grass-roots, community-based habitat restoration, debris prevention and removal, and dam and other barrier removal activities through individual projects or restoration partnerships. The NOAA Restoration Center (RC) within the NOAA Fisheries Service Office of Habitat Conservation intends to continue requiring specific information on projects funded under various grants initiatives managed by the RC as part of routine progress reporting. Recipients of NOAA funds under these initiatives will be required to submit information including project location, restoration

techniques used, species benefited, acres restored, stream miles opened to access for diadromous fish, volunteer participation, and other parameters. This information collection is necessary to track and report on the large number of community-based projects being implemented with RC support around the country. This information will be used to continue populating a database of NOAA-funded habitat restoration, debris prevention and removal, and barrier removal projects. The database, with its robust querying capabilities, is instrumental to accurate and timely responses to NOAA, Department of Commerce, Congressional, and constituent inquiries. It also ensures accountability for federal funds expended for community-based activities, reported by NOAA through the Government Performance and Reporting Act "acres restored" performance measure. The grant recipients are required by the NOAA Grants Management Division to submit periodic performance reports and a final report for each award. This collection will stipulate the information to be provided in these reports until the Performance Progress Report standard forms family (SF-PPR) comes into use government-wide, at which time this information collection will be discontinued.

II. Method of Collection

The reporting form and format outline will be provided to funding recipients and will also be available on the Restoration Center's home page. Electronic submission of forms and progress report narratives will be encouraged but is not required.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0472.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local and Tribal Governments, business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time Per Response: Interim reports: 9 hours and 45 minutes; final reports: 11 hours and 45 minutes. Three semi-annual reports and one final report over a 24-month period are required for each award; however, information collected and submitted for any single report need not be collected again for subsequent reports.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 8,240.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,940.

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: January 22, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-1743 Filed 1-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Continued Information Collection; Comment Request; Questionnaire To Support Review of Federal Assistance Applications

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 March 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 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 Cristi Reid, (301) 713-1622 x206 or Cristi.Reid@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 through 4327) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) require that an environmental analysis be completed for all major Federal actions significantly affecting the environment. NEPA applies only to the actions of Federal agencies. While those Federal actions may include a Federal agency's decision to fund non-Federal projects under grants and cooperative agreements, NEPA requires agencies to assess the environmental impacts of actions proposed to be taken by these recipients only when the Federal agency has sufficient discretion or control over the recipient's activities to deem those actions as Federal actions. To determine whether the activities of the recipient of a Federal financial assistance award (*i.e.*, grant or cooperative agreement) involve sufficient Federal discretion or control, and to undertake the appropriate environmental analysis when NEPA is required, NOAA must assess information which can only be provided by the Federal financial assistance applicant. Thus, NOAA has developed an environmental information questionnaire to provide grantees and Federal grant managers with a simple tool to ensure that project and environmental information is obtained. The questionnaire applies only to those programs where actions are considered major Federal actions or to those where NOAA must determine if the action is a major Federal action. The questionnaire includes a list of questions that encompasses a broad range of subject areas. The applicants are not required to answer every question in the questionnaire. Each program draws from the comprehensive list of questions to create a relevant subset of questions for applicants to answer. The information provided in answers to the questionnaire is used by NOAA staff to determine compliance requirements for NEPA and conduct subsequent NEPA analysis as needed. The information provided in the questionnaire may also be used for other regulatory review requirements associated with the proposed project, such as permitting.

II. Method of Collection

Methods of submittal include paper forms via the mail, Internet, and facsimile transmission.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0538.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit organizations; individuals or households; not-for-profit institutions; state, local, or tribal government; and Federal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 3 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$1,000 in miscellaneous costs.

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: January 22, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-1746 Filed 1-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM69

Fisheries in the Western Pacific; American Samoa Pelagic Longline Limited Entry Program

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

ACTION: Notice; availability of permits.

SUMMARY: NMFS is soliciting applications for American Samoa

pelagic longline limited entry permits. At least 22 permits of various class sizes will be available for 2009. Longline fishermen with the earliest documented participation on a Class A vessel (less than or equal to 40 feet (12.2 m) in length) have the highest priority to qualify for a permit. Fishermen with the earliest documented participation in larger size class vessels (in order of size) receive the next priority to qualify for permits. This notice is intended to announce the availability of permits and to solicit applications for the permits.

DATES: Completed permit applications must be received by NMFS by May 28, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Request blank application forms from NMFS Pacific Islands Region (PIR), 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4733, or the PIR website www.fpir.noaa.gov.

Mail completed applications and payment to NMFS PIR, ATTN: ASLE Permits, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4733.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter Ikehara, Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS PIR, tel 808-944-2275, fax 808-973-2940, or e-mail PIRO-permits@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 25, 2005, NMFS published a final rule that established a limited entry program for the pelagic longline fishery based in American Samoa (70 FR 29646).

American Samoa longline limited entry permits were established for four vessel size classes, based on length:

- a. Class A – less than or equal to 40 ft (12.2 m);
- b. Class B (and B-1) – over 40 ft (12.2 m) to 50 ft (15.2 m) inclusive;
- c. Class C (and C-1) – over 50 ft (15.2 m) to 70 ft (21.3 m) inclusive; and
- d. Class D (and D-1) – over 70 ft (21.3 m).

A total of 60 initial American Samoa longline limited entry permits were issued: 22 in Class A, five in Class B, 12 in Class C, and 21 in Class D. These numbers represent the maximum number of vessels allowed in each size class, pursuant to the regulations implementing the limited entry program at title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 665.36 (*i.e.*, 50 CFR 665.36). The limited entry program allows for new permits to be issued if the numbers of permits in each size class fall below the maximum. To date, not all permit holders have renewed their permits, invalidating those permits, and making 22 permits available for issuance (note that the number of available permits may change before the application period closes). Of the 22 available permits, thirteen are for