

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek  
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.  
Room 6625  
Washington, DC 20230

06/20/2005

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 04/20/2005.

TITLE: Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Report

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): FORM-88-162

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0247

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2008

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	12,000	360	0
New	12,000	360	0
Difference	0	0	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

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OMB Authorizing Official	Title
Donald R. Arbuckle	Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

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# PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

**Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.**

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number <span style="float: right;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> None</span> a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) ( <i>if applicable</i> )	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i> ) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden ( <i>in thousands of dollars</i> ) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i> ) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting ( <i>check all that apply</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)  Name: _____ Phone: _____

## 19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

**NOTE:** The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
  - (i) Why the information is being collected;
  - (ii) Use of information;
  - (iii) Burden estimate;
  - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
  - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
  - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
COOPERATIVE GAME FISH TAGGING REPORT  
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0247**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

**1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.**

The Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program was initiated in 1971 as part of a comprehensive research program resulting from passage of P.L. 86-359 and other legislative acts under which the National Marine Fisheries Service operates. The Cooperative Tagging Center (formerly the Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program) attempts to determine the migratory patterns and other biological information of billfish, tunas, red drum, tarpon, amberjack, cobia, king mackerel, and swordfish by having anglers tag and release their catch.

The Fish Tag Issue Report card is a necessary part of the tagging program. Fishermen volunteer to tag and release their catch. When requested, NMFS provides the volunteers with fish tags for their use when they release their fish. Usually a group of five tags are sent at one time, each attached to a Report card, which is pre-printed with the first and last tag numbers received, and has spaces for the respondent's name, address, date, and club affiliation (if applicable).

When the angler releases a fish, he takes the Fish Tagging Report card with a tag attached, removes the numbered tag, applies the tag to the fish, and then mails the completed card (which has a number matching the tag number) to NMFS.

When a tagged fish is recaptured, the tag has the address of NMFS and a tag number. The person with the tagged fish can mail the tag to NMFS, where information on the fish is recorded and matched with the release data.

**2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.**

Information on each species is used by NMFS to determine migratory patterns, distance traveled, stock boundaries, age, and growth. These data are necessary input for developing management criteria by regional fishery management councils, states, and NMFS. The tag report cards are necessary to provide tags to the volunteer angler, record when and where the fish was tagged, the species, its estimated length and weight, tag number, and information on the tagger for follow-ups if the tagged fish is recovered. Failure to obtain these data would make management decisions very difficult and would be contrary to the NMFS Marine Recreational Fishing policy objectives. Anglers are made aware of our tagging program through several forms of media: Newspaper and magazine articles, through both The Billfish Foundation and the Southeast Fisheries Science Centers websites, peer review papers, and by word of mouth. Anglers who wish to obtain tag kits or report recaptured tags can contact the cooperative tagging center via phone at 800-437-3936, or via written request sent to:

Cooperative Tagging Center 75  
Virginia Beach Dr. Miami, FL 33149

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

**3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.**

No other satisfactory method of obtaining movement information on oceanic pelagic fish has been identified. Although more sophisticated electronic tags exist, their expense prohibits their use in this program. Automated data entry by persons tagging fish isn't practical – the information is best entered at the time of tagging on fishing vessels.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.**

No duplication was evident during consultations with other conservation agencies. No similar information is available except what has been developed by this program.

**5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.**

Small entities are not involved.

**6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.**

The usefulness of this program would be compromised if the collection of data did not take place on a continual basis. It would be impossible to track trends in fish movement, stock definitions, and growth rates. In addition, a less than annual frequency would have an adverse effect on the voluntary participation rate.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.**

This collection is consistent with OMB guidelines, except that reports may be submitted more often than quarterly - whenever tagging takes place.

**8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received**

**in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

A Federal Register Notice (copy attached) solicited public comment on this renewal. One comment was received from Jim Donofrio who is the Executive Director of The Recreational Fishing Alliance (copy attached). In his letter he stressed the importance of recreational based tagging program. Although he states that participants do not feel that the time spent participating in this project is burdensome he urged us to consider alternative reporting methods such as a web-based reporting system. We are always concerned with improving our program and have discussed at length the option of web-based reporting. We came to the conclusion that at this time web-based reporting would not be a realistic option. With no written submission of release information it would be impossible to validate information and locate errors in our database. Also not all participants have internet access available to them, which could compromise participant reporting. Consultations take place on a continuous basis with fishery commissions and other agencies in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico, and U. S. Virgin Islands. In practice, individual states have deferred to the NMFS effort because of its expertise, its broader geographical range of coverage, and the long established cooperation of anglers and their organizations.

**9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

Tag release participants receive acknowledgment letters after submitting release data and a tag history letter upon the tag's recapture. Tag recapture participants receive a tag history letter and a Cooperative Tagging Center baseball cap as a reward.

**10. Describe any assurance or confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

Data on names and addresses are included in the Commerce/NOAA-6 Privacy Act system of records and are protected as Privacy Act records. Handling procedures are described in various NOAA Directives.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.**

No sensitive questions are asked.

**12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.**

Estimated responses per year 12,000  
Mean time/response x 0.03 hours or 2 minutes  
Total hours 360

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).**

None

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.**

Annualized Cost To The Federal Government

Annual cost of operation of the Cooperative Tagging Center:

Equipment = \$40,000

Labor = \$136,500

GS 14 (3yr.) = \$24,000

GS 11 = \$40,000

GS 7 = \$27,000

GS 6 = \$24,000

GS 5 = \$21,500

Total cost = \$176,500

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.**

No changes are requested.

**16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.**

A summary of tagging effort is produced annually. Data is used in scientific studies and journal articles.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.**

Not applicable.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.**

There are no exceptions.

**B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

This collection does not employ statistical methods.



April 5, 2005

Ms. Diana Hynek  
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer  
Department of Commerce  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenues, NW, Room 6625  
Washington, DC 20230  
[dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)

Via electronic and regular mail

**RE: Cooperative Game Fish Tagging**

Dear Ms. Hynek:

On behalf of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), I offer strong support for the continuation of all game fish tagging programs currently under direct or indirect management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The RFA is a national, grassroots political action organization representing individual recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry on marine fisheries issues. RFA members include individual anglers, boat builders and other marine manufacturers, fishing tournament directors, party and charter boat businesses, bait and tackle retailers, marinas, and others.

Tagging programs exhibit the unique qualities of producing high-value data at a minimal cost to federal agencies. Such programs provide avenues for members of the recreational fishing community to actively assist in the collection of biological information by tagging marine fish they encounter. Many of the recreational anglers participate in these programs as part of a deeply rooted conservation ethic. They do not view time spent tagging, filling out cards, and filing tagging reports as a burden, but as time spent increasing the understanding of important life histories for marine species they pursue and ensuring efficient management. We believe that cooperative game fish tagging programs are valuable, worthwhile programs that must continue.

Noting the strong dedication of the recreational anglers that participate in tagging programs, slight increases in the reporting burden should not negatively impact participation in any great magnitude. Those that do participate believe that they are providing benefits to the species they fish for. However, there are limits to these burdens that when exceeded, participation would begin to decline, subsequently weakening the data set for species in the program. Identifying these limits is necessary to produce a most effective cooperative tagging program. The dilemma lies in that as more information is required of participants, scientists have a greater chance of understanding

the migration patterns and other biological information for program species but at the expense of increased demands on participants. These two aspects must be balanced.

Tagging programs are necessary to assure optimal data collection for marine game fish particularly billfish which have a low rate of occurrence in the recreational fishery. An absolute number of tags, participants, and respondents should be known.

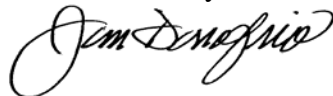
Estimated time per response and estimated total annual burden represent the effort that individual anglers volunteer to improve scientific information on billfish, tunas, swordfish and other marine game fish. In this light, reducing these burdens should be goals of the program. Potential reductions should be explored through the use of web-based reporting and other low-cost reporting vehicles using automated reporting.

Tagging logbooks may have the potential of reducing time burdens as well. Participants can be issued logbooks at the beginning of the fishing season in which all information requested on NOAA for 88-162 can be collected. To make the logbooks more appealing to anglers, the logbooks can have transferable paper, which would allow one entry in the logbook to produce an angler copy and a NOAA copy that could be torn out and mailed or faxed. Also, mailing or fax in monthly or yearly batches may reduce the burden associated with returning tag information on a per diem level. Caution must be taken when increasing tagged fish information in respect to loss, damage, or failure to return information associated with the increased holding time.

In closing, the RFA fully supports the continuance of all tagging programs for marine finfish. Tagging programs exhibit the unique qualities of producing high-value data at a minimal cost to federal agencies. Tagging programs have the ability to allow scientists to gather and analyze data on species, such as billfish, which are rarely encountered in the recreational fisheries and even less frequently seen on land as a harvested fish. Tagging also provides members of the recreational fishing community the opportunity to actively contribute to efforts assuring optimal data collection. While the recreational fishing community has a proven record of volunteering for conservation or scientific efforts, NOAA should still attempt to reduce reporting burdens and explore alternative reporting methods.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this issue.

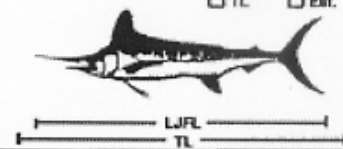
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Donofrio".

Jim Donofrio  
Executive Director

The following will be provided to the tagging volunteers when they are issued tags and Reports:

The Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program is part of the fisheries research program operated by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The information supplied on the report will be used to determine migratory patterns, stock boundaries, and other aspects of the fish tagged. Your response is voluntary. The information submitted will be held as confidential under the Privacy Act. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time necessary to review instructions, gather the data, and complete and review the report. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address on the Fish Tagging Report form. Notwithstanding any other provision on the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

<b>Fish Tagging Report</b> <small>(PLEASE PRINT)</small>		NOAA FORM 88-162 F/SEC U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (11/80) OMB Approved No. 0648-0247 NOAA-NMFS Expires 10-31-01 <i>Please complete and return card as soon as possible</i>	
Tagging Date	Species	Tag No. <b>HM 59000</b>	
Tagging Location (Lat. and Long. Preferred)		Length (in.)	<input type="checkbox"/> L/JFL <input type="checkbox"/> Meas. <input type="checkbox"/> TL <input type="checkbox"/> Est.
Fish Condition/Remarks  <input type="checkbox"/> Lively <input type="checkbox"/> Sluggish <input type="checkbox"/> Belly Up			
Hooks Retained <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, leader cut	Fighting Time ____ Hr. ____ Min.		
Angler		Captain	
Address		Address	
City/State/Zip		City/State/Zip	
Send more tags to <input type="checkbox"/> Captain <input type="checkbox"/> Angler    Quantity: _____		This report is authorized by law U.S.C.F.L. 00-000. While you are not required to respond, your cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate and timely. Thank you for your contribution.	

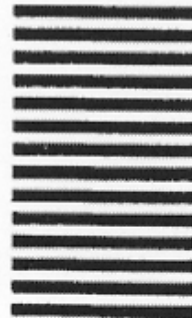
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN.  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE F/SEC 1  
MIAMI FL 33149  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 99133 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NOAA



Cooperative Tagging Center  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
75 Virginia Beach Drive  
Miami, FL 33149

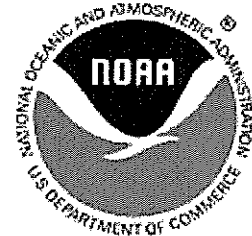
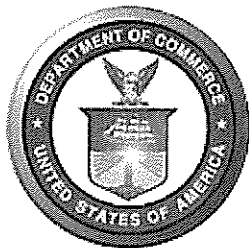
The following will be provided to the tagging volunteers when they are issued tags and Reports:

The Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program is part of the fisheries research program operated by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The information supplied on the report will be used to determine migratory patterns, stock boundaries, and other aspects of the fish tagged. Your response is voluntary. The information submitted will be held as confidential under the Privacy Act. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time necessary to review instructions, gather the data, and complete and review the report. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address on the Fish Tagging Report form. Notwithstanding any other provision on the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Cooperative Tagging Center  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
75 Virginia Beach Drive  
Miami, FL 33149

ED DWYER  
4440 JAMES RD.

COCOA BEACH FL 32926  
UNITED STATES



We acknowledge receipt of your tag release information. Thank you for your participation in the Cooperative Tagging Center. We will notify you if your fish is recaptured and of further developments in the Cooperative Tagging Center.

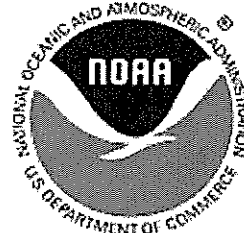
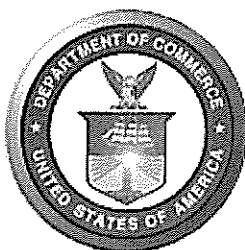
Tag Number	Species	Tag Date	Location
MIA HM053463	TUNA,YELLOWFIN	2001-06-22	28.5 -80.33

*Photo courtesy of Guy Harvey*

Cooperative Tagging Center  
 Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
 75 Virginia Beach Drive  
 Miami, FL 33149

RON CRISP  
 79 OSTROM RD.

EAST FALMOUTH MA  
 02563 UNITED STATES



Thank you for your contribution to the successful tagging experiment described below.

Large oceanic fishes are being tagged through the cooperation of scientists and fishermen to determine their migratory patterns, define their populations, and, if possible, estimate their growth rates, population sizes, and mortality rates. In addition to its general interest to fishermen and biologists, such information is needed to determine the need for, and guide the planning of conservation measures. Your continued cooperation in tagging your catches, and returning tags which you find on them with complete and accurate recapture data, will add to our knowledge and help to secure the optimum utilization of these priceless resources

With thanks for your interest and cooperation, and wishing you the best of luck in your future fishing.

Eric Orbesen  
 Fishery Biologist  
 Cooperative Tagging Center

Tag Number	Species	Tag Date	Location	Length	Weight
			25.703055555555554		
MIA HM071895	SAILFISH	2005-01-04	80.34361111111111		
			25 -		
MIA HM071895	SAILFISH	2005-01-24	80.16666666666667	70 IN	30 LB

Photo courtesy of Guy Harvey

### **Sec. 1881c. Fisheries research**

#### **(a) In general**

The Secretary shall initiate and maintain, in cooperation with the Councils, a comprehensive program of fishery research to carry out and further the purposes, policy, and provisions of this chapter. Such program shall be designed to acquire knowledge and information, including statistics, on fishery conservation and management and on the economics and social characteristics of the fisheries.

#### **(b) Strategic plan**

Within one year after October 11, 1996, and at least every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop and publish in the Federal Register a strategic plan for fisheries research for the 5 years immediately following such publication. The plan shall -

- (1) identify and describe a comprehensive program with a limited number of priority objectives for research in each of the areas specified in subsection (c) of this section;
- (2) indicate goals and timetables for the program described in paragraph (1);
- (3) provide a role for commercial fishermen in such research, including involvement in field testing;
- (4) provide for collection and dissemination, in a timely manner, of complete and accurate information concerning fishing activities, catch, effort, stock assessments, and other research conducted under this section; and
- (5) be developed in cooperation with the Councils and affected States, and provide for coordination with the Councils, affected States, and other research entities.

#### **(c) Areas of research**

Areas of research are as follows:

- (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management, including but not limited to, biological research concerning the abundance and life history parameters of stocks of fish, the interdependence of fisheries or stocks of fish, the identification of essential fish habitat, the impact of pollution on fish populations, the impact of wetland and estuarine degradation, and other factors affecting the abundance and availability of fish.
- (2) Conservation engineering research, including the study of fish behavior and the development and testing of new gear technology and fishing techniques to minimize bycatch and any adverse effects on essential fish habitat and promote efficient harvest of target species.
- (3) Research on the fisheries, including the social, cultural, and economic relationships among fishing vessel owners, crew, United States fish



processors, associated shoreside labor, seafood markets and fishing communities.

(4) Information management research, including the development of a fishery information base and an information management system under section 1881 of this title that will permit the full use of information in the support of effective fishery conservation and management.

(d) Public notice

In developing the plan required under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall consult with relevant Federal, State, and international agencies, scientific and technical experts, and other interested persons, public and private, and shall publish a proposed plan in the Federal Register for the purpose of receiving public comment on the plan. The Secretary shall ensure that affected commercial fishermen are actively involved in the development of the portion of the plan pertaining to conservation engineering research. Upon final publication in the Federal Register, the plan shall be submitted by the Secretary to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

## **Sec. 1881d. Incidental harvest research**

### **(a) Collection of information**

Within nine months after October 11, 1996, the Secretary shall, after consultation with the Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council, conclude the collection of information in the program to assess the impact on fishery resources of incidental harvest by the shrimp trawl fishery within the authority of such Councils. Within the same time period, the Secretary shall make available to the public aggregated summaries of information collected prior to June 30, 1994 under such program.

### **(b) Identification of stock**

The program concluded pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall provide for the identification of stocks of fish which are subject to significant incidental harvest in the course of normal shrimp trawl fishing activity.

### **(c) Collection and assessment of specific stock information**

For stocks of fish identified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, with priority given to stocks which, (based upon the best available scientific information) are considered to be overfished, the Secretary shall conduct -

(1) a program to collect and evaluate information on the nature and extent (including the spatial and temporal distribution) of incidental mortality of such stocks as a direct result of shrimp trawl fishing activities;

(2) an assessment of the status and condition of such stocks, including collection of information which would allow the estimation of life history parameters with sufficient accuracy and precision to support sound scientific evaluation of the effects of various management alternatives on the status of such stocks; and

(3) a program of information collection and evaluation for such stocks on the magnitude and distribution of fishing mortality and fishing effort by sources of fishing mortality other than shrimp trawl fishing activity.

### **(d) Bycatch reduction program**

Not later than 12 months after October 11, 1996, the Secretary shall, in cooperation with affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, complete a program to -

(1) develop technological devices and other changes in fishing operations necessary and appropriate to minimize the incidental mortality of bycatch in the course of shrimp trawl activity to the extent practicable, taking into account the level of bycatch mortality in the fishery on November 28, 1990;

(2) evaluate the ecological impacts and the benefits and costs of such devices and changes in fishing operations; and

(3) assess whether it is practicable to utilize bycatch which is not avoidable.

(e) Report to Congress

The Secretary shall, within one year of completing the programs required by this section, submit a detailed report on the results of such programs to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(f) Implementation criteria

To the extent practicable, any conservation and management measure implemented under this chapter to reduce the incidental mortality of bycatch in the course of shrimp trawl fishing shall be consistent with -

(1) measures applicable to fishing throughout the range in

United States waters of the bycatch species concerned; and

(2) the need to avoid any serious adverse environmental impacts on such bycatch species or the ecology of the affected area.

US code: Title 16, Section 760e

**Sec. 760e. Study of migratory game fish; waters; research; purpose**

The Secretary of Commerce is directed to undertake a comprehensive continuing study of the migratory marine fish of interest to recreational fishermen of the United States, including species inhabiting the offshore waters of the United States and species, which migrate through or spend a part of their lives in the inshore waters of the United States. The study shall include, but not be limited to, research on migrations, identity of stocks, growth rates, mortality rates, variations in survival, environmental influences, both natural and artificial, including pollution, and effects of fishing on the species, for the purpose of developing wise conservation policies and constructive management activities.

Pacific halibut sport fishery off Alaska, while the State of Alaska manages the salmon sport fisheries (Chinook, Coho, Sockeye, Chum, and Pink), as well as several other saltwater sport fisheries. The survey's scope covers marine sport fishing for Pacific halibut, salmon, and other popular marine sport species in Alaska (e.g., lingcod and rockfish). The data collected from the survey will be used to estimate the value of marine fishing to anglers and to analyze how the type of fish caught, catch rates, and fishery regulations affect fishing values and anglers' decisions to participate in Alaska marine fishing activities.

The economic information provided from the survey will help inform fishery managers about the economic values of Alaska marine sport fisheries and the changes to participation in these fisheries with proposed regulations.

## II. Method of Collection

The data will be collected through a mail survey. A random sample of sport anglers who have fished in Alaska will receive an initial questionnaire. In subsequent weeks, a reminder postcard and a second questionnaire will be mailed to respondents who have not completed and returned the survey. Those not responding to the second full mailing will be contacted by telephone and asked to complete and return the questionnaire.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

## 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 31, 2005.

### Gwellnar Banks,

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

[FR Doc. 05-2192 Filed 2-3-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020105D]

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Report

**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 April 5, 2005.

**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 Eric Orbesen, NOAA Southeast Region Science Center, Cooperative Tagging Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149 or (305) 361-5253.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Abstract

The cooperative tagging center attempts to determine the migration patterns and other biological information of billfish, tunas, and swordfish. The fish tagging report is provided to the angler with the tags, and he/she fills out the card with the information when a fish is tagged. The

card is then mailed back to NMFS where the data is stored.

## II. Method of Collection

The tag cards are mailed out to constituents who then fill them out with the appropriate data when they tag a fish and mail the tag card back to our offices.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0247.

*Form Number:* NOAA form 88-162.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 12,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 0.3 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 360.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

## 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 27, 2005.

### Gwellnar Banks,

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

[FR Doc. 05-2193 Filed 2-3-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**