

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

06/23/2006

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 04/19/2006.

TITLE: Highly Migratory Species Tournament Registration
and Reporting

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0323

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2009

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	480	70	0
New	519	83	0
Difference	39	13	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		13	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

OMB Authorizing Official Title

John F. Morrall III Acting Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

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 b. <input type="checkbox"/> None 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
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION & REPORTING
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0323**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to regulate fisheries for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (AHMS) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, as amended. Under this authorization, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to renew tournament registration and reporting requirements for HMS (hence the change from the original title, “Highly Migratory Species Tournament Reporting” to new title, “Highly Migratory Species Tournament Registration and Reporting”).

Tournament registration and reporting is necessary because it provides an important source of information used to assess HMS fish stocks and to estimate the annual catch of Atlantic HMS. The information allows NMFS, in the course of developing fishery management plans, to evaluate the social and economic impact of tournament angling in relation to other types of angling (e.g., commercial, non-tournament recreational), potential impacts on tournament operations, and the relative effect of tournament angling on populations of various regulated HMS. Finally, the information is essential for the U.S. to meet its reporting obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

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.

The tournament registration and reporting procedures involve: (1) Mandatory registration of HMS tournaments; and, (2) for selected tournaments, mandatory reporting of the results of the tournaments, including the documentation of all instances of landing an Atlantic HMS during a tournament. To do this, NMFS will require that tournament operators (the person or entity responsible for maintaining records of participants and results) register their tournament, including the date, location, and purpose of the tournament, at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the tournament. The tournament operator will collect the following data from all boats on all HMS encountered: whether the fish were kept, released, or lost; condition of the fish; whether the fish were tagged; and, the weight and length of all boated fish. This information is already routinely collected during tournament operations, which makes the reporting burden one of transcribing existing information onto a single form rather than a collection of new information. NMFS is submitting two different reporting forms for PRA approval, but will require the tournament operator, depending upon the situation, to complete only one, if selected for reporting. The completed reporting form is to be returned to NMFS no later than 7 days after the conclusion of the tournament.

The information obtained from each tournament operator on the AHMS Tournament Registration Form@ includes:

- a. The name, date, and location of the tournament.
- b. The Director/Operator's name, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if applicable).
- c. Whether the tournament has operated in previous years.
- d. Identification of highly migratory species for which points or prizes will be awarded.
- e. Voluntary authorization to release tournament information (tournament name, date(s), city, state, & target species) to the public

NMFS uses this registration information to plan for the assignment of tournament observers to assist in catch/effort data compilation and to obtain biological data and samples from landed fish (length/weight, stomach contents, injuries, parasites, hard and soft tissue samples for age determination, genetic and microconstituent analysis, spawning condition, fecundity, etc.). The registration information also allows NMFS, in the course of developing fishery management plans, to evaluate potential impacts on tournament operations. Additionally, with an accurate tournament registration database, NMFS may better assess the practicality of using tournaments for angler educational outreach efforts including distribution of written informational materials, notification of public hearings, and explanation of HMS regulations. A voluntary authorization from the operator to release tournament information to the public (using a checkbox on the registration form) would assist potential tournament anglers in determining participation in upcoming events.

The reporting information obtained from each tournament operator on the AHMS Tournament Summary Report@ includes:

- a. The name, date, and location of the tournament.
- b. The total number of boats fishing, hours fished, recorder's name and phone number.
- c. The numbers of fish kept and the size (weight in lbs., length in inches) of each. The numbers of fish that were released alive, released alive with a tag, released dead, and lost.

This information is identical to what tournament operators already collect to determine a tournament winner. Tournaments that normally use radio logs or catch certificates to log catch and effort are being requested to submit copies of those along with the report form supplied by NMFS. The only additional time or cost burden would be for photocopying and mailing the report form. As mentioned above, the collected information is used by NMFS to assess total annual tournament catch and the relative effect of tournament angling on populations of regulated HMS.

HMS tournament information does have utility. The information that will be collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. See responses #10 and #16 of this Supporting Statement for more information on data dissemination and use. NMFS 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. A voluntary authorization from the operator to release tournament information to the public would assist potential tournament anglers in determining participation in upcoming tournaments. 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.

Tournament operators are being asked to register tournaments and to report tournament results on a NMFS form in order to standardize the data collected. The blank tournament registration form is available electronically on the Internet at www.nmfspermits.com and a screen-fillable version is available at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Linkpages/reporting_forms.htm. The form is also available by fax upon request. The completed registration form may be either faxed or mailed back to NMFS. Some tournament operators have voluntarily chosen in recent years to submit their completed tournament registration forms by e-mail, which is also acceptable. NMFS is actively examining the possibility of making the tournament registration and reporting data systems available on the Internet for direct data entry by tournament operators, and to provide some access to the tournament registration information (tournament name, date(s), city, state, & target species) as a service to publicize tournaments and to inform potential tournament anglers of upcoming events.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

This collection does not duplicate or overlap with any other collection of information. Mandatory reporting of recreational non-tournament Atlantic billfish and swordfish landings occurs under a separately approved collection (0648-0328- Atlantic Billfish and Swordfish Recreational Landings Call-In Report), and recreational Atlantic bluefin tuna landings are also subject to mandatory reporting (0648-0328 - Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Mandatory Catch Reporting). Although these collections could document similar activities, NMFS is cognizant of possible duplication and is actively making efforts to avoid it. For example, tournament landings are exempt from the Atlantic billfish and swordfish recreational call-in requirement. In addition, two other separate approved information collections including the Large Pelagic Fishing Survey (0648-0380) and the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (0648-0052) complement tournament registration and reporting. The Large Pelagic Fishing Survey and the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey include telephone surveys and dockside interviews with recreational anglers. These surveys actively identify and attempt to segregate tournament landings from other non-tournament recreational landings.

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

This information collection will not have a significant impact on small entities. The registration-reporting burden is estimated at two minutes and consists of providing information on tournament date(s), location, and target species, as well as contact information. The tournament reporting information that would be collected is already routinely collected by tournament operators to determine tournament points or prizes. As such, the tournament reporting information collection involves transcribing existing information onto a summary form. Therefore, the reporting burden is minimal.

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

Fishing tournaments provide a unique opportunity for biologists to obtain an abundance of fishery information in a relatively short time period. It is both efficient and essential to gather this information, as it is already being collected by operators of HMS angling tournaments (catch and effort data, landings, etc.), so that it can be incorporated into the formulation of HMS fishery management policies. NMFS must have tournament information to evaluate the relative impact of various types of angling on HMS. If NMFS is unable to obtain this information, then the Agency would be unable to fully assess the costs, benefits and likely impacts of subsequent regulations and rules regarding either HMS or HMS tournament angling, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In addition, if the collection were not conducted, NMFS would be less able to comply with international obligations, such as ICCAT landings limits and reporting requirements.

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

The information collection requiring that tournament summary reports be submitted within 7 days after the tournament is concluded is inconsistent with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines. The shorter reporting time frame is due to international obligations of NMFS to monitor the catch of certain HMS species according to agreed international quotas or agreed reductions in landings to ensure the sustainability of such species.

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.

The Federal Register Notice soliciting public comment on this proposed collection of information was published on December 19, 2005, (70 FR 75153) and is attached. The comment period closed on February 17, 2006. One comment was received. The commenter asked why tournament reporting is not mandatory and indicated that punitive fines should be levied upon non-reporting tournaments. The Agency has not taken any action in response to this comment because current reporting requirements are deemed to be sufficient. Current regulations require that all tournaments selected by the Agency must submit a report. All tournaments targeting billfish are selected for reporting (approximately 70 percent of all registered tournaments). The remaining tournaments targeting only tuna and/or sharks are selected for reporting using a stratified random sample design at a rate of approximately 10 percent. By selecting all billfish tournaments and a portion of the remaining tournaments for reporting, NMFS may adequately evaluate the biological, social and economic impact of tournament angling and meet international ICCAT reporting obligations, while minimizing the reporting burden on the public. NMFS routinely consults with outside parties to obtain the public's view on the availability of fishery data, frequency of data collection, clarity of instructions and recordkeeping requests, disclosure of information, reporting format, and the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or

reported. These consultations occur in the context of HMS Advisory Panel meetings, public hearings, written correspondence, telephone conversations, and conversations with tournament anglers and tournament operators.

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

No payment or gifts will be provided to respondents.

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

There is a PRA statement printed on public notification materials, including the tournament registration and reporting forms. It is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NAO 216-100). Information such as the number of registered tournaments or the states in which they occurred is often provided in the annual SAFE Report, in FMP regulatory amendments, and in supporting documents made available to the public upon request. A checkbox has been included on the tournament registration form, whereby operators may voluntarily authorize NMFS to release tournament information (tournament name, date(s), city, state, & target species) as a service to publicize tournaments and to inform potential tournament anglers of upcoming events. Otherwise, without voluntary consent from the tournament operator, information submitted under this reporting requirement remains confidential, or is released only in aggregate or summary form such that individual identifiers are not disclosed.

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 questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, or other matters that are commonly considered private are included in this information collection.

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

Approximately 300 tournament operators are expected to respond to the tournament registration form. With this number of respondents, and an approximate response time of 2 minutes per tournament registration form, we expect a total of 10 burden hours.

Tournament Registration: 300 respondents x 2 minutes = 10 hours

NMFS anticipates that approximately 210 tournaments (70%) will list billfish as a target species. All 210 tournaments listing billfish as a target species will be selected for tournament reporting. The remaining 90 tournaments targeting only tunas and/or sharks will be selected for reporting at a sampling rate of approximately 10 percent (*i.e.* 9 respondents). Therefore, the total number of respondents for tournament reporting will be approximately 219. With an approximate response time of 20 minutes, we expect a total of 73 burden hours for tournament reporting.

Tournament Reporting: 219 respondents x 20 minutes = 73 hours

Total Burden for Registration and Reporting: 10 hours + 73 hours = 83 hours.

The tournament reporting form asks respondents to transcribe information that is already being collected to determine tournament winners. Therefore, time spent reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining records, and reviewing and completing the forms is expected to be relatively minimal.

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).

The only costs associated with this collection would be for mailing or faxing the forms to NMFS. For registration, given 300 respondents and assuming that half will mail (\$0.39/postage) and half will fax (\$0.20/ minute x 1 minute) the registration forms, it is estimated that the total annual cost to the respondents for registration will be approximately \$88.50.

To mail registration form:	150 respondents x \$0.39 = \$58.50
To fax registration form:	150 respondents x \$0.20 = <u>\$30.00</u>
Total Cost for Registration	\$88.50

Similarly, for tournament reporting, given 220 respondents (rounding up) and assuming that half will mail (\$0.39/postage) and half will fax (\$0.20/ minute x 1 minute) the reporting forms, it is estimated that the total annual cost to the respondents for registration will be approximately \$64.90.

To mail reporting form:	110 respondents x \$0.39 = \$42.90
To fax reporting form:	110 respondents x \$0.20 = <u>\$22.00</u>
Total Cost for Reporting	\$64.90

Therefore, the total annual cost burden to the respondents associated with this collection is expected to be approximately \$153.40 (\$88.50 + \$64.90).

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

Costs for printing and supplying the forms are expected to be minimal. A blank Registration Form is annually mailed to operators who have previously registered tournaments, along with a reminder to register tournaments for the upcoming year. The Registration Form is also available on the Internet and may be downloaded by respondents. In addition, NMFS provides a fax copy to respondents upon request. The registration form could be photocopied and used by respondents as needed. No new equipment or overhead costs will be incurred by NMFS, because existing equipment and staff will be used to collect and enter the data.

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

Due to an adjustment and a program change, the total burden hours requested are adjusted from 70 hours per year to 83 hours per year. The adjustment is based upon an analysis of recent tournament data indicating that a higher percentage of HMS tournaments target billfish (70%) and is therefore automatically selected for reporting, than previous estimates indicated (50%). The program change is from sampling 20% of the non-billfish tournaments to sampling 10%. This lower sampling rate has been determined sufficient for HMS, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) and Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) biologists. Tuna and shark assessment biologists are much less dependent upon recreational tournament information than are billfish biologists, because adequate commercial catch and landings information is available for these species. Billfish is exclusively a recreational fishery, so tournament catch, effort, and landings information derived from tournaments is extremely important. In addition, billfish tournament information is critical for complying with ICCAT recommendations, including a 250-fish marlin landing limit. The tuna and shark information obtained from sampled tournaments primarily is used to supplement more robust commercial information (logbooks, dealer reports, etc.) and other recreational information (Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS), Large Pelagic Survey (LPS), etc.). Additionally, some key shark tournaments are actively selected each year to ensure consistent long-term data, as noted in the response to Part B, Questions 1 and 2.

There are no changes to Item 14 on OMB Form 83-I.

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

These data are not being collected for the purpose of publication in raw form. The aggregate information may be publicly distributed in scientific stock assessments for individual species, in the annually published Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report, in Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendments, or on a NMFS Internet site. This could include information on the number of registered tournaments, the states in which they occurred, or total landings by species. As a result, tournament information should be considered as one component, among many, factoring into fishery policy and management decisions.

Tournament information (tournament name, date(s), city, state, & target species) from operators who voluntarily authorize NMFS to release such information may be provided as a service to publicize tournaments and to inform potential tournament anglers of upcoming events.

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.

NMFS will display the expiration date for OMB approval.

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

Not applicable, because there are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

(If your collection does not employ statistical methods, just say that and delete the following five questions from the format.)

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

All HMS tournaments are required to be registered. NMFS anticipates that approximately 300 tournaments will be registered. Recent registration rates have averaged 80%.

Approximately 210 tournaments target billfish. All tournaments targeting billfish will be selected for reporting (*i.e.* a census). The remaining 90 tournaments targeting only tuna and/or sharks will be selected for reporting using a sampling rate of approximately 10 percent (*i.e.* 9 respondents). Certain key non-billfish tournaments may also be actively selected for reporting depending upon past participation, quality of data, accessibility, catch composition, etc. In previous years, a varying number of non-billfish tournaments have been selected for reporting, usually about ten. Recent reporting response rates have averaged 96%.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

As stated above, all tournaments identifying billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, longbill spearfish, and swordfish) as a target species will be selected for reporting (*i.e.* a census). Due to the migratory nature of HMS, the sampling design for non-billfish tournaments will consider geographic and seasonal variation in fish distribution and differences in effort catch characteristics of the fishing fleet to select tournaments targeting only tuna and/or sharks for reporting. Given this variation, a stratified random sampling design will be employed. Tournaments will be stratified according to geographic region, season, target species, and other criteria to ensure a representative sample. From each strata, tournaments will be randomly selected for reporting. In addition, some tournaments may be actively selected for reporting based upon previous participation, quality of data, participation rates, catch composition, etc. Sampling a few key tournaments year after year will ensure consistent, long-term data (such as catch-per unit-fishing-effort) that is useful to identify long-term trends. By employing a stratified random sampling scheme in conjunction with actively selecting a few key tournaments for reporting, NMFS will obtain reliable, long-term fishery-dependent data in an efficient manner.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse.

The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Tournaments that are selected for reporting are required by law to submit a completed tournament summary form along with a copy of tournament rules to NMFS within seven days after the completion of tournament fishing (50 CFR 635.5(d)). The reporting form and selection notice are provided to tournament operators. The required information is identical to what tournament operators already collect to determine a tournament winner. Because the information is readily available to tournament operators, it is possible to complete the reporting summary form quickly and easily. The only additional time or cost burden associated with the collection would be for photocopying and mailing/faxing. Because the reporting form summarizes information that tournament operators already have, NMFS anticipates a high response rate.

To further encourage a high response rate, NMFS conducts an outreach to inform tournament operators of the registration and reporting requirements, and to indicate the importance of reliable tournament information for stock assessment purposes and social/economic analysis of potential management measures. A reminder letter and registration form is sent to all known constituents and previous registrants in January. Brochures are distributed on request, or when a NMFS representative is attending a fishing trade/ industry show.

Information obtained from selected tournaments is analyzed for reliability before it is incorporated into stock assessments.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

The information obtained from HMS tournament reports may be incorporated into stock assessment documents prepared by NOAA fishery scientists, if the data is considered reliable. The stock assessment documents are then discussed and peer-reviewed by domestic and international experts before any policy-related agreements or decisions are made. The peer review process may suggest any possible modifications to the information collection, if deemed necessary.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

For HMS Tournament Registration: Russell Dunn/Richard Pearson/Greg Fairclough
NMFS/HMS Management Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-5399

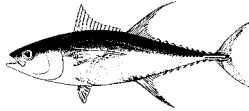
For HMS Tournament Reporting: Arietta Venizelos
NMFS/Southeast Fisheries Science Center

75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149
(305) 361-4214

Anna Avrigian
NMFS/Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Panama City Laboratory
3500 Delwood Beach Road
Panama City, FL 32408
(850) 234-6541

Lisa Natanson
NMFS/Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Narragansett Laboratory
28 Tarzwell Drive
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 782-3320

ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION



Thank you for registering your _____ fishing tournament with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Please send the completed form (which is also available at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms or www.nmfspermits.com) via mail to: **HMS Tournament Registration, National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL, 33701** or FAX to (727) 824-5398.

Tournament Name _____

Tournament Location _____ **Date(s):** _____
City State

Director/Operator Name _____

Mailing Address _____
Street/P.O. Box

_____ City State Zip

Phone (____) ____ - _____ **FAX** (____) ____ - _____

E-mail Address (if applicable) _____

Has this tournament operated in previous years? ____ (Y/N); **Most recent year** _____

What name(s) have been used for this event? _____

Please check the appropriate HMS species below for which points or prizes are awarded for either tag and release, or that are landed in your tournament. Thank you.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Billfish | Swordfish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White Marlin..... | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Blue Marlin..... | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sailfish..... | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Longbill Spearfish..... | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Sharks | Tunas | |
| Large Coastal Sharks: | Bluefin Tuna..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ridgeback Sharks..... | Yellowfin Tuna..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-Ridgeback Sharks..... | Bigeye Tuna..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Small Coastal Sharks..... | Albacore..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pelagic Sharks..... | Skipjack Tuna..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Checking this box authorizes NMFS to release information to the public regarding tournament name, date(s), city, state, and target species.

(Please See Reverse Side)

This information will be used to estimate tournament fishing effort and landings of highly migratory species for stock assessments and national statistical reports.

If available, please send a copy of the tournament brochure and rules

Thank you for helping the National Marine Fisheries Service track Highly Migratory Species recreational activities. For more information about HMS or for current regulations, contact the following personnel:

- Billfish, Swordfish, and HMS Tournament Registration: Russ Dunn, Rick Pearson, or Greg Fairclough at 727-824-5399
- Sharks: Chris Rilling or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347
- Tunas: Mark Murray-Brown or Brad Mchale at 978-281-9260

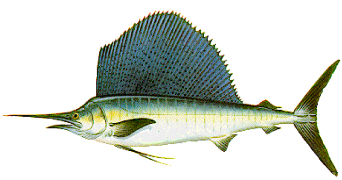
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Collection of information through tournament registration and reporting provides essential information for the conservation and management of highly migratory species. This information will be used to estimate recreational landings of these species through tournaments and may be used to estimate fishing effort. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 minutes per response (tournament registration), including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NOAA Fisheries, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Registering and, if selected, reporting, of tournaments is required under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act. It is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NAO-216-100). Tournament operators may voluntarily elect for NMFS to release information to the public regarding tournament name, date(s), city, state, and target species. Notwithstanding any other provision of 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.

(Fold here)

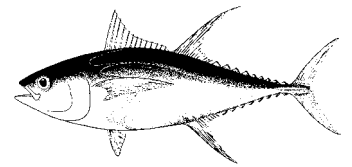
Affix
Sufficient
Postage

**NOAA Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species Management Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701**

Attn: HMS Tournament Registration



Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournament Summary Report



OMB #0648-0323, expires xx/xx/xxxx

Tournament Name: _____

Fishing Date(s): _____

Tournament Location (city & state): _____

Total Boats Fishing or # Boats Fishing Per Day: _____ Hours Fished (Lines in-Lines Out): _____

Recorder's Name: _____ Phone: _____

ATLANTIC BILLFISHES						OTHER SPECIES					
	No. Kept	Number Released			Size of Fish Kept (lbs.)		No. Kept	Number Released			Size of Fish Kept (lbs.)
		Alive tag	Alive tag	no Dead = Total				Alive tag	Alive tag	no Dead = Total	
Blue Marlin						Swordfish					
White Marlin						OTHER					
Sailfish											
Spearfish											

ATLANTIC PELAGIC SHARKS						ATLANTIC COASTAL SHARKS					
	No. Kept	Number Released			Size of Fish Kept (lbs.)		No. Kept	Number Released			Size of Fish Kept (lbs.)
		Alive tag	Alive tag	no Dead = Total				Alive tag	Alive tag	no Dead = Total	
Blue						Bignose	N/A				N/A
Longfin Mako	N/A				N/A	Blacktip					
Shortfin Mako						Dusky	N/A				N/A
Oceanic Whitetip						Great Hammerhead					
Common Thresher						Scalloped Hammerhead					
Bigeye Thresher	N/A				N/A	Smooth Hammerhead					
Porbeagle						Night	N/A				N/A
OTHER						Sandbar					
						Silky					
						Spinner					
						Tiger					
						White	N/A				N/A
						OTHER					

ATLANTIC TUNAS											
	No. Kept	Number Released			Size of Fish Kept (lbs.)		No. Kept	Number Released			Size of Fish Kept (lbs.)
		Alive tag	Alive tag	no Dead = Total				Alive tag	Alive tag	no Dead = Total	
Yellowfin Tuna						Albacore Tuna					
Bluefin Tuna						OTHER TUNA					
Skipjack Tuna											
Bigeye Tuna											

N/A - Not Applicable (Retention of this species is prohibited)

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species tournament information is required by NOAA Fisheries under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, as amended. Catch and effort information will be used in stock assessments, to monitor total catch of species under quota management, and in reports to international commissions with respect to catch sharing agreements. It is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NAO 216-100). Upon request, some individual responses, stripped of personal identifiers, may be released to the public. Notwithstanding any other provision of 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. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per respondent (reporting of selected tournaments), including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Under Federal Regulations at 50 CFR part 644, persons conducting fishing tournaments for Atlantic highly migratory species are **REQUIRED** to do the following:

1. All Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournaments **MUST** register using form (OMB # 0648-0323) at least four weeks prior to commencement of the tournament;
2. If selected, tournament operators **MUST** submit an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournament Summary Report (OMB # 0648-0323) postmarked not later than the seventh day after the final day of tournament fishing;
3. If selected, billfish tournament operators **MUST** submit radio logs or catch certificates containing detailed capture information including: tournament dates, fishing hours, name of each boat fishing that day, bait types and fight times for all billfish captured or released, and weight, length, and sex of each billfish brought ashore.

INSTRUCTIONS - Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournament Summary Report OMB#0648-0323

Tournament Name: Record the entire name of the fishing tournament as it was reported on the tournament registration form.

Fishing Date(s): Record the actual fishing dates of the tournament (don't include days or days canceled due to bad weather).

Tournament Location (city & state): Record the city and state of the fishing tournament.

Total Boats Fishing: Record the number of boats fishing (Please note if this number changes each day).

Hours Fished (Lines in-Lines Out): Record tournament start times and ending times (please note if different days have different hours).

Recorder's Name: Record the name of the person who completes this form.

Phone: Record the phone number of the recorder.

No. Kept: Record the total number of fish kept for each species.

Number Released:

- **Alive, No Tag:** Record the total number of fish released alive (no tag) for each species.
- **Alive, Tag:** Record the total number of fish released (with tags) for each species.
- **Dead:** Record the total number of fish thrown back dead for each species.
- **Total:** Record the total number of fish released for each species.

Size of Fish Kept (lbs.): Record the weights (lbs.) of each individual fish kept for each species (if you need more space, please attach additional pages).

No. of Fish Lost: Record total number of fish hooked but lost on an additional page, if identification is available.

Attach Forms, Tri-Fold Here and Mail

Affix
Sufficient
Postage

**NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149**

Attn: Atlantic HMS Tournament Reporting

Staple Forms Here



Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Billfish Tournament Summary Report

M

Tournament Name: _____	Fishing Date(s): _____
Tournament Location (City and State): _____	
Total Boats Fishing or # of Boats Fishing per Day: _____	
Hours Fished (lines in - lines out): _____	Recorder's Name: _____
Phone: _____	E-mail Address: _____

ATLANTIC BILLFISHES													
Note: Length for Billfish is lower jaw fork length													
Species	No. Kept	No. Lost	Number Released				Size of Fish Kept		Size of Fish Kept		Size of Fish Kept		
			Alive Tag +	Alive No Tag +	Dead =	Total	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	
Blue Marlin													
White Marlin													
Sailfish													
Spearfish													
Swordfish													

ADDITIONAL BILLFISH and TUNAS													
Species	No. Kept	No. Lost	Number Released				Size of Fish Kept		Size of Fish Kept		Size of Fish Kept		
			Alive Tag +	Alive No Tag +	Dead =	Total	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	

Please send completed report form via FAX to (305) 361-4562; via email to arietta.venizelos@noaa.gov; or by mail to:

Attn: Atlantic HMS Tournament Reporting, NOAA Fisheries, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species tournament information is required by NOAA Fisheries under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, as amended. Catch and effort information will be used in stock assessments, to monitor total catch of species under quota management, and in reports to international commissions with respect to catch sharing agreements. It is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NAO 216-100). Upon request, some individual responses, stripped of personal identifiers, may be released to the public. Notwithstanding any other provision of 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. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 22 minutes per respondent (registration and reporting of selected tournaments), including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NOAA Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TOURNAMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Tournament Name: Record the entire name of the fishing tournament as it was reported on the tournament registration form.

Fishing Date(s): Record the actual fishing dates of the tournament (do not include lay days or days canceled due to bad weather).

Tournament Location (city and state): Record the city and state of the fishing tournament.

Total Boats Fishing or # of Boats Fishing per Day: Record the number of boats fishing or number per day (please note if this number changes each day).

Hours Fished (lines in-lines out): Record tournament start times and ending times (please note if different days have different hours).

Recorder's Name, Phone, and E-mail: Record the name of the person who completes this form, the phone number of the recorder, and e-mail address if available.

No. Kept: Record the total number of fish kept for each species.

No. Lost: Record the total number of fish hooked but lost when positive species identification is possible

Number Released:

- **Alive, No Tag:** Record the total number of fish released alive (no tag) for each species.

- **Alive, Tag:** Record the total number of fish released (with tags) for each species.

- **Dead:** Record the total number of fish thrown back dead for each species.

- **Total:** Add the "Alive, No Tag", "Alive, Tag", and "Dead" numbers and record the total number of fish released or not weighed in for each species.

Size of Fish Kept: Record the length (lower jaw fork length for billfish) in inches and the weight (lbs.) of each individual fish kept for each species (if you need more space, please attach additional pages).

ADDITIONAL BILLFISH and TUNAS: Blank spaces can be used for additional billfish or tunas.

Note: If the tournament keeps radio logs or catch certificates, operators are requested to submit those logs or certificates containing detailed capture information that is not necessarily included on the Tournament Summary Report. To obtain a sample radio log form please call (305) 361-4214 or fax request to (305) 361-4562.

-----Fold Here-----

-----Attach Forms, Fold Here, and Mail-----

Affix
Sufficient
Postage

**NOAA Fisheries
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149**

ATTN: ATLANTIC HMS TOURNAMENT REPORTING

Staple Here

(3) *Alternative recreational catch reporting.* Alternative recreational catch reporting procedures may be established by NMFS with cooperation from states which may include such methodologies as telephone, dockside or mail surveys, mail in or phone-in reports, tagging programs, catch cards, or mandatory check-in stations. A census or a statistical sample of persons fishing under the recreational fishing regulations of this part may be used for these alternative reporting programs (after the programs have received Paperwork Reduction Act approval from OMB). Persons or vessel owners selected for reporting will be notified by NMFS or by the cooperating state agency of the requirements and procedures for reporting recreational catch. Each person so notified must comply with those requirements and procedures. Additionally, NMFS may determine that recreational landing reporting systems implemented by the states, if mandatory, at least as restrictive, and effectively enforced, are sufficient for recreational landing monitoring as required under this part. In such case, NMFS will file with the Office of the Federal Register for publication notification indicating that compliance with the state system satisfies the reporting requirements of paragraph (c) of this section.

(d) *Tournament operators.* A tournament operator must notify NMFS of the purpose, dates, and location of the tournament conducted from a port in an Atlantic coastal state, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, at least 4 weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. NMFS will notify a tournament operator in writing, when his or her tournament has been selected for reporting. The tournament operator that is selected must maintain and submit to NMFS a record of catch and effort on forms available from NMFS. Tournament operators must submit completed forms to NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, postmarked no later than the 7th day after the conclusion of the tournament and must attach a copy of the tournament rules.

(e) *Inspection.* Any person authorized to carry out enforcement activities under the regulations in this part has the authority, without warrant or other process, to inspect, at any reasonable time, catch on board a vessel or on the premises of a dealer, logbooks, catch reports, statistical records, sales receipts, or other records and reports required by this part to be made, kept, or furnished. An owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has been issued a permit under §635.4 or §635.32 must allow NMFS or an authorized person to inspect and copy any required reports and the records, in any form, on which the completed reports are based, wherever they exist. An agent of a person issued a permit under this part, or anyone responsible for offloading, storing, packing, or selling regulated HMS for such permittee, shall be subject to the inspection provisions of this section.

(f) *Additional data and inspection.* Additional data on fishing effort directed at Atlantic HMS or on catch of Atlantic HMS, regardless of whether retained, may be collected by contractors and statistical reporting agents, as designees of NMFS, and by authorized officers. A person issued a permit under §635.4 is required to provide requested information about fishing activity, and a person, regardless of whether issued a permit under §635.4, who possesses an Atlantic HMS is required to make such fish or parts thereof available for inspection by NMFS or its designees upon request.

[64 FR 29135, May 28, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 37704, July 13, 1999; 66 FR 30653, June 7, 2001; 66 FR 42804, Aug. 15, 2001; 67 FR 45400, July 9, 2002; 67 FR 77437, Dec. 18, 2002; 68 FR 714, Jan. 7, 2003; 68 FR 37773, June 25, 2003; 68 FR 74784, Dec. 24, 2003; 69 FR 67284, Nov. 17, 2004; 69 FR 70399, Dec. 6, 2004]

swordfish, and for an Atlantic HMS Angling, HMS Charter/Headboat, tunas, shark, or swordfish vessel permit. Except as specified in the instructions for automated renewals, a renewal application must be submitted to NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, at least 30 days before a permit's expiration to avoid a lapse of permitted status. NMFS will renew a permit provided that the specific requirements for the requested permit are met, including those described in § 635.4 (1)(2), all reports required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and ATCA have been submitted, including those described in § 635.5, and the applicant is not subject to a permit sanction or denial under paragraph (a)(6) of this section.

(2) *Shark, swordfish, and tuna longline LAPs.* As of June 1, 2000, the owner of a vessel of the United States that fishes for, possesses, lands or sells shark or swordfish from the management unit, or takes or possesses such shark or swordfish as incidental catch or that fishes for Atlantic tunas with longline gear must have the applicable limited access permit(s) issued pursuant to the requirements in § 635.4, paragraphs (e) and (f). However, any ILAP that expires on June 30, 2000, is valid through that date. Only valid limited access permit holders in the preceding year are eligible for renewal of a limited access permit(s). Limited access permits that have been transferred according to the procedures of paragraph (1) of this section are not eligible for renewal by the transferor.

[64 FR 29135, May 28, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 37703, July 13, 1999; 65 FR 47238, Aug. 1, 2000; 66 FR 30652, June 7, 2001; 67 FR 77436, Dec. 18, 2002; 68 FR 56787, Oct. 2, 2003]

§ 635.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

Information on HMS vessel and dealer reporting requirements may be obtained from the Division Chief or where otherwise stated in this part.

(a) *Vessels*—(1) *Logbooks.* If an owner of an HMS Charter/Headboat vessel, an Atlantic Tunas vessel, or a commercial shark or swordfish vessel, for which a permit has been issued under § 635.4(b), (d), (e), or (f), is selected for logbook reporting in writing by NMFS, he or she must maintain and submit a fishing record on a logbook specified by

NMFS. Entries are required regarding the vessel's fishing effort and the number of fish landed and discarded. Entries on a day's fishing activities must be entered on the form within 48 hours of completing that day's activities and, for a 1-day trip, before offloading. The owner or operator of the vessel must submit the logbook form(s) post-marked within 7 days of offloading all Atlantic HMS.

(2) *Weighout slips.* If an owner of a permitted vessel is required to maintain and submit logbooks under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and Atlantic HMS harvested on a trip are sold, the owner or operator must obtain and submit copies of weighout slips for those fish. Each weighout slip must show the dealer to whom the fish were transferred, the date they were transferred, and the carcass weight of each fish for which individual weights are normally recorded. For fish that are not individually weighed, a weighout slip must record total weights by species and market category. A weighout slip for sharks prior to or as part of a commercial transaction involving shark carcasses or fins must record the weights of carcasses and any detached fins. The owner or operator must also submit copies of weighout slips with the logbook forms required to be submitted under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(3) *BFT not sold.* If a person who catches and lands a large medium or giant BFT from a vessel issued a permit in any of the commercial categories for Atlantic tunas does not sell or otherwise transfer the BFT to a dealer who has a dealer permit for Atlantic tunas, the person must contact a NMFS enforcement agent, at a number designated by NMFS, immediately upon landing such BFT, provide the information needed for the reports required under paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section, and, if requested, make the tuna available so that a NMFS enforcement agent or authorized officer may inspect the fish and attach a tag to it. Alternatively, such reporting requirement may be fulfilled if a dealer who has a dealer permit for Atlantic tunas affixes a dealer tag as required under paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section and reports the BFT as being landed but

not sold on the reports required under paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section. If a vessel is placed on a trailer, the person must contact a NMFS enforcement agent, or the BFT must have a dealer tag affixed to it by a permitted Atlantic tunas dealer, immediately upon the vessel being removed from the water. All BFT landed but not sold will be applied to the quota category according to the permit category of the vessel from which it was landed.

(4) *Pelagic longline sea turtle reporting.* The operators of vessels that have pelagic longline gear on board and that have been issued, or are required to have, a limited access swordfish, shark, and tuna longline category permit for use in the Atlantic Ocean including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico are required to report any sea turtles that are dead when they are captured or that die during capture to the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center Observer Program, at a number designated by NOAA Fisheries, within 48 hours of returning to port, in addition to submitting all other reporting forms required by this part and 50 CFR parts 223 and 224.

(5) *Shark gillnet whale reporting.* The vessel operators of vessels that are shark gillnetting, as defined by 50 CFR 229.2, and that have been issued, or are required to have, shark directed or incidental limited access permits for use in the Atlantic Ocean including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico are required to contact the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, at a number designated by NOAA Fisheries, if a listed whale is taken, in addition to submitting all other reporting forms required by this part and 50 CFR part 229.

(b) *Dealers.* Persons who have been issued a dealer permit under §635.4 must submit reports to NMFS, to an address designated by NMFS, and maintain records as follows:

(1) *Atlantic HMS.* (i) Dealers that have been issued an Atlantic tunas, swordfish and/or sharks dealer permit under §635.4 must submit to NMFS all reports required under this section.

(ii) Dealers that import bluefin tuna and/or swordfish must report all such species imported on forms available from NMFS.

(iii) Reports of Atlantic tunas, Atlantic swordfish, and/or Atlantic sharks received by dealers from U.S. vessels, or reports of bluefin tuna and swordfish imported, on the first through the 15th of each month, must be postmarked not later than the 25th of that month. Reports of such fish received or imported on the 16th through the last day of each month must be postmarked not later than the 10th of the following month. For swordfish imports, a dealer must attach a copy of each certificate of eligibility to the report required under paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section. If a dealer issued an Atlantic tunas, swordfish or sharks dealer permit under §635.4 has not received any Atlantic HMS from U.S. vessels during a reporting period as specified in this section, he or she must still submit the report required under paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section stating that no Atlantic HMS were received. This negative report must be postmarked for the applicable reporting period as specified in this section. This negative reporting requirement does not apply for BFT.

(iv) The reporting requirement of paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section may be satisfied by a dealer if he or she provides a copy of each appropriate weighout slip or sales record, provided such weighout slip or sales record by itself or combined with the form available from NMFS includes all of the required information and identifies each fish by species.

(v) The dealer may mail or fax such report to an address designated by NMFS or may hand-deliver such report to a state or Federal fishery port agent designated by NMFS. If the dealer hand-delivers the report to a port agent, a dealer must deliver such report no later than the prescribed postmark date for the reporting period.

(2) *Requirements for bluefin tuna—(i) Dealer reports—(A) Landing reports.* Each dealer issued an Atlantic tunas permit under §635.4 must submit a completed landing report on a form available from NMFS for each BFT received from a U.S. fishing vessel. Such report must be submitted by electronic facsimile (fax) to a number designated by NMFS not later than 24 hours after receipt of the BFT. The landing report

must indicate the name and permit number of the vessel that landed the BFT and must be signed by the permitted vessel's owner or operator immediately upon transfer of the BFT. The dealer must inspect the vessel's permit to verify that the required vessel name and vessel permit number as listed on the permit are correctly recorded on the landing report.

(B) *Bi-weekly reports.* Each dealer issued an Atlantic tunas permit under §635.4 must submit a bi-weekly report on forms supplied by NMFS for BFT received from U.S. vessels and for imports of bluefin tuna. For BFT received from U.S. vessels and for bluefin tuna imported on the first through the 15th of each month, the dealer must submit the bi-weekly report forms to NMFS postmarked not later than the 25th of that month. Reports of BFT received and bluefin tuna imported on the 16th through the last day of each month must be postmarked not later than the 10th of the following month.

(ii) *Dealer Tags.* NMFS will issue numbered dealer tags to each person issued a dealer permit for Atlantic tunas under §635.4. A dealer tag is not transferable and is usable only by the dealer to whom it is issued. Dealer tags may not be reused once affixed to a tuna or recorded on a package, container, or report.

(A) *Affixing dealer tags.* A dealer or a dealer's agent must affix a dealer tag to each BFT purchased or received from a U.S. vessel immediately upon offloading the BFT. If a vessel is placed on a trailer, the dealer or dealer's agent must affix the dealer tag to the BFT immediately upon the vessel being removed from the water. The dealer tag must be affixed to the BFT between the fifth dorsal finlet and the caudal keel.

(B) *Removal of dealer tags.* A dealer tag affixed to any BFT under paragraph (b)(2)(ii)(A) of this section or a BSD tag affixed to an imported bluefin tuna must remain on the fish until it is cut into portions. If the bluefin tuna or bluefin tuna parts subsequently are packaged for transport for domestic commercial use or for export, the number of the dealer tag or the BSD tag must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package con-

taining the tuna. Such tag number also must be recorded on any document accompanying the shipment of bluefin tuna for commercial use or export.

(3) *Recordkeeping.* Dealers must retain at their place of business a copy of each written report required under paragraphs (b)(1)(i) through (b)(1)(iii) and paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section for a period of 2 years from the date on which each report was required to be submitted.

(c) *Anglers.* All bluefin tuna, billfish, and North Atlantic swordfish non-tournament landings must be reported as specified under paragraphs (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this section, unless an alternative recreational catch reporting system has been established as specified under paragraph (c)(3) of this section. Tournament landings must be reported as specified under paragraph (d) of this section.

(1) *Bluefin tuna.* The owner of a vessel permitted, or required to be permitted, in the Atlantic HMS Angling or Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat category must report all BFT landings under the Angling category quota designated at §635.27(a) through the NMFS automated catch reporting system within 24 hours of the landing. Such reports may be made by calling 1-888-872-8862 or by submitting the required information over the Internet at: www.nmfspermits.com.

(2) *Billfish and North Atlantic Swordfish.* Anglers must report all non-tournament landings of Atlantic blue marlin, Atlantic white marlin, Atlantic sailfish and North Atlantic swordfish, including those landed on a charter/headboat, to NMFS by calling 1-800-894-5528 within 24 hours of the landing. For telephone reports, a contact phone number must be provided so that NMFS can call the angler back for follow up questions and to provide a confirmation of the reported landing. The landing telephone report has not been completed unless the angler has received a confirmation number from a NMFS' designee.

(3) *Alternative recreational catch reporting.* Alternative recreational catch reporting procedures may be established by NMFS with cooperation from states which may include such methodologies as telephone, dockside or

mail surveys, mail in or phone-in reports, tagging programs, catch cards, or mandatory check-in stations. A census or a statistical sample of persons fishing under the recreational fishing regulations of this part may be used for these alternative reporting programs (after the programs have received Paperwork Reduction Act approval from OMB). Persons or vessel owners selected for reporting will be notified by NMFS or by the cooperating state agency of the requirements and procedures for reporting recreational catch. Each person so notified must comply with those requirements and procedures. Additionally, NMFS may determine that recreational landing reporting systems implemented by the states, if mandatory, at least as restrictive, and effectively enforced, are sufficient for recreational landing monitoring as required under this part. In such case, NMFS will file with the Office of the Federal Register for publication notification indicating that compliance with the state system satisfies the reporting requirements of paragraph (c) of this section.

(d) *Tournament operators.* A tournament operator must notify NMFS of the purpose, dates, and location of the tournament conducted from a port in an Atlantic coastal state, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, at least 4 weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. NMFS will notify a tournament operator in writing, when his or her tournament has been selected for reporting. The tournament operator that is selected must maintain and submit to NMFS a record of catch and effort on forms available from NMFS. Tournament operators must submit completed forms to NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, postmarked no later than the 7th day after the conclusion of the tournament and must attach a copy of the tournament rules.

(e) *Inspection.* Any person authorized to carry out enforcement activities under the regulations in this part has the authority, without warrant or other process, to inspect, at any reasonable time, catch on board a vessel or on the premises of a dealer, logbooks, catch reports, statistical records, sales receipts, or other records

and reports required by this part to be made, kept, or furnished. An owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has been issued a permit under § 635.4 or § 635.32 must allow NMFS or an authorized person to inspect and copy any required reports and the records, in any form, on which the completed reports are based, wherever they exist. An agent of a person issued a permit under this part, or anyone responsible for off-loading, storing, packing, or selling regulated HMS for such permittee, shall be subject to the inspection provisions of this section.

(f) *Additional data and inspection.* Additional data on fishing effort directed at Atlantic HMS or on catch of Atlantic HMS, regardless of whether retained, may be collected by contractors and statistical reporting agents, as designees of NMFS, and by authorized officers. A person issued a permit under § 635.4 is required to provide requested information about fishing activity, and a person, regardless of whether issued a permit under § 635.4, who possesses an Atlantic HMS is required to make such fish or parts thereof available for inspection by NMFS or its designees upon request.

[64 FR 29135, May 28, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 37704, July 13, 1999; 66 FR 30653, June 7, 2001; 66 FR 42804, Aug. 15, 2001; 67 FR 45400, July 9, 2002; 67 FR 77437, Dec. 18, 2002; 68 FR 714, Jan. 7, 2003; 68 FR 37773, June 25, 2003; 68 FR 74784, Dec. 24, 2003]

§ 635.6 Vessel and gear identification.

(a) *Vessel number.* For the purposes of this section, a vessel's number is the vessel's official number issued by either by the U.S. Coast Guard or by the appropriate state agency.

(b) *Vessel identification.* (1) An owner or operator of a vessel for which a permit has been issued under § 635.4, other than an HMS Angling permit, must display the vessel number—

(i) On the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and on an appropriate weather deck, so as to be clearly visible from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(ii) In block arabic numerals permanently affixed to or painted on the vessel in contrasting color to the background.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Public Law 94-265

As amended through October 11, 1996

SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS 16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) **REQUIRED PROVISIONS.**--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall--

(1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are--

(A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;

(B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and

(C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;

(2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;

(3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;

(4) assess and specify--

(A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),

(B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and

(C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States;

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, and charter fishing in the fishery, including, but not limited to, information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

(6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;

(7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;

(8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;

(9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--

(A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment; and

(B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants;

(10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;

(11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of

bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority--

(A) minimize bycatch; and

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--

(A) present participation in the fishery,

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,

(C) the economics of the fishery,

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and

(F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and

(12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

97-453, 104-297

(c) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.--Proposed regulations which the Council deems necessary or appropriate for the purposes of--

(1) implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary simultaneously with the plan or amendment under section 304; and

(2) making modifications to regulations implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment may be submitted to the Secretary at any time after the plan or amendment is approved under section 304.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,670.
Estimated Time Per Response: 3 to 15 minutes per function.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,473.
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: December 13, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E5-7467 Filed 12-16-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Pacific Billfish Angler Survey

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

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 17, 2006.

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 David Holts, Southwest Fishery Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037-1508 (phone 858-546-7186 or David.Holts@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Billfish Angler Survey provides the only estimates of billfish angling activities in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. This collection of recreational billfish catch and effort data began in 1969 and now provides a 37 year index of fishing success in many areas of the Pacific. The catch per unit of effort (CPUE) is measured in catch of billfish per angler fishing day. This time series of angler success provides a measure of relative abundance and is the only survey independent of commercial fisheries in the Pacific. Trends tracked over time indicate changes in the health and size of billfish stocks. This index of relative abundance is an important component of stock assessments, developing management options and monitoring domestic and international fishery interactions.

II. Method of Collection

A paper form the size of a postcard is used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0020.

Form Number: NOAA Form 88-162.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,500.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 125.

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: December 13, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E5-7468 Filed 12-16-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Highly Migratory Species Tournament Reporting

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

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 17, 2006.

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 Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-2347 or Margo.Schulze-Haugen@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NMFS would require that operators of fishing tournaments involving Highly Migratory species (HMS), specifically Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish and sharks, provide advance identification of the tournament date(s), location, operator, and target species, and then provide information after the tournament on the HMS that are caught, whether they were kept or released, the length and weight of the fish, and other information. Most of the data required for post-tournament reporting are already collected in the routine course of tournament operations. The data collected are needed by NMFS to estimate the total annual catch of these species and to evaluate the impact of tournament fishing in relation to other types of fishing.

II. Method of Collection

A paper form the size of a postcard is used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0323.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 minutes for a registration form; and 20 minutes for a tournament summary report.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 70.

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: December 13, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E5-7469 Filed 12-16-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Surveys for U.S. Commercial Fisheries

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

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 17, 2006.

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 Rita Curtis, 301-713-2328 or rita.curtis@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The economic data for selected U.S. commercial fisheries will be collected for each of the following groups of operations: (1) Processors, including onshore plants, floating processing plants, mothership vessels, and catcher/processor vessels; (2) catcher vessels; and (3) for-hire vessels. Companies associated with these groups will be surveyed for expenditure, earnings, effort, ownership, and employment data; and basic demographic data on fishing and processing crews. In general, questions will be asked concerning ex-vessel and wholesale prices and revenue, variable and fixed costs, expenditures, effort, ownership, dependence on the fisheries, and fishery employment. The data collection efforts

will be coordinated to reduce the additional burden for those who participate in multiple fisheries. Participation in these data collections will be voluntary.

The data will be used for the following purposes: (1) To monitor the economic performance of these fisheries through primary processing; (2) to analyze the economic performance effects of current management measures; and (3) to analyze the economic performance effects of alternative management measures.

The measures of economic performance to be supported by this data collection program include the following: (1) Contribution to net national benefit; (2) contribution to income of groups of participants in the fisheries (i.e., fishermen, vessel owners, processing plant employees, and processing plant owners); (3) employment; (4) regional economic impacts (income and employment); and (5) factor utilizations rates. As required by law, the confidentiality of the data will be protected.

Data collections will focus each year on a different component of the U.S. commercial fisheries, with only limited data collected in previously surveyed components of these fisheries. The latter will be done to update the models that will be used to track economic performance and to evaluate the economic effects of alternative management actions. This cycle of data collection will facilitate economic performance data being available and updated for all the components of the U.S. commercial fisheries identified above.

II. Method of Collection

Data will be collected via mailed questionnaires, and telephone and in-person interviews.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0369.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour and 30 minutes for a response from a catcher vessel or for-hire vessel for operating cost, annual cost, revenue, effort, employment, ownership, and limited demographic data; 25 minutes per response from a catcher vessel or for-hire vessel for operating cost data; 1 hour per response from a catcher vessel or for-hire vessel for annual expenditure and demographic data; 8 hours for a response from a West Coast or Alaska