

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 67.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 483 hours for a request for new or the renewal of regulations; 45 hours for an application for Letter of Authorization (response times vary significantly based on the complexity of the application); 200 hours for an application for an Incidental Harassment Authorization; and 93–120 hours for a 90–day, quarterly, or annual report under a Letter of Authorization or Incidental Harassment Authorization.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 15,912.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$24,200.

#### 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: October 14, 2003.

#### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03–26397 Filed 10–17–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101503B]

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Shelf Rockfish Habitat in the Southern California Bight

**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, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before December 19, 2003.

**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](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to John Harms, 2725 Montlake Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98112, (206) 860–3414, or [john.harms@noaa.gov](mailto:john.harms@noaa.gov)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) seeks to expand its information base for shelf rockfish within the Southern California Bight by developing a hook and line survey. In order to most efficiently sample the Bight, the NWFSC is interested in collaborating with local sport and commercial fishermen familiar with bocaccio and other shelf rockfish. Specifically, the NWFSC would like to solicit industry input on habitat and location information (such as, latitude and longitude for locations known to contain shelf rockfish; the predominant species of rockfish found at that location; general information on the name of the bank or reef at that location; and the depth of the water at that location) for shelf rockfish that will then be directly incorporated into the design and site selection for the resulting hook and line study. The information collected will be on a voluntary basis.

##### II. Method of Collection

The NWFSC will develop a questionnaire that can be distributed in both paper and electronic formats. That will Various means will be used to distribute the questionnaire including word of mouth, placing the questionnaire on the Internet, working through industry groups, personal contact, etc.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 50.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 25.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$10. (Respondents who are not able to respond electronically or by fax would incur standard postage fees which are not expected to exceed the cost of a \$.37 stamp.)

#### 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: October 14, 2003.

#### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03–26398 Filed 10–17–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101503C]

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted 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:* Subsistence Fishery for Pacific Halibut on Waters Off Alaska; Registration and Marking of Gear.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0648-0460.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.

*Burden Hours:* 1,739.

*Number of Respondents:* 13,350.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 10 minutes for a registration and 15 minutes to mark buoys.

*Needs and Uses:* This program for the Pacific halibut subsistence fishery includes requirements for registration to participate in the fishery, and the marking of certain types of gear used in this fishery. The registration requirement is intended to allow qualified persons to practice the long-term customary and traditional harvest of Pacific halibut for food in a non-commercial manner. The gear-marking requirement aids in enforcement and in actions related to gear damage or loss. The registration information may be submitted by an individual or as a list of multiple individuals from an Alaska Native tribe. Submissions may be made by mail, FAX, e-mail, or on-line.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Frequency:* On occasion, every 2 or 4 years.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number 202-395-7285, or [David\\_Rostker@omb.eop.gov](mailto:David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: October 14, 2003.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-26399 Filed 10-17-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[Docket No. 030905221-3249-02]

**National Weather Service  
Modernization and Associated  
Restructuring; Final Certification of No  
Degradation of Service for the Closure  
of One Weather Service Office (WSO)**

**AGENCY:** National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On September 26, 2003, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere certified that closure of the Meridian, Mississippi, Weather Service Office (WSO) will not cause a degradation in service to the affected service area. On September 26, 2003, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere transmitted to Congress notice of approval of the closure certification for WSO Meridian, Mississippi. Public Law 102-567 requires final certifications be published in the **Federal Register**. This notice satisfies that requirement.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the final certification packages should be sent to John Sokich, Room 11426, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Sokich, 301-713-0258.

Dated: October 14, 2003.

**John E. Jones,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.*

[FR Doc. 03-26372 Filed 10-17-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KE-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 100703A]

**Endangered Species; Permit No. 1123**

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

**ACTION:** Scientific research permit modification.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that requests for modifications of scientific research permits No. 1123 submitted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Edgard O. Espinoza, Primary Investigator),

Office of Law Enforcement, National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, 1490 East Main Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520, have been granted.

**ADDRESSES:** The modifications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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 301/713-0376); 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jennifer Jefferies or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The requested modifications have been granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the provisions of § 222.306 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222-226).

NFWFL is authorized to possess samples of ESA-listed non-marine mammal and non-reptilian species under NMFS jurisdiction associated with genetic research studies and support of law enforcement actions. Law enforcement personnel have an ongoing need for scientific assistance in cases concerning endangered, protected, and managed marine species. The Fish and Wildlife Forensics Center provides technical/scientific assistance to a variety of law enforcement agencies including NMFS Enforcement, US Customs, US Fish and Wildlife Service as well as state wildlife enforcement agencies. Forensics analyses generally involve a biochemical or genetic test when a comparison is made between evidence and voucher samples. Voucher samples which are used in a forensics analysis are collected and maintained under strict criteria that includes documentation (species identification form) from the expert who has authenticated the samples; a chain of custody which originates with the sample collection; and storage under secure conditions. The issuance of this modification will extend the authorized activities through December 31, 2004.

Issuance of these modifications, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permits: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of these permits; and (3) are consistent