

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 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 Dianne Stephan, Highly Migratory Species Division, Northeast Regional Office, at 978-281-9397, or Dianne.Stephan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

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. NMFS must also comply with implementing the United States' international obligations as set forth in the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). NMFS must collect domestic landings data for Atlantic highly migratory species via dealer reports in order to provide information vital for fishery management. In addition, the United States must monitor the import, export, and re-export of bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna and swordfish in order to comply with international obligations established through membership in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). ICCAT has implemented a trade monitoring program for bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna and swordfish to discourage illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities as well as further understanding of catches and international trade for these species. Similar objectives are the basis for the Southern bluefin tuna trade monitoring program established by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). Although the United States is not a member of the CCSBT, effective management of the Southern bluefin tuna resource is in the best interest of United States fish dealers involved in the commerce of this species. Thus, the United States has implemented the CCSBT trade monitoring program, along with the analogous ICCAT programs.

This collection serves as a family of forms for Atlantic highly migratory species dealer reporting requirements including the purchase of highly migratory species from fishermen and

the import, export, and/or re-export of highly migratory species.

II. Method of Collection

Information may be mailed or faxed.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0040.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,280.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes each for statistical documents and re-export certificates; 1 minute for tagging, 2 hours for validation; 15 minutes for HMS International Trade biweekly report; 15 minutes for Southeast Region HMS biweekly dealer report and Northeast Region trip tickets; 3 minutes for Southeast Region HMS biweekly dealer negative reporting; 15 minutes for Atlantic BFT biweekly dealer report; and 2 minutes for Atlantic bluefin tuna landing cards.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 46,427.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$19,862.

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: December 22, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-22336 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Vessel Chartering Permits

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 February 27, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 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 Karyl Brewster-Geisz, National Marine Fisheries Service at (301) 713-2347 or Karyl.Brewster-Geisz@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Chartering Permits to applicable vessels to allow U.S. fishing vessels to fish for HMS within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of other nations in a manner consistent with another country's regulations. The permits collect data consistent with an International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendation that states that at the time of the chartering arrangement, the chartering and flag Contracting parties shall provide specific information concerning the charter to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, including vessel details, target species, duration, and consent of the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Current regulations require U.S. vessels to

submit information regarding their chartering arrangements. The information collected from chartering permit applications will be used to ensure that vessels entering into chartering agreements comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures. The NMFS would use information submitted in applications for chartering arrangements, and other applicable notifications (such as termination notifications from the applicant indicating a desire to terminate their chartering agreement), to monitor the activities and durations of such arrangements targeting HMS in the Atlantic Ocean. NMFS would report this information annually to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT as a means of demonstrating compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management recommendations.

II. Method of Collection

Information is submitted on forms or other written format, and may be submitted electronically by e-mail.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0495.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Time Per Response: 40 minutes for a Chartering permit application; and 5 minutes for a termination notification.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 8.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$8.

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: December 22, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122106C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 555-1870

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that James T. Harvey, Ph.D., Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct scientific research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before January 29, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 555-1870.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Dr. Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the

regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to examine the biology and ecology of harbor seals and monitor health and condition of coastal populations of harbor seals in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska over a 5-year period. The primary hypotheses are: (1) actual abundance can be determined using aerial surveys and a correction factor, and distinct stocks exist latitudinally; (2) seals are a major (>5%) source of natural mortality for nearshore fishes and cephalopods; (3) pollutants and anthropogenic inputs are compromising seal health; (4) human disturbance causes increased energetic costs and seals can have significant effects on fisheries; (5) dispersal of juvenile harbor seals increases survival; and (6) male harbor seals establish underwater territories and maintain hierarchies using underwater vocalizations and aggression. To test these hypotheses researchers will capture a maximum of 670 harbor seals annually. An additional 2,910 individuals may be taken annually via Level B harassment by incidental disturbance during capture or scat collection and exposure to playback of vocalizations. Animals captured would have some or all of the following procedures done: mass and morphometrics, blubber depth and biopsy, lavage/enema, flipper tagging and instrument application, blood sample, swabs, and skin and hair sampling. The applicant requests up to two incidental mortalities per year.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521; and

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.