

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 08/26/2008

Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Suzanne Hilding  
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 04/15/2008

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection  
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular  
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200803-0648-007  
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:  
TITLE: Billfish Tagging Repot  
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change  
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0009

The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 08/31/2011

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	750	63	0
New	1,250	104	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	500	41	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland  
Deputy Administrator,  
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Billfish Tagging Report	88-162	Billfish tagging report	

# PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

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

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

## 19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

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

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT  
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0009**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

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

The Billfish Tagging Program began in 1963 and is an integral part of the Billfish Research Program (Program) at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). This Program is authorized under **16 U.S.C. 760(e)**, Study of migratory game fish; waters; research; purpose.

The SWFSC provides tagging supplies to individuals electing to tag and release the billfish they catch. The Billfish Tagging Report is issued with individual billfish tags and is imprinted with the number matching the accompanying tag. The Billfish Tagging Report is the primary mechanism by which these cooperating anglers and commercial fishers return the tagging and release information concerning the billfish they have tagged. Interested individuals participate in the Program strictly on a voluntary basis.

**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 Program is conducted throughout the year to determine billfish habitat, mortality rates, migration patterns, feeding habits and growth rates. Fishery biologists investigating the health of billfish resources throughout the Pacific utilize data from this Program. Results aid in ongoing research concerning billfish resources and are published annually in the Billfish Newsletter.

Outreach efforts include contacting fishing clubs and asking that they provide tags to their members, distribution of the Billfish Newsletter, as well as an occasional local seminar demonstrating results of the tagging program and how they are being used to determine stock structure and other parameters important for assessing the status of the billfish resources.

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

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

Data is collected from observations taken at sea on small fishing boats. The data summarizes the actual fishing event that just occurred. Automated and/or electronic reporting at the time of tagging is not possible due to the variety in vessel capability. However, starting later in 2008 we will be implementing an online form through which the data can be submitted. Anglers are requested to complete the Billfish Tagging Report immediately; once they return to land they can either mail it to the SWFSC or send the data through the online form as soon as possible. It is estimated that up to 10% of the tag reports may be submitted electronically through the online form.

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

This program is unique to the billfish angling community in that it provides free tagging supplies throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans and publishes its results annually. Billfish conservation became very popular during the early 1980s and several foreign and private conservation organizations began tagging programs. This program cooperates completely with these organizations so that research efforts are expanded and not duplicated.

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

The Program deals with individual anglers and commercial fishers cooperating in the Program and does not impact any business entity.

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

Fishery biologists at the SWFSC and elsewhere use Program results for the purpose of providing management advice. A break in the Program time line would jeopardize the usefulness of nearly 45 years of billfish tag and recapture data.

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

Response to the Billfish Tagging Report is consistent with OMB guidelines and completely voluntary.

**8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

A Federal Register Notice published on November 8, 2007 (72 FR 63165) solicited comments on this renewal.

One comment was received that did not specifically address the estimated cost and burden of the Tagging Report. The individual suggested that the program be turned over to fishing clubs; however, that would not guarantee that the scientists would receive the information, and there are currently no fishing clubs volunteering to conduct such a program. Angler comments concerning the Program are also requested annually in the Billfish Newsletter, and other fishery laboratories and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide comments. Individual anglers occasionally provide positive comments while requesting tagging supplies and/or general information.

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

No payments are given to those returning the Billfish Tagging Report. Anglers who have tagged a billfish and submitted the Billfish Tagging Report are awarded a baseball cap if and when that particular billfish is recaptured.

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

Program data results are not confidential; they are public information. Anglers who tag more than a few fish each year are acknowledged by name in the Billfish Newsletter; however, the contact information of participating anglers is not made available to the public.

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

No sensitive questions are asked.

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

Time to complete the Billfish Tagging Report card is about five minutes per response. Our active mailing list of taggers varies between 2,000 to 3,000 volunteers. The recent (2003-2006) annual average number of Billfish Tagging Report cards received was 1,210. The projected annual average is 1,250 responses. The estimated time burden is 104 hours (1,250 x 5 minutes/60 minutes = 104).



**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).**

There is no cost burden to the respondents. Postage is paid by the SWFSC if mailed from within the U.S. For those mailing from foreign countries the only cost is that of postage. While we do not have an estimate for this, it is expected to be less than \$100.00.

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

Annual cost to print the Billfish Tagging Report, provide baseball caps to anglers upon recapture of a tagged billfish, and postage is under \$1,000. This figure is based on actual expenses averaged over the last few years. Staff (2 GS11/12 level employees) spend about 30% of their time on the entire Program:  $2 \times \$70,000.00 \times 30\% = \$42,000.00$ . Included is staff time to analyze data, report results in-house, respond to data requests, prepare various manuscripts, prepare the Billfish Newsletter and respond to the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements. Total cost is \$43,000.00.

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

The recent (2003-2006) annual average number of Billfish Tagging Report cards received was 1,210. The projected annual average is 1,250 responses. The estimated total annual average is increased from the previous estimate of 750 responses due to increased interest in the program and greater outreach.

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

The Program is conducted on a calendar year with the Billfish Newsletter published in May of each year. The Billfish Newsletter is the method by which the SWFSC provides feedback to the fishing community and is written for cooperating anglers participating in the Program. Results of the International Angler Survey (OMB Control No.: 0648-0020) are also reported in the Billfish Newsletter. Content of the Billfish Newsletter varies annually but always includes angling effort by area and species captured, reported catches, results from the Billfish Tagging Program as well as general interest articles directed to the billfish angler.

**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.**

The expiration date will be displayed.

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

No exceptions are requested.

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

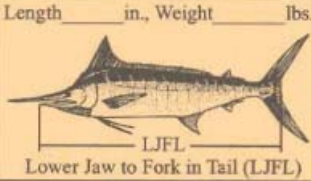
This collection does not employ statistical methods.

Current card which will be updated to include the new OMB information once approved.

FRONT

NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service Affix postage if mailing outside the USA  
**BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT** Please return card promptly, otherwise tagging is of no value  
**PLEASE FILL IN DETAILS AND MAIL TODAY** **TAG #:**

Species: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: <sup>MM DD YY</sup> \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_, N/S, Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_, W/E  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_, Club: \_\_\_\_\_, Length \_\_\_\_\_ in., Weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.  
Angler Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Captain: \_\_\_\_\_, Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



LJFL  
Lower Jaw to Fork in Tail (LJFL)

Bait type:  Live bait,  Dead bait,  Lure,  Fly,  Other \_\_\_\_\_, Water Temp. \_\_\_\_\_ °F  
Fight Time: \_\_\_\_\_ min. Fish Condition:  Excellent,  Good,  Fair,  Poor,  Injured,  Dead,  Unknown.  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Response to this form is voluntary.  
OMB 0648-0009, expiration date 04/30/2008  
NOAA 88-162, 04/30/03

BACK

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

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

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE NOAA  
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER  
8604 LA JOLLA SHORES DRIVE  
LA JOLLA CA 92037-1508  
USA

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



## SECTION 515 PRE-DISSEMINATION REVIEW & DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

### Background

Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554, aka the Data Quality Act or Information Quality Act) directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue government-wide guidelines that “provide policy and procedural guidance to federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by federal agencies.” OMB complied by issuing guidelines which direct each federal agency to 1) issue its own guidelines; 2) establish administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information that does not comply with the OMB 515 Guidelines or the agency guidelines; and 3) report periodically to OMB on the number and nature of complaints received by the agency and how the complaints were handled. The OMB Guidelines can be found at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/reproducible2.pdf>

The Department of Commerce Guidelines can be found at: <http://www.osec.doc.gov/cio/oipr/iqg.htm>

The NOAA Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines, created with input and reviews from each of the components of NOAA Fisheries, went into effect on October 1, 2002. **The NOAA Information Quality Guidelines are posted on the NOAA home page under “Information Quality.”** <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/iq.htm>

The guidelines apply to a wide variety of government information products and all types of media, including printed, electronic, broadcast or other. The guidelines define “Information” as, “any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts or data, in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual forms.” For example, this definition includes information that an agency disseminates from a web page. The guidelines define “Dissemination” as, “agency initiated or sponsored distribution of information to the public.” Explicitly **not** included within this term is distribution limited to “government employees or agency contractors or grantees; intra- or inter-agency use or sharing of government information; and responses to requests for agency records under the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act or other similar law.” It also does not include distribution limited to correspondence with individuals or persons, press releases, archival records, public filings, subpoenas or adjudicative processes. (See the NOAA IQ Guidelines, pgs 5-6).

To assist in Data Quality Act compliance, NOAA Fisheries has established a series of actions that should be completed for each new information product subject to the Data Quality Act. (See “Information Generation and Compliance Documentation” and “Pre-Dissemination Review” below.) **In addition to the information contained in this document, familiarity with the NOAA Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines (<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/iq.htm>) is crucial for NOAA Fisheries employees who engage in the generation and dissemination of information.**

### Information Generation and Compliance Documentation

- The fundamental step in the process is to create a Sec. 515 Information Quality file for each new information product. To aid in this process, a Section 515 Pre-Dissemination Review and Documentation form has been created. These guidelines are intended to serve as a supplement to the Pre-Dissemination Review and Documentation Form. The basic steps to the documentation process are outlined below.
- Complete general information (e.g., author/responsible office, title/description) section of the form.
- Determine the information category (i.e., original data; synthesized products; interpreted products; hydrometeorological, hazardous chemical spill, and space weather warnings, forecasts, and advisories; experimental products; natural resource plans; corporate and general information). **For most information products, you will only need to check one box.** More complex documents may be an “aggregate” of different categories of information products.
- Generate the information in a way that meets each of the applicable standards for the appropriate information category. See the NOAA Information Quality Guidelines.
- Document how the standards for **utility, integrity and objectivity** are met for each information product, describing what measures were taken to meet each of the applicable standards. Use the 2 page Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form to document compliance with the Utility and Integrity standards contained in NOAA’s Information Quality Guidelines. The Utility and Integrity standards pertain to all categories of information disseminated by NOAA. Use these guidelines (pgs 4-11) to document compliance with the applicable objectivity standards for your information product and attach that documentation to the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form.
- Maintain the Sec. 515 Information Quality file in a readily accessible place. [Pre-Dissemination Review](#)
- Before information is disseminated, it must be reviewed for compliance with the NOAA Sec. 515 Information Quality Guidelines. This is accomplished by reviewing the information and the Sec. 515 Information Quality file.
- The Pre-Dissemination Review should be conducted during the normal course of clearing the information product for release. The person conducting the Pre-Dissemination Review will sign and date the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form. The reviewing official must be at least one level above the person generating the information product.
- The Pre-Dissemination Review form and the supporting information quality documentation must accompany the information product through the clearance process and be maintained on file.

### Completing the Section 515 Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form

Using the Section 515 Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form and these guidelines, document how the information product meets the

following standards for **Utility, Integrity and Objectivity**. **Please note:** Use the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form to document how the information product complies with the Utility and Integrity standards that pertain to all categories of information products. The Utility and Integrity standards are presented here for your convenience. Use these guidelines to explain how the information product meets the applicable Objectivity standards for the information product and attach that documentation to the Pre-Dissemination Review & Documentation Form.

### I. Utility of Information Product

Utility means that disseminated information is useful to its intended users. "Useful" means that the content of the information is helpful, beneficial, or serviceable to its intended users, or that the information supports the usefulness of other disseminated information by making it more accessible or easier to read, see, understand, obtain or use.

- A. Is the information helpful, beneficial or serviceable to the intended user? Explain.
- B. Who are the intended users of the data or information product? (e.g., the American public; other federal agencies; state and local governments; recreational concerns; national and international organizations). Is this data or information product an improvement over previously available information? Is it more detailed or current? Is it more useful or accessible to the public? Has it been improved based on comments or interactions with users?
- C. What media are used in the dissemination of the information? Printed publications? CD-ROM? Internet?  
Is the product made available in a standard data format?  
Does it use consistent attribute naming and unit conventions to ensure that the information is accessible to a broad range of users with a variety of operating systems and data needs?

### II. Integrity of Information Product

Integrity refers to security - the protection of information from unauthorized access or revision, to ensure that the information is not compromised through corruption or falsification. Prior to dissemination, NOAA information, independent of the specific intended distribution mechanism, is safeguarded from improper access, modification, or destruction, to a degree commensurate with the risk and magnitude of harm that could result from the loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to or modification of such information. **Please note: all electronic information disseminated by NOAA adheres to the standards set forth in paragraph A below. If the information product is disseminated electronically, simply circle paragraph II(A) on the form.** You may also contact your IT Manager for further information.

Explain (circle) how the information product meets the following standards for integrity:

- A. All electronic information disseminated by NOAA adheres to the standards set out in Appendix III, "Security of Automated Information Resources," OMB Circular A-130; the Computer Security Act; and the Government Information Security Reform Act.
- B. If information is confidential, it is safeguarded pursuant to the Privacy Act and Titles 13, 15, and 22 of the U. S. Code (confidentiality of census, business and financial information).
- C. Other/Discussion  
(e.g., 50 CFR 600, Subpart E, Confidentiality of Statistics of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fisheries Statistics; 50 CFR 229.11, Confidentiality of information collected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.)

### III. Objectivity of Information Product

(1) Indicate which one of the following categories of information products apply for this product (check one):

- Original Data - go to Section A
- Synthesized Products - go to Section B
- Interpreted Products - go to Section C
- Hydrometeorological, Hazardous Chemical Spill, and Space Weather Warnings, Forecasts, and Advisories - go to Section D
- Experimental Products - go to Section E
- Natural Resource Plans - go to Section F
- Corporate and General Information - go to Section G

(2) Describe how this information product meets the applicable objectivity standards.

**General Standard:** Information is presented in an accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased manner, and in proper context. The substance of the information is accurate, reliable, and unbiased; in the scientific, financial or statistical context, original and supporting data are generated and the analytical results are developed using sound, commonly accepted scientific and research methods. "Accurate" means that information is within an acceptable degree of imprecision or error appropriate to the particular kind of information at issue and otherwise meets commonly accepted scientific, financial and statistical standards.

If the information is "influential," that is, it is expected to have a genuinely clear and substantial impact on major public policy and private sector decisions, it is noted as such and it is presented with the highest degree of transparency. If influential information constitutes an assessment of risks to human health, safety or the environment, indicate whether the risk assessment was qualitative or quantitative, and describe which SDWA-adapted quality standards at page 9 of NOAA's Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines were applied to the information product.

Use of third party information in the product (information not collected or generated by NOAA) is only done when the information is of known quality and consistent with NOAA's Section 515 Guidelines; any limitations, assumptions, collection methods, or uncertainties concerning the information are taken into account and disclosed.

**Specific Standards:** Specific objectivity standards for categories of information products disseminated by NOAA are listed below. Document how the general and specific objectivity standards for the particular information product were met.

**A. Original Data**

Original Data are data in their most basic useful form. These are data from individual times and locations that have not been summarized or processed to higher levels of analysis. While these data are often derived from other direct measurements (e.g., spectral signatures from a chemical analyzer, electronic signals from current meters), they represent properties of the environment. These data can be disseminated in both real time and retrospectively. Examples of original data include buoy data, survey data (e.g., living marine resource and hydrographic surveys), biological and chemical properties, weather observations, and satellite data.

Objectivity of original data is achieved using sound quality control techniques.

Detail how the data collection methods, systems, instruments, training, and/or tools are appropriate to meet the requirements of the intended users.

Were the methods, systems, instruments, etc., validated before use?

Were standard operating procedures (SOPs) followed for time series data collections? If not, document the valid scientific reasons for the deviation.

Document the quality control techniques used, for example:

- Gross error checks for data that fall outside of physically realistic ranges (e.g., a minimum, maximum or maximum change)
- Comparisons made with other independent sources of the same measurement
- Examination of individual time series and statistical summaries
- Application of sensor drift coefficients determined by a comparison of pre- and post-deployment calibrations
- Visual inspection of data

Describe any evolution and/or improvements in survey techniques, instrument performance and/or data processing.

Have metadata record descriptions and explanations of the methods and quality controls to which original data are subjected been included in the disseminated product? If not, they must be made available upon request.

**B. Synthesized Products**

Synthesized Products are those that have been developed through analysis of original data. This includes analysis through statistical methods; model interpolations, extrapolations, and simulations; and combinations of multiple sets of original data.

While some scientific evaluation and judgment is needed, the methods of analysis are well documented and relatively routine.

Examples of synthesized products include summaries of fisheries landings statistics, weather statistics, model outputs, data display through Geographical Information System techniques, and satellite-derived maps.

The objectivity of synthesized products is achieved by using data of known quality, applying sound analytical techniques, and reviewing the products or processes used to create them before dissemination. For synthesized products, please document the following:

Identify data sources (preferred option) or be prepared to make them available upon request.

Are the data used of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities?

Are the methods used to create the synthesized product published in standard methods manuals or generally accepted by the relevant scientific and technical communities? Are the methods documented in readily accessible formats by the disseminating office?

Describe the review process used to ensure the validity of the synthesized product or the procedures used to create them, e.g., statistical procedures, models, or other analysis tools.

If the synthesized product is unique or not regularly produced, was this product reviewed by internal and/or external experts?

If this is a routinely produced synthesized product, was the process for developing the product reviewed by internal and/or external experts?

Does the synthesized product include information about the methods used to create the product? If not, the methods must be made available upon request.

**C. Interpreted Products**

Interpreted Products are those that have been developed through interpretation of original data and synthesized products. In many cases, this information incorporates additional contextual and/or normative data, standards, or information that puts original data and synthesized products into larger spatial, temporal, or issue contexts. This information is subject to scientific interpretation, evaluation, and judgment. Examples of interpreted products include journal articles, scientific papers, technical reports, and production of and contributions to integrated assessments.

Objectivity of interpreted products is achieved by using data of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities and reliable supporting products, applying sound analytical techniques, presenting the information in the proper context, and reviewing the products before dissemination.

Are all data and information sources identified or properly referenced?

Are the methods used to create the interpreted product generally accepted by the relevant scientific and technical communities?

Is information concerning the quality and limitations of the interpreted product provided to help the user assess the suitability of the product for the user's application?

Describe the review process used to ensure that the product is valid, complete, unbiased, objective and relevant. For example, peer reviews, ranging from internal peer review by staff who were not involved in the development of the product to formal, independent, external peer review. The review should be conducted at a level commensurate with the importance of the interpreted product.

Does the interpreted product include a description of the methods used to create the product? If not, they must be made available upon

request.

**D. Hydrometeorological, Hazardous Chemical Spill, and Space Weather**

**Warnings, Forecasts, and Advisories**

Hydrometeorological, Hazardous Chemical Spill, and Space Weather Warnings, Forecasts, and Advisories are time-critical interpretations of original data and synthesized products, prepared under tight time constraints and covering relatively short, discrete time periods. As such, these warnings, forecasts, and advisories represent the best possible information in given circumstances. They are subject to scientific interpretation, evaluation, and judgment. Some products in this category, such as weather forecasts, are routinely prepared. Other products, such as tornado warnings, hazardous chemical spill trajectories, and solar flare alerts, are of an urgent nature and are prepared for unique circumstances.

Objectivity of information in this category is achieved by using reliable data collection methods and sound analytical techniques and systems to ensure the highest possible level of accuracy given the time critical nature of the products.

What is the source of the data or information used in the product? Are the data used of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities? Are the sources included in the information product? If not, they must be made available upon request. Are the methods used to create the product generally accepted by the relevant scientific and technical communities?

Please note if individual best judgment was used due to the time-critical nature of the product.

What mechanisms were used to evaluate the accuracy of the information product? Statistical analysis may be carried out for a subset of products for verification purposes.

**E. Experimental Products**

Experimental products are products that are experimental (in the sense that their quality has not yet been fully determined) in nature, or are products that are based in part on experimental capabilities or algorithms. Experimental products fall into two classes.

They are either (1) disseminated for experimental use, evaluation or feedback, or (2) used in cases where, in the view of qualified scientists who are operating in an urgent situation in which the timely flow of vital information is crucial to human health, safety, or the environment, the danger to human health, safety, or the environment will be lessened if every tool available is used. Examples of experimental products include imagery or data from non-NOAA sources, algorithms currently being tested and evaluated, experimental climate forecasts, and satellite imagery processed with developmental algorithms for urgent needs (e.g., wildfire detection).

Objectivity of experimental products is achieved by using the best science and supporting studies available, in accordance with sound and objective scientific practices, evaluated in the relevant scientific and technical communities, and peer-reviewed where feasible.

Describe the science and/or supporting studies used, the evaluation techniques used, and note any peer-review of the experimental product. Were the results of initial tests or evaluations made available where possible? Describe the review, by the appropriate NOAA unit, of the experimental products and capabilities documentation, along with any tests or evaluations.

Are explicit limitations provided concerning the quality of the experimental product? Is the degree of uncertainty indicated?

Describe the testing process used, e.g., the experimental product or capabilities are used only after careful testing, evaluation, and review by NOAA experts, and then are approved for provisional use only by selected field offices or other NOAA components. This process is repeated as needed to ensure an acceptable and reliable level of quality.

**F. Natural Resource Plans**

Natural Resource Plans are information products that are prescribed by law and have content, structure, and public review processes (where applicable) that will be based upon published standards, e.g., statutory or regulatory guidelines. Examples of such published standards include the National Standard Guidelines (50 CFR Part 600, Subpart D), Essential Fish Habitat Guidelines, and Operational Guidelines - Fishery Management Plan Process, all under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and the National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Handbook (16 U.S.C. section 1434) under the National Marine Sanctuary Act. These Natural Resource Plans are a composite of several types of information (e.g., scientific, management, stakeholder input, and agency policy) from a variety of internal and external sources. Examples of Natural Resources Plans include fishery, protected resource, and sanctuary management plans and regulations, and natural resource restoration plans.

Objectivity of Natural Resource Plans will be achieved by adhering to published standards, using information of known quality or from sources acceptable to the relevant scientific and technical communities, presenting the information in the proper context, and reviewing the products before dissemination.

What published standard(s) governs the creation of the Natural Resource Plan? Does the Plan adhere to the published standards? (See the NOAA Sec. 515 Information Quality Guidelines, Section II(F) for links to the published standards for the Plans disseminated by NOAA.)

Was the Plan developed using the best information available? Please explain.

Have clear distinctions been drawn between policy choices and the supporting science upon which they are based? Have all supporting materials, information, data and analyses used within the Plan been properly referenced to ensure transparency?

Describe the review process of the Plan by technically qualified individuals to ensure that the Plan is valid, complete, unbiased, objective and relevant. For example, internal review by staff who were not involved in the development of the Plan to formal, independent, external peer review. The level of review should be commensurate with the importance of the Plan and the constraints imposed by legally enforceable deadlines.

**G. Corporate and General Information**

Corporate or general information includes all non-scientific, non-financial, non-statistical information. Examples include program and organizational descriptions, brochures, pamphlets, education and outreach materials, newsletters, and other general descriptions of NOAA operations and capabilities.

Corporate and general information disseminated by NOAA must be presented in a clear, complete, and unbiased manner, and in a context that enhances usability to the intended audience. To the extent possible, identify the sources of the disseminated information, consistent with confidentiality, privacy and security considerations and protections, and taking into account timely presentation, the medium of dissemination, and the importance of the information, balanced against the resources required and the time available.

Information disseminated by NOAA is reliable and accurate to an acceptable degree of error as determined by factors such as the importance of the information, the intended use, time sensitivity, expected degree of permanence, relation to the primary mission(s) of the disseminating office, and the context of the dissemination, balanced against the resources required and the time available.

For non-scientific, non-statistical information, has the information product been reasonably determined to be factually correct in the view of the disseminating office as of the time of dissemination?

Describe the review process for the information product. Review can be accomplished in a number of ways, including but not limited to combinations of the following:

- Active personal review of information by supervisory and management layers, either by reviewing each individual dissemination, or selected samples, or by any other reasonable method.
- Use of quality check lists, charts, statistics, or other means of tracking quality, completeness, and usefulness.
- Process design and monitoring to ensure that the process itself imposes checks on information quality .
- Review during information preparation.
- Use of management controls.
- Any other method, which serves to enhance the accuracy, reliability and objectivity of the information.



[CITE: 16USC760e]

## TITLE 16--CONSERVATION

### CHAPTER 9A--PRESERVATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES

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

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

(Pub. L. 86-359, Sec. 1, Sept. 22, 1959, 73 Stat. 642; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, Sec. 1(b), eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090.)

#### Transfer of Functions

Transfer of functions to Secretary of Commerce from Secretary of the Interior by Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, see note set out under section 755 of this title.

#### Section Referred to in Other Sections

This section is referred to in sections 760f, 760g of this title.

collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 7, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Walter Ikehara, (808) 944-2275, or [Walter.Ikehara@noaa.gov](mailto:Walter.Ikehara@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The Pacific Islands Region portion of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0648-0361 will be merged into OMB Control Number 0648-0360, and the title will be changed to Pacific Islands Region Vessel and Gear Identification Requirements.

Regulations at 50 CFR 665.16 require that all U.S. vessels with Federal permits fishing for Western Pacific fishery management unit species display the vessel's official number on both sides of the deckhouse or hull and on an appropriate weather deck. The regulations at 50 CFR 300.35 require that vessels fishing under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty must display their international radio call sign on the hull, the deck, and on the sides of auxiliary equipment such as skiffs and helicopters. The numbers must be a specific size at specified locations. The display of the identifying numbers aids in fishery law enforcement.

Western Pacific fisheries regulations at 50 CFR 665.24, 665.47 and 665.606 require that certain fishing gear must be marked. In the pelagic longline fisheries, the vessel operator must ensure that the official number of the vessel is affixed to every longline buoy and float. In the crustacean fisheries (Permit Area 1, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands) each trap and float must be marked with the vessel's identification number. In the coral reef ecosystem fisheries, the vessel number must be affixed to all fish and crab traps. The marking of gear links fishing or other activity to the vessel, aids law enforcement, and is valuable in actions concerning the damage, loss of gear, and civil proceedings.

**II. Method of Collection**

Third party disclosure.

**III. Data**

OMB Number: 0648-0360.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 311.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 45 minutes per Western Pacific fishing vessel; one hour and 15 minutes per South Pacific purse seine vessel; 2 minutes per gear marking.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,148.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$34,210.

**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: November 1, 2007.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-21945 Filed 11-7-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Billfish Tagging Report**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on

proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 7, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Suzanne Kohin, (858) 546-7104 or [Suzanne.Kohin@noaa.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Kohin@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southwest Fisheries Science Center operates a billfish tagging program. Tagging supplies are provided to volunteers. When they catch and tag a fish they submit a brief report on the fish tagged and the location of the tagging. The information obtained is used in conjunction with tag returns to determine billfish migration patterns, mortality rates, and similar information useful in the management of the billfish fisheries.

**II. Method of Collection**

A paper form the size of a postcard is used.

**III. Data**

OMB Number: 0648-0009.

Form Number: NOAA Form 88-162.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,250.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 104.

*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: November 1, 2007.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-21946 Filed 11-7-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Individual Fishing Quotas for Pacific Halibut and Sablefish in the Alaska Fisheries**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 7, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, (907) 586-7008 or [patsy.bearden@noaa.gov](mailto:patsy.bearden@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region (NMFS) seeks to renew a collection of information for the continued management of the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for fixed-gear Pacific halibut and sablefish fisheries off Alaska as well as

the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program (CDQ) halibut fishery. The IFQ program allocates annual total catch limits for the halibut and sablefish fisheries among individual fishermen. The CDQ halibut program allocates annual total catch limits for the halibut fishery among individual CDQ fishermen. Fishermen are assigned Quota Shares (QS) for the fisheries, and then annually receive an IFQ and/or CDQ. The applications and reporting are required to manage and track the program.

**II. Method of Collection**

Paper applications and reports, electronic reports, and telephone calls are required from participants, and methods of submittal include Internet and fax transmission of paper forms.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0272.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,877.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 2 hours for Eligibility to Receive QS/IFQ Application; 30 minutes for IFQ/CDQ Hired Master Permit Application; 30 minutes for IFQ/CDQ Registered Buyer Permit Application; 30 minutes for Application for Replacement of Certificates, Permits, or Licenses Application; 200 hours for Application to Become a Community Quota Entity (CQE); 10 hours for Community Petition to Form Governing Body; 2 hours for Transfer of QS/IFQ Application; 2 hours for Transfer of QS/IFQ by Sweep-up Application; 2 hours for Transfer of QS/IFQ to or from a CQE Application; 30 minutes for Approval of Transfer from Governing Body; 2 hours for QS Holder—Identification of Ownership Interest; 40 hours for CQE Annual Report; 4 hours for Letter of Appeal; 30 minutes for QS/IFQ Beneficiary Designation Form; 30 minutes for Annual Updates on the Status of Corporations and Partnerships QS; 6 minutes for IFQ Administrative Waiver; 12 minutes for Prior Notice of IFQ Landing; 15 minutes for Departure Report; 12 minutes for Transshipment Authorization; and 6 minutes for Dockside Sales Receipt.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 10,578.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$24,000 for miscellaneous costs.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance

of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 1, 2007.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-21949 Filed 11-7-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

**Determination under the Textile and Apparel Commercial Availability Provision of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR Agreement)**

November 2, 2007.

**AGENCY:** The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

**ACTION:** Determination to add a product in unrestricted quantities to Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA-DR Agreement.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 8, 2007.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) has determined that certain three-thread circular knit fleece fabrics, as specified below, are not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the CAFTA-DR region. The product will be added to the list in Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA-DR in unrestricted quantities.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Stetson, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-2582.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ONLINE:** <http://web.ita.doc.gov/tacgi/CaftaReqTrack.nsf>. Reference number: 36.2007.09.20.Fabric.Alston&BirdforPerryManufacturing

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**