

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 12/04/2008

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 05/26/2008

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200805-0648-002
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Pacific Albacore Logbook
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0223
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: 12/31/2011 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	4,000	4,000	3,000
New	4,000	4,000	2,560
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	-440
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
Pacific Albacore Logbook	88-197	U.S. Pacific Albacore Logbook	

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
PACIFIC ALBACORE LOGBOOK
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0223**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The United States (U.S.) is a major consumer of white meat tuna (albacore). The U.S. North and South Pacific fisheries contribute a major portion of the domestic supply of white meat tuna, while the rest of the U.S. consumer demand is met by foreign imports. Therefore, assessments of the status of Pacific albacore stocks and the monitoring of both the foreign and domestic fisheries is vital to the U.S. fishermen, consumers and producers of white meat tuna. Data collected through this sampling program are essential to assessing the status of the Pacific albacore stocks by providing abundance indices and locations of catches. Albacore is one of the species covered by the **Magnuson Fishery Conservation Act**, as amended in 2006, a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) permit and a High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) permit. Under the FMP and HSFCA (**16 U.S.C. Chapter 75**), albacore fishing vessels are required to purchase a permit and provide logbook information on daily fishing activity, including catches, effort and positions. The data and associated analyses help the Center provide the needed management advice to the United States in its negotiations with foreign fishing nations exploiting Pacific albacore. The data have been collected since the early 1960's and future collections of these data will ensure a complete series of data for monitoring and analysis purposes.

In the early 1970's the collection of the data was contracted through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). The Commission decided to collect the data through a uniform logbook system and developed a predecessor to the current logbook. The current logbook has evolved through comments from the fishermen and changes in the fishery. The logbooks are distributed by HMS FMP permit office and collected by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). An electronic version of this logbook has also been provided. Its use is voluntary.

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 logbook data will be collected throughout the year and submitted within 30 days of the end of each fishing trip. The collected information will be used by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to assess the status of Pacific albacore stocks and monitor the fisheries. Data on catches and catch locations are used to determine population size; abundance levels and data on vessel characteristics are used to standardize fishing effort and for economic analyses. After data are standardized, catch and effort information are used to determine year and class strength, fishing mortality, maximum sustainable yields and descriptive information on where and how many fish are caught. Environmental data are used to correlate catches with certain environmental conditions in an effort to predict locations of favorable catches.

The information is stored on computer databases and analyzed through standard population dynamics models. Results of these analyses will show the condition of the stock and, if the stocks are under-exploited, will indicate where increased catches can be made or, in the case where the stocks are over-exploited, can be used to determine quotas, area closures or other methods to enhance stock recovery. This information will be used by U.S. negotiators in international and domestic forums to develop policy for the continued harvesting of Pacific albacore. The data will also be summarized yearly and provided to the fishermen for their use.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (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.

The logbook is made available in both paper and electronic form, on the [Pacific Albacore website](#), which can be submitted online. Fishermen are encouraged to use the electronic logbook; however, its use is voluntary. Use of the form requires a computer that many vessels do not carry. Every attempt has been made to keep the collection of data as simple as possible for the respondent. The logbook is very close to the actual logs that the vessels would keep as standard records. The current data collection system and forms are therefore the least burdensome available.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The data can only be collected through this sampling program. The collection has been offered through contract and no vendors who can supply similar data have been identified. Also, since the data collected is subcontracted through the various state agencies in whose states the catches are landed, duplication of effort is not a factor. No similar data that can be used for these purposes are available.

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

Since the albacore fishermen were and still are an integral part of both the development and modification of the forms and the sampling program, the burden to them has been minimized through their own inputs.

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

Collection of these logbook data are required to obtain a HMS FMP or high-seas fishing Compliance Act permit. Cancellation or decreases in coverage will hinder management of these permit programs and allocation of quotas in the future.

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

The data collection is consistent with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines.

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 December 3, 2007 (72 FR 67913) solicited public comment on this renewal. No comments were received.

The SWFSC works closely with the Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA) and other fishing organizations and receives constant feedback from fishermen on research and data collection activities. The initial development of the data collection system and forms as well as all changes to the system and forms were made only after review and approval of the WFOA and its members. NMFS annually reviews the sampling for problems in procedures and forms. Proposals for any changes are submitted for review and approval as needed. The annual reviews also solicit input from vessel owners and state sampling coordinators in the Washington Department of Fisheries, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Department of Fish and Game. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission is also consulted. NMFS observers aboard vessels also solicit comments from vessel owners.

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

No payments or gifts are made to respondents.

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

As per NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, data are considered confidential and can only be distributed in summary form so as not to reveal the operations of a unique vessel. This practice is consistent with the Trade Secrets Protection Act. Assurance of confidentiality is stated on the forms.

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 information of a sexual, religious or other private nature is collected.

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

Approximately 1,000 logbooks will be distributed. Logbook completion is required in order to maintain the applicable permits. Each respondent should make on average 4 trips a year for a total of 4,000 responses. The burden is approximately one hour per response (it should be noted that data supplied would be recorded by the captain for his/her own use and carbons are kept for the vessels records).

4,000 responses x 1 hour/response = 4,000 hours.

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).

Mailing costs are estimated to be \$0.64 per submission for a total of \$2,560. There are no other costs.

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

Annualized cost for the Federal Government is a contract for \$100,000, one GS-9 Information Technology Specialist at \$50,000; printing costs \$25,000 and computer, \$2,000, totaling \$177,000.

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

The cost in ROCIS appears to have decreased by \$440, due to rounding off to the nearest thousand when the ICR was migrated to ROCIS.

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

Results are published annually for distribution to the fishermen. The summaries are completed in August and are published as a Center Administrative Report. The content varies but includes annual landings, geographical locations of catches and effort and size distribution of the fish caught.

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.

N/A.

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

There are no exceptions.

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
PACIFIC ALBACORE LOGBOOK
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0223**

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

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.

The respondent universe consists of all U.S. participants in the Pacific albacore fishery. Responses can vary from year to year, based on the success of the fishery and associated fisheries. Since 2005, the response rate is close to 100% due to the requirements of the HMS FMP.

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.

All participants obtaining permits must submit logbooks as a requirement of the permit. Statistical procedures are therefore not used. Coverage is 100%.

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.

If respondents do not return a logbook, they are contacted by the Regional Office for enforcement action. Continued non-response will result in the revoking of the permit. Data are checked for accuracy and returned to the respondent for corrections. Failure to submit correct information can also result in the revoking of the permit.

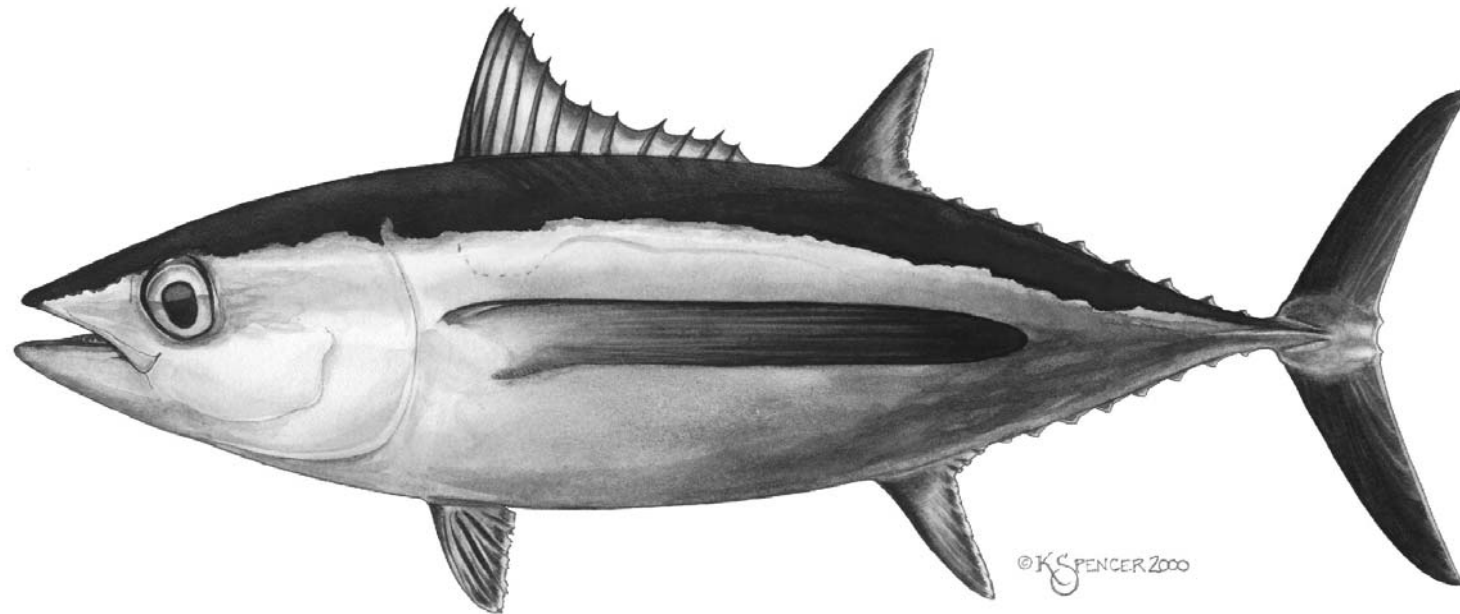
4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

WFOA and its members recommend changes in the logbook collection as part of their annual meeting. These recommendations are forwarded to NMFS. NMFS does not conduct tests with the respondents but reviews the collection methods annually in-house.

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.

Annual evaluations are conducted by John Childers ((858) 546-7192) and Dr. Paul Crone ((858) 546-7068) of the Fisheries Resources Division, SWFSC, La Jolla, California.

U.S. PACIFIC ALBACORE LOGBOOK



U.S. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

(Tenth Edition, March 2006)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORMS FP AND LS

PART I. ALBACORE FISHING OPERATION INFORMATION (FORM FP). This section is used to provide information on the general composition of the albacore fleet. Fill in the blanks or circle the number(s) of the fields that apply to your vessel. Complete **one sheet** each season. Sign and date each sheet that is submitted.

PART II. FISHING INFORMATION (FORM LS). Complete one line of the daily catch section from the logbook for each day's fishing. Complete each column on the form by circling or entering the appropriate information. Seven days of fishing can be recorded on each log sheet. **INSERT THE FOLDED FLAP OF THE BACK COVER UNDER THE YELLOW COPY OF THE SHEET BEING WRITTEN ON.** This will prevent the entries from being transferred to the underlying sheets. Sign and date each sheet that is submitted.

TOP OF THE PAGE

Enter Vessel Name, Coast Guard Document Number or State Marine Board Number, Radio Call Sign, Captain's Name, Departure and Arrival Ports, Port(s) where catch was landed, Departure and Arrival Dates, Total Pounds Landed, and all transshipping information for the trip.

DAILY FISHING SECTIONS

1. DATE Enter the month and day of fishing.
2. GEAR CODE Circle the appropriate code number indicating the gear used.
3. FISHING CODE Circle the appropriate code number identifying the vessel's major activity during the day.
4. LOCATION (LAT/LONG) Enter the location (to the nearest minute) where most of the fish were caught.
5. ALBACORE CATCH
 - NUMBER KEPT: Enter the total number of albacore caught and retained for the day. Enter 0 if no albacore were caught and kept.
 - DISCARD NUMBERS: Enter the total number of albacore discarded (dead or alive) for the day.
 - AVERAGE WEIGHT: Enter the average weight (pounds) of albacore caught and retained during the day (your best estimate).
6. # JIG LINES Enter the average number of lines trolled during the day when fishing with jigs.
7. # BAIT POLES Enter the average number of bait poles used during the day when fishing with bait.
8. # HOURS FISHED Enter the total number of hours (to the nearest whole hour) that fishing occurred during the day.
9. # SKIFFS Enter the total number of skiffs used during the day.
10. SEA TEMPERATURE Record the surface temperature (nearest tenth of a degree Fahrenheit) at the time of best fishing.
11. SEA CONDITIONS Circle the appropriate code number that best represents sea conditions during the day.
12. BYCATCH Record the following information about any non-albacore catch (birds, turtles, sharks, other fish and marine mammals) that was kept or returned to the ocean.
 - SPECIES: Record the bycatch species (common or scientific) name.
 - NUMBER KEPT: Record the numbers of the bycatch species that were kept.
 - DISCARD NUMBER: Record the numbers of the bycatch species that were discarded dead or alive.
13. COMMENTS Record any observations related to fishing activities such as number of gill net vessels seen during the day, percentage or numbers of catch that had gill net scars, movement of fish, type of feed, water color, bird flocks, temperature "edges" or "fronts".

SUBMITTING LOGBOOKS

This logbook is mandatory for all U.S. vessels using troll gear to fish for albacore. Vessels are required to submit original (white copies) of form LS within 30 days after each unloading and form FP once a year to one of the following addresses:

National Marine Fisheries Service
8604 La Jolla Shores Dr.
La Jolla, CA 92037

National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 4150
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM YOU WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

LENGTH-WEIGHT-AGE RELATIONSHIP FOR PACIFIC ALBACORE

FORK LENGTH					WEIGHT					AGE														
CM	INCHES	LB	KG	YRS	CM	INCHES	LB	KG	YRS	CM	INCHES	LB	KG	YRS	CM	INCHES	LB	KG	YRS					
40	16	2.9	1.3	1.7	62	24	10.8	4.9	3.3	84	33	26.7	12.1	5.3	106	42	53.6	24.3	8.2	128	50	94.2	42.7	13.5
41	16	3.1	1.4	1.8	63	25	11.3	5.1	3.4	85	33	27.7	12.6	5.4	107	42	55.1	25.0	8.4	129	51	96.4	43.7	13.8
42	17	3.4	1.5	1.9	64	25	11.9	5.4	3.4	86	34	28.7	13.0	5.5	108	43	56.7	25.7	8.6	130	51	98.6	44.7	14.2
43	17	3.6	1.6	1.9	65	26	12.4	5.6	3.5	87	34	29.7	13.5	5.6	109	43	58.2	26.4	8.7	131	52	100.9	45.8	14.7
44	17	3.9	1.8	2.0	66	26	13.0	5.9	3.6	88	35	30.7	13.9	5.8	110	43	59.9	27.2	8.9	132	52	103.3	46.8	15.1
45	18	4.1	1.9	2.1	67	26	13.6	6.2	3.7	89	35	31.8	14.4	5.9	111	44	61.5	27.9	9.1	133	52	105.6	47.9	15.6
46	18	4.4	2.0	2.1	68	27	14.2	6.4	3.8	90	35	32.9	14.9	6.0	112	44	63.2	28.7	9.3	134	53	108.0	49.0	16.1
47	19	4.7	2.1	2.2	69	27	14.8	6.7	3.9	91	36	34.0	15.4	6.1	113	44	64.9	29.4	9.5	135	53	110.4	50.1	17.3
48	19	5.0	2.3	2.3	70	28	15.5	7.0	4.0	92	36	35.1	15.9	6.2	114	45	66.6	30.2	9.7	136	54	112.9	51.2	
49	19	5.3	2.4	2.3	71	28	16.2	7.3	4.0	93	37	36.2	16.4	6.4	115	45	68.4	31.0	9.9	137	54	115.4	52.3	
50	20	5.7	2.6	2.4	72	28	16.9	7.6	4.1	94	37	37.4	17.0	6.5	116	46	70.2	31.8	10.1	138	54	117.9	53.5	
51	20	6.0	2.7	2.5	73	29	17.6	8.0	4.2	95	37	38.6	17.5	6.6	117	46	72.0	32.7	10.3	139	55	120.5	54.7	
52	20	6.4	2.9	2.5	74	29	18.3	8.3	4.3	96	38	39.8	18.1	6.7	118	46	73.8	33.5	10.6	140	55	123.1	55.8	
53	21	6.7	3.1	2.6	75	30	19.0	8.6	4.4	97	38	41.1	18.6	6.9	119	47	75.7	34.4	10.8	141	56	125.8	57.0	
54	21	7.1	3.2	2.7	76	30	19.8	9.0	4.5	98	39	42.4	19.2	7.0	120	47	77.6	35.2	11.1	142	56	128.4	58.3	
55	22	7.5	3.4	2.8	77	30	20.6	9.3	4.6	99	39	43.7	19.8	7.1	121	48	79.6	36.1	11.3	143	56	131.2	59.5	
56	22	8.0	3.6	2.8	78	31	21.4	9.7	4.7	100	39	45.0	20.4	7.3	122	48	81.6	37.0	11.6	144	57	133.9	60.8	
57	22	8.4	3.8	2.9	79	31	22.2	10.1	4.8	101	40	46.4	21.0	7.4	123	48	83.6	37.9	11.9	145	57	136.7	62.0	
58	23	8.8	4.0	3.0	80	31	23.1	10.5	4.9	102	40	47.8	21.7	7.6	124	49	85.6	38.8	12.2	146	57	139.6	63.3	
59	23	9.3	4.2	3.1	81	32	24.0	10.9	5.0	103	41	49.2	22.3	7.7	125	49	87.7	39.8	12.5	147	58	142.4	64.6	
60	24	9.8	4.4	3.1	82	32	24.9	11.3	5.1	104	41	50.6	23.0	7.9	126	50	89.8	40.8	12.8	148	58	145.4	65.9	
61	24	10.3	4.7	3.2	83	33	25.8	11.7	5.2	105	41	52.1	23.6	8.1	127	50	92.0	41.7	13.1	149	59	148.3	67.3	

Length-Weight relationship from Bartoo and Foreman, 1994. A review of the biology and fisheries for North Pacific Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*).
 Length-Age relationship from Suda, et. al. 1966. Catch variations in the North Pacific albacore VI. The Speculation about influence of fisheries on the catch and abundance of the albacore in the north-west Pacific by use of some simplified mathematical models.

ALBACORE FISHING OPERATION INFORMATION

VESSEL NAME LAURA MARIE RADIO CALL SIGN WXY1234 HOME STATE CALIFORNIA

COAST GUARD DOCUMENT NO. 1234567 CALIFORNIA REG. NO. 12345
 OR
 STATE MARINE BOARD NO. 12345 OREGON REG. NO. 12345
 (e.g. WN1234AB) WASHINGTON REG. NO. 12345

LENGTH (ft.) 57 HORSEPOWER 325 AVG. CRUISING SPEED (knots) 8 HOLD CAPACITY (Short Tons) 29

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT	
(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)	
1. RDF	
2. LORAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RADAR	
4. OMEGA	
5. OTHER _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. GPS	

RADIO EQUIPMENT	
(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. AM	
2. CB	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. VHF	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. SSB	
5. OTHER _____	
6. CELLULAR TELEPHONE	
7. INMARSAT	

REFRIGERATION TYPE	
(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)	
1. ICE	
2. BRINE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. SPRAY BRINE	
4. BLOWER / BLAST	
5. OTHER _____	

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	
(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. HYDRAULIC POWER GURDY	
2. LINE PULLER	
3. XBT	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. SOUNDER	
5. SOUNDER W/ WHITE LINE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. SEA-SURFACE TEMP. SENSOR	
7. OTHER _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. SONAR	

CREW SIZE (including captain) <u>3</u>	CAPTAIN'S ALBACORE FISHING EXPERIENCE
CREW ALBACORE FISHING EXPERIENCE	FISHING EXPERIENCE
NUMBER WITH FIRST SEASON <u>0</u>	1. FIRST SEASON
NUMBER WITH 1-3 SEASONS <u>1</u>	2. 1-3 SEASONS
NUMBER WITH 4-10 SEASONS <u>1</u>	3. 4-10 SEASONS
NUMBER WITH >10 SEASONS <u>0</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. >10 SEASONS

GEAR	
1. BAIT	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. JIG	
3. BOTH	
OTHER _____	

SKIFFS	
NO. <u>0</u>	
AVG. LENGTH _____	
AVG. HP _____	
AVG. NO. _____	
LINES TROLLED _____	

I certify that the above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge

DATE 7/4/1999 CAPTAIN'S NAME DOE, J John Doe
 (month/ day/ year) (PRINT) (Last name, First initial) (SIGNATURE)

ALBACORE FISHING OPERATION INFORMATION

VESSEL NAME _____ RADIO CALL SIGN _____ HOME STATE _____

COAST GUARD DOCUMENT NO. _____ CALIFORNIA REG. NO. _____
 OR
 STATE MARINE BOARD NO. _____ OREGON REG. NO. _____
 (e.g. WN1234AB) _____ WASHINGTON REG. NO. _____

LENGTH (ft.) _____ HORSEPOWER _____ AVG. CRUISING SPEED (knots) _____ HOLD CAPACITY (Short Tons) _____

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT <small>(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</small>
1. RDF 2. LORAN 3. RADAR 4. OMEGA 5. OTHER _____ 6. GPS

RADIO EQUIPMENT <small>(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</small>
1. AM 2. CB 3. VHF 4. SSB 5. OTHER _____ 6. CELLULAR TELEPHONE 7. INMARSAT

REFRIGERATION TYPE <small>(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</small>
1. ICE 2. BRINE 3. SPRAY BRINE 4. BLOWER / BLAST 5. OTHER

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT <small>(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</small>
1. HYDRAULIC POWER GURDY 2. LINE PULLER 3. XBT 4. SOUNDER 5. SOUNDER W/ WHITE LINE 6. SEA-SURFACE TEMP. SENSOR 7. OTHER _____ 8. SONAR

CREW SIZE (including captain) _____	CAPTAIN'S ALBACORE FISHING EXPERIENCE															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">CREW ALBACORE FISHING EXPERIENCE</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">FISHING EXPERIENCE</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">NUMBER WITH FIRST SEASON _____</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1. FIRST SEASON</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">NUMBER WITH 1-3 SEASONS _____</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2. 1-3 SEASONS</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">NUMBER WITH 4-10 SEASONS _____</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3. 4-10 SEASONS</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">NUMBER WITH >10 SEASONS _____</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4. >10 SEASONS</td> </tr> </table>	CREW ALBACORE FISHING EXPERIENCE	FISHING EXPERIENCE	NUMBER WITH FIRST SEASON _____	1. FIRST SEASON	NUMBER WITH 1-3 SEASONS _____	2. 1-3 SEASONS	NUMBER WITH 4-10 SEASONS _____	3. 4-10 SEASONS	NUMBER WITH >10 SEASONS _____	4. >10 SEASONS	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">GEAR</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">1. BAIT _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2. JIG _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">3. BOTH _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">OTHER _____</td> </tr> </table>	GEAR	1. BAIT _____	2. JIG _____	3. BOTH _____	OTHER _____
CREW ALBACORE FISHING EXPERIENCE	FISHING EXPERIENCE															
NUMBER WITH FIRST SEASON _____	1. FIRST SEASON															
NUMBER WITH 1-3 SEASONS _____	2. 1-3 SEASONS															
NUMBER WITH 4-10 SEASONS _____	3. 4-10 SEASONS															
NUMBER WITH >10 SEASONS _____	4. >10 SEASONS															
GEAR																
1. BAIT _____																
2. JIG _____																
3. BOTH _____																
OTHER _____																

SKIFFS	
NO. _____	_____
AVG. LENGTH _____	_____
AVG. HP _____	_____
AVG. NO. _____	_____
LINES TROLLED _____	_____

I certify that the above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

DATE _____ CAPTAIN'S NAME _____
(month/ day/ year) (PRINT) (Last name, First initial) (SIGNATURE)

U.S. PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHING INFORMATION

Form LS

VESSEL NAME LAURA MARIE COAST GUARD DOCUMENT NO. 1234567 RADIO CALL SIGN WXY1234
 CAPTAIN'S NAME JOHN DOE STATE MARINE BOARD NO. _____ (e.g. WN1234AB)
 DEPARTURE PORT NEWPORT ARRIVAL PORT ILWACO PORT(S) LANDED ILWACO
 DEPARTURE DATE 7 / 4 / 1999 ARRIVAL DATE 8 / 2 / 1999 POUNDS LANDED 43,057
(MM/DD/YYYY) (MM/DD/YYYY)

AT SEA TRANSSHIPPING		
DATE:	TRANSHIPPER	AMOUNT

DATE		GEAR CODE	FISHING CODE	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			ALBACORE CATCH			# JIG LINES	# BAIT POLES	# HRS FISHED	# SKIFFS	SEA TEMP (°F)	SEA CONDITIONS	BYCATCH			COMMENTS (No. gill net vessels in area, % gill net marked fish, amount of bait and birds in area, transshipments, dumped albacore, etc.)
MONTH	DAY			DEG.	MIN	N/S	DEG.	MIN.	EW	NO. KEPT	DISCARD NO.	AVGWT (lbs)							SPECIES	NOKEPT	DISCARD NO.	
7	4	1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING	44	40	N	126	22	W	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE		0	0	LEFT AT 10:00AM	
7	5	1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING	44	52	N	138	15	W	0	0	-	20	0	15	0	1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE				RUNNING TO OFFSHORE AREA	
7	6	1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING	45	03	N	142	16	W	15	3	12	20	0	15	0	1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE				3 PEANUTS DUMPED	
7	7	1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING	45	12	N	146	08	W	33	2	14	20	0	15	0	1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
7	8	1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING	45	17	N	148	06	W	21	0	13	10	0	15	0	1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
7	9	1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING	45	03	N	148	12	W	42	0	13	20	0	15	0	1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE	SKIPJACK	0	5	GOOD BIRD SIGNS	
7	10	1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING	45	01	N	148	50	W	68	0	14	20	0	15	0	1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE	SKIPJACK	0	1	LOTS OF MARKS. NOT MANY BITERS	

I certify that the above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge
 Signature: John Doe Date: 8 / 3 / 1999

INSERT FOLDED BACK COVER UNDER YELLOW COPY

U.S. PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHING INFORMATION

Form LS

VESSEL NAME _____ COAST GUARD DOCUMENT NO. _____ RADIO CALL SIGN _____
 CAPTAIN'S NAME _____ STATE MARINE BOARD NO. _____
 (e.g. WN1234AB) _____
 DEPARTURE PORT _____ ARRIVAL PORT _____ PORT(S) LANDED _____
 DEPARTURE DATE / / ARRIVAL DATE / / POUNDS LANDED _____
 (MM/DD/YYYY) (MM/DD/YYYY)

AT SEA TRANSSHIPPING		
DATE:	TRANSHIPPER	AMOUNT

DATE		GEAR CODE	FISHING CODE	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			ALBACORE CATCH			# JIG LINES	# BAIT POLES	# HRS FISHED	# SKIFFS	SEA TEMP (°F)	SEA CONDITIONS	BYCATCH			COMMENTS (No. gill net vessels in area, % gill net marked fish, amount of bait and birds in area, transshipments, dumped albacore, etc.)
MONTH	DAY			DEG.	MIN	N/S	DEG.	MIN.	EW	NO. KEPT	DISCARD NO.	AVGWT (lbs)							SPECIES	NOKEPT	DISCARD NO.	
		1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING														1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
		1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING														1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
		1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING														1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
		1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING														1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
		1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING														1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
		1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING														1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					
		1 BAIT 2 JIG 3 BOTH 4 OTHER	1 IN PORT 2 TRANSIT 3 BAITING 4 FISHING														1 CALM 2 MODERATE 3 ROUGH 4 UNWORKABLE					

I certify that the above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge Signature: _____ Date: _____

INSERT FOLDED BACK COVER UNDER YELLOW COPY

INSERT THIS FLAP UNDER YELLOW COPY

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is collecting this information in support of its implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act, the High-Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA), and the Fisheries Management Plan for Highly Migratory Species. The information will be used by NMFS to assess the status of Pacific albacore stocks and monitor the fisheries. It will be also be used by U.S. negotiators in international and domestic forums to develop policy for the continued harvesting of Pacific albacore. Response is mandatory. The information submitted will be treated confidentially in accordance with NOAA Administrative Orders. The burden for completing a logbook for a fishing trip of 30 days is estimated at 1 hour above that of logbooks kept for normal business practice. This estimate includes the time for reviewing the instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. 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.

- CITE-
16 USC CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-
TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

-

- 5501. Purpose.
- 5502. Definitions.
- 5503. Permitting.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Eligibility.
 - (c) Application.
 - (d) Conditions.
 - (e) Fees.
 - (f) Duration.
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 - (a) Record.
 - (b) Information to FAO.
 - (c) Information to flag nations.
 - (d) Regulations.
 - (e) Notice of international conservation and management measures.
- 5505. Unlawful activities.
- 5506. Enforcement provisions.
 - (a) Duties of Secretaries.
 - (b) District court jurisdiction.
 - (c) Powers of enforcement officers.
 - (d) Issuance of citations.
 - (e) Liability for costs.
- 5507. Civil penalties and permit sanctions.
 - (a) Civil penalties.
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 - (e) Collection.
- 5508. Criminal offenses.
 - (a) Offenses.
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- 5509. Forfeitures.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Jurisdiction of district courts.
 - (c) Judgment.
 - (d) Procedure.
 - (e) Rebuttable presumption.

- End-

- CITE-
16 USC Sec. 5501

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-
TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-
Sec. 5501. Purpose

- STATUTE-
It is the purpose of this chapter -
(1) to implement the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 24, 1993; and
(2) to establish a system of permitting, reporting, and regulation for vessels of the United States fishing on the high seas.

- SOURCE-
(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 102, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 367.)

- REFTEXT-
REFERENCES IN TEXT
This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", and was translated as reading "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 104-43, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

- MISCL-
EFFECTIVE DATE
Section 111 of title I of Pub. L. 104-43 provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] shall take effect 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 3, 1995]."

SHORT TITLE
Section 1 of Pub. L. 104-43 provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter, chapters 76 (Sec. 5601 et seq.) and 77 (Sec. 5701 et seq.) of this title, sections 971j, 971k, and 1826d to 1826g of this title, and sections 1980a and 1980b of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse, amending sections 971, 971b, 971c to 971e, 971h, 971i, 973g, 1383a, and 5002 of this title and section 1977 of Title 22, enacting provisions set out as notes under this section, sections 971, 971c, 1383a, 1801, 1821, 1823, 1826d, 5601, and 5701 of this title, and section 1980a of Title 22, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 1823 of this title] may be cited as the 'Fisheries Act of 1995'."

Section 101 of title I of Pub. L. 104-43 provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995'."

- End-

- CITE-
16 USC Sec. 5502

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-
TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-
Sec. 5502. Definitions

- STATUTE-

As used in this chapter -

(1) The term "Agreement" means the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 24, 1993.

(2) The term "FAO" means the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

(3) The term "high seas" means the waters beyond the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or the equivalent) of any nation, to the extent that such territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or the equivalent) is recognized by the United States.

(4) The term "high seas fishing vessel" means any vessel of the United States or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States used or intended for use -

(A) on the high seas;

(B) for the purpose of the commercial exploitation of living marine resources; and

(C) as a harvesting vessel, as a mother ship, or as any other support vessel directly engaged in a fishing operation.

(5) The term "international conservation and management measures" means measures to conserve or manage one or more species of living marine resources that are adopted and applied in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and that are recognized by the United States. Such measures may be adopted by global, regional, or sub-regional fisheries organizations, subject to the rights and obligations of their members, or by treaties or other international agreements.

(6) The term "length" means -

(A) for any high seas fishing vessel built after July 18, 1982, 96 percent of the total length on a waterline at 85 percent of the least molded depth measured from the top of the keel, or the length from the foreside of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that is greater, except that in ships designed with a rake of keel the waterline on which this length is measured shall be parallel to the designed waterline; and

(B) for any high seas fishing vessel built before July 18, 1982, registered length as entered on the vessel's documentation.

(7) The term "person" means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State), and any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of any such government.

(8) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(9) The term "vessel of the United States" means -

(A) a vessel documented under chapter 121 of title 46 or numbered in accordance with chapter 123 of title 46;

(B) a vessel owned in whole or part by -

(i) the United States or a territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States;

(ii) a State or political subdivision thereof;

(iii) a citizen or national of the United States; or

(iv) a corporation created under the laws of the United States or any State, the District of Columbia, or any territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States; unless the vessel has been granted the nationality of a foreign nation in accordance with article 92 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and a claim of nationality or registry for the vessel is made by the master or individual in charge at the time of the enforcement action by an officer or employee of the United States authorized to enforce applicable provisions of the United States law; and

(C) a vessel that was once documented under the laws of the United States and, in violation of the laws of the United States, was either sold to a person not a citizen of the United States or placed under foreign registry or a foreign flag, whether or not the vessel has been granted the nationality of a foreign nation.

(10) The terms "vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States" and "vessel without nationality" have the same meaning as in section 1903(c) of title 46, Appendix.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 103, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 367; Pub. L. 106-562, title III, Sec. 305, Dec. 23, 2000, 114 Stat. 2807.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", and was translated as reading "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 104-43, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

- MISC1-

AMENDMENTS

2000 - Par. (4). Pub. L. 106-562 inserted "or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States" after "United States" in introductory provisions.

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 5503

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-

Sec. 5503. Permitting

- STATUTE-

(a) In general

No high seas fishing vessel shall engage in harvesting operations on the high seas unless the vessel has on board a valid permit issued under this section.

(b) Eligibility

(1) Any vessel of the United States is eligible to receive a permit under this section, unless the vessel was previously authorized to be used for fishing on the high seas by a foreign nation, and

(A) the foreign nation suspended such authorization because the vessel undermined the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures, and the suspension has not expired; or

(B) the foreign nation, within the last three years preceding application for a permit under this section, withdrew such authorization because the vessel undermined the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures.

(2) The restriction in paragraph (1) does not apply if ownership of the vessel has changed since the vessel undermined the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures, and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence to the Secretary demonstrating that the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel.

(3) The restriction in paragraph (1) does not apply if the Secretary makes a determination that issuing a permit would not subvert the purposes of the Agreement.

(4) The Secretary may not issue a permit to a vessel unless the Secretary is satisfied that the United States will be able to exercise effectively its responsibilities under the Agreement with respect to that vessel.

(c) Application

(1) The owner or operator of a high seas fishing vessel may apply for a permit under this section by completing an application form prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) The application form shall contain -

(A) the vessel's name, previous names (if known), official numbers, and port of record;

(B) the vessel's previous flags (if any);

(C) the vessel's International Radio Call Sign (if any);

(D) the names and addresses of the vessel's owners and operators;

(E) where and when the vessel was built;

(F) the type of vessel;

(G) the vessel's length; and

(H) any other information the Secretary requires for the purposes of implementing the Agreement.

(d) Conditions

The Secretary shall establish such conditions and restrictions on each permit issued under this section as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the

obligations of the United States under the Agreement, including but not limited to the following:

(1) The vessel shall be marked in accordance with the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels, or with regulations issued under section 1855 of this title; and

(2) The permit holder shall report such information as the Secretary by regulation requires, including area of fishing operations and catch statistics. The Secretary shall promulgate regulations concerning conditions under which information submitted under this paragraph may be released.

(e) Fees

(1) The Secretary shall by regulation establish the level of fees to be charged for permits issued under this section. The amount of any fee charged for a permit issued under this section shall not exceed the administrative costs incurred in issuing such permits. The permitting fee may be in addition to any fee required under any regional permitting regime applicable to high seas fishing vessels.

(2) The fees authorized by paragraph (1) shall be collected and credited to the Operations, Research and Facilities account of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Fees collected under this subsection shall be available for the necessary expenses of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in implementing this chapter, and shall remain available until expended.

(f) Duration

A permit issued under this section is valid for 5 years. A permit issued under this section is void in the event the vessel is no longer eligible for United States documentation, such documentation is revoked or denied, or the vessel is deleted from such documentation.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 104, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 369; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, Sec. 101(a) [title II, Sec. 211(b)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009, 3009-41.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (e)(2), was in the original "this Act", and was translated as reading "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 104-43, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

- MISC1-

AMENDMENTS

1996 - Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 104-208 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1855 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 101(a) [title II, Sec. 211(b)] of div. A of Pub. L. 104-208 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective 15 days after Oct. 11, 1996.

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 5504

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-

Sec. 5504. Responsibilities of Secretary

- STATUTE-

(a) Record

The Secretary shall maintain an automated file or record of high seas fishing vessels issued permits under section 5503 of this title, including all information submitted under section 5503(c)(2) of this title.

(b) Information to FAO

The Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall -

(1) make available to FAO information contained in the record maintained under subsection (a) of this section;

(2) promptly notify FAO of changes in such information;

(3) promptly notify FAO of additions to or deletions from the record, and the reason for any deletion;

(4) convey to FAO information relating to any permit granted under section 5503(b)(3) of this title, including the vessel's identity, owner or operator,

and factors relevant to the Secretary's determination to issue the permit;
(5) report promptly to FAO all relevant information regarding any activities of high seas fishing vessels that undermine the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures, including the identity of the vessels and any sanctions imposed; and
(6) provide the FAO a summary of evidence regarding any activities of foreign vessels that undermine the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures.

(c) Information to flag nations

If the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, has reasonable grounds to believe that a foreign vessel has engaged in activities undermining the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures, the Secretary shall -

(1) provide to the flag nation information, including appropriate evidentiary material, relating to those activities; and

(2) when such foreign vessel is voluntarily in a United States port, promptly notify the flag nation and, if requested by the flag nation, make arrangements to undertake such lawful investigatory measures as may be considered necessary to establish whether the vessel has been used contrary to the provisions of the Agreement.

(d) Regulations

The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may promulgate such regulations, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Agreement and this chapter. The Secretary shall coordinate such regulations with any other entities regulating high seas fishing vessels, in order to minimize duplication of permit application and reporting requirements. To the extent practicable, such regulations shall also be consistent with regulations implementing fishery management plans under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(e) Notice of international conservation and management measures

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall publish in the Federal Register, from time to time, a notice listing international conservation and management measures recognized by the United States.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 105, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 370; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, Sec. 101(a) [title II, Sec. 211(b)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009, 3009-41.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (d), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 38 (Sec. 1801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.

- MISC1-

AMENDMENTS

1996 - Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-208 substituted "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery" for "Magnuson Fishery".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 101(a) [title II, Sec. 211(b)] of div. A of Pub. L. 104-208 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective 15 days after Oct. 11, 1996.

- TRANS-

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 5505

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-

Sec. 5505. Unlawful activities

- STATUTE-

It is unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States -

(1) to use a high seas fishing vessel on the high seas in contravention of international conservation and management measures described in section 5504(e) of this title;

(2) to use a high seas fishing vessel on the high seas, unless the vessel has on board a valid permit issued under section 5503 of this title;

(3) to use a high seas fishing vessel in violation of the conditions or restrictions of a permit issued under section 5503 of this title;

(4) to falsify any information required to be reported, communicated, or recorded pursuant to this chapter or any regulation issued under this chapter, or to fail to submit in a timely fashion any required information, or to fail to report to the Secretary immediately any change in circumstances that has the effect of rendering any such information false, incomplete, or misleading;

(5) to refuse to permit an authorized officer to board a high seas fishing vessel subject to such person's control for purposes of conducting any search or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this chapter or any regulation issued under this chapter;

(6) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with an authorized officer in the conduct of any search or inspection described in paragraph (5);

(7) to resist a lawful arrest or detention for any act prohibited by this section;

(8) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension, arrest, or detection of another person, knowing that such person has committed any act prohibited by this section;

(9) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any living marine resource taken or retained in violation of this chapter or any regulation or permit issued under this chapter; or

(10) to violate any provision of this chapter or any regulation or permit issued under this chapter.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 106, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 371.)

- End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 5506

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-

Sec. 5506. Enforcement provisions

- STATUTE-

(a) Duties of Secretaries

This chapter shall be enforced by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. Such Secretaries may by agreement utilize, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, the personnel, services, equipment (including aircraft and vessels), and facilities of any other Federal agency, or of any State agency, in the performance of such duties. Such Secretaries shall, and the head of any Federal or State agency that has entered into an agreement with either such Secretary under this section may (if the agreement so provides), authorize officers to enforce the provisions of this chapter or any regulation or permit issued under this chapter.

(b) District court jurisdiction

The district courts of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under the provisions of this chapter. In the case of Guam, and any Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Guam, except that in the case of American Samoa, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

(c) Powers of enforcement officers

(1) Any officer who is authorized under subsection (a) of this section to enforce the provisions of this chapter may - (A) with or without a warrant or other process -

(i) arrest any person, if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed an act prohibited by paragraph (6), (7), (8), or (9) of section 5505 of this title;

(ii) board, and search or inspect, any high seas fishing vessel;

(iii) seize any high seas fishing vessel (together with its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used or employed in, or with respect to which it reasonably appears that such vessel was used or employed in, the violation of any provision of this chapter or any regulation or permit issued under this chapter;

(iv) seize any living marine resource (wherever found) taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act prohibited by section 5505 of this title;

(v) seize any other evidence related to any violation of any provision of this chapter or any regulation or permit issued under this chapter;

(B) execute any warrant or other process issued by any court of competent jurisdiction; and

(C) exercise any other lawful authority.

(2) Subject to the direction of the Secretary, a person charged with law enforcement responsibilities by the Secretary who is performing a duty related to enforcement of a law regarding fisheries or other marine resources may make an arrest without a warrant for an offense against the United States committed in his presence, or for a felony cognizable under the laws of the United States, if he has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing a felony.

(d) Issuance of citations

If any authorized officer finds that a high seas fishing vessel is operating or has been operated in violation of any provision of this chapter, such officer may issue a citation to the owner or operator of such vessel in lieu of proceeding under subsection (c) of this section. If a permit has been issued pursuant to this chapter for such vessel, such officer shall note the issuance of any citation under this subsection, including the date thereof and the reason therefor, on the permit. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all citations issued pursuant to this subsection.

(e) Liability for costs

Any person assessed a civil penalty for, or convicted of, any violation of this chapter shall be liable for the cost incurred in storage, care, and maintenance of any living marine resource or other property seized in connection with the violation.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 107, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 372.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (e), was in the original "this Act", and was translated as reading "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 104-43, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

- TRANS-

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

- End-

- EXPCITE-
TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-
Sec. 5507. Civil penalties and permit sanctions

- STATUTE-

(a) Civil penalties

(1) Any person who is found by the Secretary, after notice and opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, to have committed an act prohibited by section 5505 of this title shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty. The amount of the civil penalty shall not exceed \$100,000 for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate offense. The amount of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary by written notice. In determining the amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require.

(2) The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty that is subject to imposition or that has been imposed under this section.

(b) Permit sanctions

(1) In any case in which -

(A) a vessel of the United States has been used in the commission of an act prohibited under section 5505 of this title;

(B) the owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under section 5503 of this title has acted in violation of section 5505 of this title; or

(C) any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture imposed on a high seas fishing vessel or other property, or any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed on a high seas fishing vessel or on an owner or operator of such a vessel or on any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under any fishery resource statute enforced by the Secretary, has not been paid and is overdue, the Secretary may -

(i) revoke any permit issued to or applied for by such vessel or person under this chapter, with or without prejudice to the issuance of subsequent permits;

(ii) suspend such permit for a period of time considered by the Secretary to be appropriate;

(iii) deny such permit; or

(iv) impose additional conditions and restrictions on such permit.

(2) In imposing a sanction under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into account -

(A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts for which the sanction is imposed; and

(B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require.

(3) Transfer of ownership of a high seas fishing vessel, by sale or otherwise, shall not extinguish any permit sanction that is in effect or is pending at the time of transfer of ownership. Before executing the transfer of ownership of a vessel, by sale or otherwise, the owner shall disclose in writing to the prospective transferee the existence of any permit sanction that will be in effect or pending with respect to the vessel at the time of the transfer. The Secretary may waive or compromise a sanction in the case of a transfer pursuant to court order.

(4) In the case of any permit that is suspended under this subsection for nonpayment of a civil penalty or criminal fine, the Secretary shall reinstate the permit upon payment of the penalty or fine and interest thereon at the prevailing rate.

(5) No sanctions shall be imposed under this subsection unless there has been prior opportunity for a hearing on the facts underlying the violation for which the sanction is imposed, either in conjunction with a civil penalty proceeding under this section or otherwise.

(c) Hearing

For the purposes of conducting any hearing under this section, the Secretary

may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, and documents, and may administer oaths. Witnesses summoned shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the courts of the United States. In case of contempt or refusal to obey a subpoena served upon any person pursuant to this subsection, the district court of the United States for any district in which such person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon application by the United States and after notice to such person, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to appear and give testimony before the Secretary or to appear and produce documents before the Secretary, or both, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

(d) Judicial review

Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under subsection (a) of this section or against whose vessel a permit sanction is imposed under subsection (b) of this section (other than a permit suspension for nonpayment of penalty or fine) may obtain review thereof in the United States district court for the appropriate district by filing a complaint against the Secretary in such court within 30 days from the date of such penalty or sanction. The Secretary shall promptly file in such court a certified copy of the record upon which such penalty or sanction was imposed, as provided in section 2112 of title 28. The findings and order of the Secretary shall be set aside by such court if they are not found to be supported by substantial evidence, as provided in section 706(2) of title 5.

(e) Collection

(1) If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become a final and unappealable order, or after the appropriate court has entered final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the matter shall be referred to the Attorney General, who shall recover the amount assessed in any appropriate district court of the United States. In such action the validity and appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil penalty shall not be subject to review.

(2) A high seas fishing vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used in the commission of an act prohibited by section 5505 of this title shall be liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed for such violation under subsection (a) of this section and may be proceeded against in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof. Such penalty shall constitute a maritime lien on such vessel that may be recovered in an action in rem in the district court of the United States having jurisdiction over the vessel.

-SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 108, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 373.)

-End-

- CITE-

16 USC Sec. 5508

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-

TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-

Sec. 5508. Criminal offenses

- STATUTE-

(a) Offenses

A person is guilty of an offense if the person commits any act prohibited by paragraph (6), (7), (8), or (9) of section 5505 of this title.

(b) Punishment

Any offense described in subsection (a) of this section is a class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine under title 18, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both; except that if in the commission of any offense the person uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct that causes bodily injury to any authorized officer, or places any such officer in fear of imminent bodily injury, the offense is a felony punishable by a fine under title 18, or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.

- SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 109, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 375.)

-End-

- CITE-
16 USC Sec. 5509

01/02/2006

- EXPCITE-
TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 75 - HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

- HEAD-
Sec. 5509. Forfeitures

- STATUTE-

(a) In general

Any high seas fishing vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used, and any living marine resources (or the fair market value thereof) taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act prohibited by section 5505 of this title (other than an act for which the issuance of a citation under section 5506 of this title is a sufficient sanction) shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States. All or part of such vessel may, and all such living marine resources (or the fair market value thereof) shall, be forfeited to the United States pursuant to a civil proceeding under this section.

(b) Jurisdiction of district courts

Any district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction, upon application of the Attorney General on behalf of the United States, to order any forfeiture authorized under subsection (a) of this section and any action provided for under subsection (d) of this section.

(c) Judgment

If a judgment is entered for the United States in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section, the Attorney General may seize any property or other interest declared forfeited to the United States, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this chapter or for which security has not previously been obtained. The provisions of the customs laws relating to -

(1) the seizure, forfeiture, and condemnation of property for violation of the customs law;

(2) the disposition of such property or the proceeds from the sale thereof; and

(3) the remission or mitigation of any such forfeiture; shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions of this chapter, unless such provisions are inconsistent with the purposes, policy, and provisions of this chapter.

(d) Procedure

(1) Any officer authorized to serve any process in rem that is issued by a court under section 5506(b) of this title shall -

(A) stay the execution of such process; or

(B) discharge any living marine resources seized pursuant to such process; upon receipt of a satisfactory bond or other security from any person claiming such property. Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person delivering such property to the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or paying the monetary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court.

(2) Any living marine resources seized pursuant to this chapter may be sold, subject to the approval of the appropriate court, for not less than the fair market value thereof. The proceeds of any such sale shall be deposited with such court pending the disposition of the matter involved.

(e) Rebuttable presumption

For purposes of this section, all living marine resources found on board a high seas fishing vessel and which are seized in connection with an act prohibited by section 5505 of this title are presumed to have been taken or retained in violation of this chapter, but the presumption can be rebutted by an appropriate showing of evidence to the contrary.

- SOURCE-
(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, Sec. 110, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 375.)

- REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The customs laws, referred to in subsec. (c), are classified generally to Title 19, Customs Duties.

- End-

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;

109-479

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, charter fishing, and fish processing 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, economic information necessary to meet the requirements of this Act, 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;

109-479

(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 analyze the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, economic, and social impacts, of the conservation and management measures on, and possible mitigation measures for—

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

(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; and

(C) the safety of human life at sea, including whether and to what extent such measures may affect the safety of participants in the fishery;

(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;

16 U.S.C. 1853
MSA § 303

(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;

109-479

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

109-479

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate, taking into consideration the economic impact of the harvest restrictions or recovery benefits on the fishery participants in each sector, any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery and;

109-479

(15) establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.

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;

109-479

(2)(A) 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;

(B) designate such zones in areas where deep sea corals are identified under section 408, to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas; and

(C) with respect to any closure of an area under this Act that prohibits all fishing, ensure that such closure—

- (i) is based on the best scientific information available;
- (ii) includes criteria to assess the conservation benefit of the closed area;
- (iii) establishes a timetable for review of the closed area's performance that is consistent with the purposes of the closed area; and
- (iv) is based on an assessment of the benefits and impacts of the closure, including its size, in relation to other management measures (either alone or in combination with such measures), including the benefits and impacts of limiting access to: users of the area, overall fishing activity, fishery science, and fishery and marine conservation;

(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;

109-479

(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 and take into account the different circumstances affecting fisheries from different States and ports, including distances to fishing grounds and proximity to time and area closures;

109-479

(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;
- (F) the fair and equitable distribution of access privileges in the fishery; and
- (G) any other relevant considerations;

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MSA § 303

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit 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;

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(12) include management measures in the plan to conserve target and non-target species and habitats, considering the variety of ecological factors affecting fishery populations; and

(14)[sic]¹⁵ 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.

¹⁵ So in original.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 104(b), MSA § 303 note

16 U.S.C. 1853 note

EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICATION TO CERTAIN SPECIES.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(10)¹⁶—

(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect—

(A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to overfishing; and

(B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and

(2) shall not apply to a fishery for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species; and

(3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854(e), respectively).

109-479

SEC. 303A. LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS.

16 U.S.C. 1853a

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—After the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, a Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve, for a fishery that is managed under a limited access system, a limited access privilege program to harvest fish if the program meets the requirements of this section.

(b) **NO CREATION OF RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST.**—Limited access privilege, quota share, or other limited access system authorization established, implemented, or managed under this Act—

(1) shall be considered a permit for the purposes of sections 307, 308, and 309;

(2) may be revoked, limited, or modified at any time in accordance with this Act, including revocation if the system is found to have jeopardized the sustainability of the stock or the safety of fishermen;

(3) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such limited access privilege, quota share, or other such limited access system authorization if it is revoked, limited, or modified;

(4) shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested by the holder; and

(5) shall be considered a grant of permission to the holder of the limited access privilege or quota share to engage in activities permitted by such limited access privilege or quota share.

¹⁶ Section 104(a)(10) of P.L. 109-479 added section 303(a)(15).

(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any limited access privilege program to harvest fish submitted by a Council or approved by the Secretary under this section shall—

(A) if established in a fishery that is overfished or subject to a rebuilding plan, assist in its rebuilding;

(B) if established in a fishery that is determined by the Secretary or the Council to have over-capacity, contribute to reducing capacity;

(C) promote—

(i) fishing safety;

(ii) fishery conservation and management; and

(iii) social and economic benefits;

(D) prohibit any person other than a United States citizen, a corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or a permanent resident alien, that meets the eligibility and participation requirements established in the program from acquiring a privilege to harvest fish, including any person that acquires a limited access privilege solely for the purpose of perfecting or realizing on a security interest in such privilege;

(E) require that all fish harvested under a limited access privilege program be processed on vessels of the United States or on United States soil (including any territory of the United States);

(F) specify the goals of the program;

(G) include provisions for the regular monitoring and review by the Council and the Secretary of the operations of the program, including determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals, with a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the program and thereafter to coincide with scheduled Council review of the relevant fishery management plan (but no less frequently than once every 7 years);

(H) include an effective system for enforcement, monitoring, and management of the program, including the use of observers or electronic monitoring systems;

(I) include an appeals process for administrative review of the Secretary's decisions regarding initial allocation of limited access privileges;

(J) provide for the establishment by the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, for an information collection and review process to provide any additional information needed to determine whether any illegal acts of anti-competition, anti-trust, price collusion, or price fixing have occurred among regional fishery associations or persons receiving limited access privileges under the program; and

(K) provide for the revocation by the Secretary of limited access privileges held by any person found to have violated the antitrust laws of the United States.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of paragraph (1)(E) if the Secretary determines that—

- (A) the fishery has historically processed the fish outside of the United States; and
- (B) the United States has a seafood safety equivalency agreement with the country where processing will occur.

(3) FISHING COMMUNITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a fishing community shall—

- (I) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;
- (II) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;
- (III) consist of residents who conduct commercial or recreational fishing, processing, or fishery-dependent support businesses within the Council's management area; and
- (IV) develop and submit a community sustainability plan to the Council and the Secretary that demonstrates how the plan will address the social and economic development needs of coastal communities, including those that have not historically had the resources to participate in the fishery, for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

(ii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section for any person who fails to comply with the requirements of the community sustainability plan. Any limited access privileges denied or revoked under this section may be reallocated to other eligible members of the fishing community.

- (B) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible communities under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—
- (i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;
 - (ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;
 - (iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;
 - (iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;
 - (v) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the community sustainability plan; and
 - (vi) the potential for improving economic conditions in remote coastal communities lacking resources to participate in harvesting or processing activities in the fishery.

(4) REGIONAL FISHERY ASSOCIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a regional fishery association shall—

- (i) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;
- (ii) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;
- (iii) be a voluntary association with established by-laws and operating procedures;
- (iv) consist of participants in the fishery who hold quota share that are designated for use in the specific region or subregion covered by the regional fishery association, including commercial or recreational fishing, processing, fishery-dependent support businesses, or fishing communities;
- (v) not be eligible to receive an initial allocation of a limited access privilege but may acquire such privileges after the initial allocation, and may hold the annual fishing privileges of any limited access privileges it holds or the annual fishing privileges that is [sic]¹⁷ members contribute; and
- (vi) develop and submit a regional fishery association plan to the Council and the Secretary for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section to any person participating in a regional fishery association who fails to comply with the requirements of the regional fishery association plan.

¹⁷ So in original.

(C) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible regional fishery associations under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—

- (i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;
- (ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;
- (iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;
- (iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;
- (v) the administrative and fiduciary soundness of the association; and
- (vi) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the fishery association plan.

(5) ALLOCATION.—In developing a limited access privilege program to harvest fish a Council or the Secretary shall—

(A) establish procedures to ensure fair and equitable initial allocations, including consideration of—

- (i) current and historical harvests;
- (ii) employment in the harvesting and processing sectors;
- (iii) investments in, and dependence upon, the fishery; and
- (iv) the current and historical participation of fishing communities;

(B) consider the basic cultural and social framework of the fishery, especially through—

- (i) the development of policies to promote the sustained participation of small owner-operated fishing vessels and fishing communities that depend on the fisheries, including regional or port-specific landing or delivery requirements; and
- (ii) procedures to address concerns over excessive geographic or other consolidation in the harvesting or processing sectors of the fishery;

(C) include measures to assist, when necessary and appropriate, entry-level and small vessel owner-operators, captains, crew, and fishing communities through set-asides of harvesting allocations, including providing privileges, which may include set-asides or allocations of harvesting privileges, or economic assistance in the purchase of limited access privileges;

(D) ensure that limited access privilege holders do not acquire an excessive share of the total limited access privileges in the program by—

- (i) establishing a maximum share, expressed as a percentage of the total limited access privileges, that a limited access privilege holder is permitted to hold, acquire, or use; and
- (ii) establishing any other limitations or measures necessary to prevent an inequitable concentration of limited access privileges; and

(E) authorize limited access privileges to harvest fish to be held, acquired, used by, or issued under the system to persons who substantially participate in the fishery, including in a specific sector of such fishery, as specified by the Council.

(6) PROGRAM INITIATION.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), a Council may initiate a fishery management plan or amendment to establish a limited access privilege program to harvest fish on its own initiative or if the Secretary has certified an appropriate petition.

(B) PETITION.—A group of fishermen constituting more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or holding more than 50 percent of the allocation, in the fishery for which a limited access privilege program to harvest fish is sought, may submit a petition to the Secretary requesting that the relevant Council or Councils with authority over the fishery be authorized to initiate the development of the program. Any such petition shall clearly state the fishery to which the limited access privilege program would apply. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the limited access program shall be eligible to sign a petition for such a program and shall serve as the basis for determining the percentage described in the first sentence of this subparagraph.

(C) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Upon the receipt of any such petition, the Secretary shall review all of the signatures on the petition and, if the Secretary determines that the signatures on the petition represent more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or holders of more than 50 percent of the allocation in the fishery, as described by subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall certify the petition to the appropriate Council or Councils.

(D) NEW ENGLAND AND GULF REFERENDUM.—

(i) Except as provided in clause (iii) for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery, the New England and Gulf Councils may not submit, and the Secretary may not approve or implement, a fishery management plan or amendment that creates an individual fishing quota program, including a Secretarial plan, unless such a system, as ultimately developed, has been approved by more than 2/3 of those voting in a referendum among eligible permit holders, or other persons described in clause (v), with respect to the New England Council, and by a majority of those voting in the referendum among eligible permit holders with respect to the Gulf Council. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the individual fishing quota program shall be eligible to vote in such a referendum. If an individual fishing quota program fails to be approved by the requisite number of those voting, it may be revised and submitted for approval in a subsequent referendum.

(ii) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum under this subparagraph, including notifying all persons eligible to participate in the referendum and making available to them information concerning the schedule, procedures, and eligibility requirements for the referendum process and the proposed individual fishing quota program. Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish guidelines and procedures to determine procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda and to conduct such referenda in a fair and equitable manner.

(iii) The provisions of section 407(c) of this Act shall apply in lieu of this subparagraph for an individual fishing quota program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery.

(iv) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act) does not apply to the referenda conducted under this subparagraph.

(v) The Secretary shall promulgate criteria for determining whether additional fishery participants are eligible to vote in the New England referendum described in clause (i) in order to ensure that crew members who derive a significant percentage of their total income from the fishery under the proposed program are eligible to vote in the referendum.

(vi) In this subparagraph, the term ‘individual fishing quota’ does not include a sector allocation.

(7) TRANSFERABILITY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

(A) establish a policy and criteria for the transferability of limited access privileges (through sale or lease), that is consistent with the policies adopted by the Council for the fishery under paragraph (5); and

(B) establish, in coordination with the Secretary, a process for monitoring of transfers (including sales and leases) of limited access privileges.

(8) PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SECRETARIAL PLANS.—This subsection also applies to a plan prepared and implemented by the Secretary under section 304(c) or 304(g).

(9) ANTITRUST SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the operation of any of the antitrust laws. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘antitrust laws’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act, except that such term includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act to the extent that such section 5 applies to unfair methods of competition.

16 U.S.C. 1853a
MSA § 303A

(d) AUCTION AND OTHER PROGRAMS.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall consider, and may provide, if appropriate, an auction system or other program to collect royalties for the initial, or any subsequent, distribution of allocations in a limited access privilege program if—

(1) the system or program is administered in such a way that the resulting distribution of limited access privilege shares meets the program requirements of this section; and

(2) revenues generated through such a royalty program are deposited in the Limited Access System Administration Fund established by section 305(h)(5)(B) and available subject to annual appropriations.

(e) COST RECOVERY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

(1) develop a methodology and the means to identify and assess the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement programs that are directly related to and in support of the program; and

(2) provide, under section 304(d)(2), for a program of fees paid by limited access privilege holders that will cover the costs of management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement activities.

(f) CHARACTERISTICS.—A limited access privilege established after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 is a permit issued for a period of not more than 10 years that—

(1) will be renewed before the end of that period, unless it has been revoked, limited, or modified as provided in this subsection;

(2) will be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have failed to comply with any term of the plan identified in the plan as cause for revocation, limitation, or modification of a permit, which may include conservation requirements established under the plan;

(3) may be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have committed an act prohibited by section 307 of this Act; and

(4) may be acquired, or reacquired, by participants in the program under a mechanism established by the Council if it has been revoked, limited, or modified under paragraph (2) or (3).

(g) LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE ASSISTED PURCHASE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve and implement, a program which reserves up to 25 percent of any fees collected from a fishery under section 304(d)(2) to be used, pursuant to section 53706(a)(7) of title 46, United States Code, to issue obligations that aid in financing—

(A) the purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by fishermen who fish from small vessels; and

(B) the first-time purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by entry level fishermen.

(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—A Council making a submission under paragraph (1) shall recommend criteria, consistent with the provisions of this Act, that a fisherman must meet to qualify for guarantees under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) and the portion of funds to be allocated for guarantees under each subparagraph.

(h) EFFECT ON CERTAIN EXISTING SHARES AND PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, shall be construed to require a reallocation or a reevaluation of individual quota shares, processor quota shares, cooperative programs, or other quota programs, including sector allocation in effect before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006.

(i) TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this section shall not apply to any quota program, including any individual quota program, cooperative program, or sector allocation for which a Council has taken final action or which has been submitted by a Council to the Secretary, or approved by the Secretary, within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, except that—

(A) the requirements of section 303(d) of this Act in effect on the day before the date of enactment of that Act shall apply to any such program;

(B) the program shall be subject to review under subsection (c)(1)(G) of this section not later than 5 years after the program implementation; and

(C) nothing in this subsection precludes a Council from incorporating criteria contained in this section into any such plans.

(2) PACIFIC GROUND FISH PROPOSALS.—The requirements of this section, other than subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (c)(1) and subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall not apply to any proposal authorized under section 302(f) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 that is submitted within the timeframe prescribed by that section.

16 U.S.C. 1853a note, 1854
MSA §§ 303A note, 304

P.L. 109-479, sec. 106(e), MSA § 303A note

16 U.S.C. 1853a note

APPLICATION WITH AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT.—Nothing in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as added by subsection (a) [P.L. 109-479], shall be construed to modify or supersede any provision of the American Fisheries Act (46 U.S.C. 12102 note; 16 U.S.C. 1851 note; et alia).

P.L. 104-297, sec. 108(i), MSA § 303 note

EXISTING QUOTA PLANS.—Nothing in this Act [P.L.104-297] or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to require a reallocation of individual fishing quotas under any individual fishing quota program approved by the Secretary before January 4, 1995.

SEC. 304. ACTION BY THE SECRETARY

16 U.S.C. 1854

104-297

(a) REVIEW OF PLANS.—

(1) Upon transmittal by the Council to the Secretary of a fishery management plan or plan amendment, the Secretary shall—

(A) immediately commence a review of the plan or amendment to determine whether it is consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law; and

(B) immediately publish in the Federal Register a notice stating that the plan or amendment is available and that written information, views, or comments of interested persons on the plan or amendment may be submitted to the Secretary during the 60-day period beginning on the date the notice is published.

(2) In undertaking the review required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) take into account the information, views, and comments received from interested persons;

(B) consult with the Secretary of State with respect to foreign fishing; and

(C) consult with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating with respect to enforcement at sea and to fishery access adjustments referred to in section 303(a)(6).

(3) The Secretary shall approve, disapprove, or partially approve a plan or amendment within 30 days of the end of the comment period under paragraph (1) by written notice to the Council. A notice of disapproval or partial approval shall specify—

(A) the applicable law with which the plan or amendment is inconsistent;

(B) the nature of such inconsistencies; and

(C) recommendations concerning the actions that could be taken by the Council to conform such plan or amendment to the requirements of applicable law.

If the Secretary does not notify a Council within 30 days of the end of the comment period of the approval, disapproval, or partial approval of a plan or amendment, then such plan or amendment shall take effect as if approved.

Administrative Management and Executive Secretariat

NAO 216-100

PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL FISHERIES STATISTICS Eff: 7/18/94; Iss: 7/26/94

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

. 01 This Order:

- a. prescribes policies and procedures for protecting the confidentiality of data submitted to and collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as authorized or required by law;
- b. informs authorized users of their obligations for maintaining the confidentiality of data received by NMFS;
- c. provides for operational safeguards to maintain the security of data; and
- d. states the penalties provided by law for disclosure of confidential data.

SECTION 2. SCOPE.

This Order covers all confidential data received, collected, maintained, or used by NMFS.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

. 01 **Access to data** means the freedom or ability to use data, conditioned by a statement of nondisclosure and penalties for unauthorized use.

. 02 **Aggregate or summary form** means data structured so that the identity of the submitter cannot be determined either from the present release of the data or in combination with other releases.

. 03 **Agreement** refers to all binding forms of mutual commitment under a stated set of conditions to achieve a specific objective.

. 04 **Assistant Administrator** means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, or a designee authorized to have access to confidential data.

. 05 **Authorized Use/User.**

a. **Authorized use** is that specific use authorized under the governing statute, regulation, order, contract or agreement.

b. An **authorized user** is any person who, having the need to collect or use confidential data in the performance of an official activity, has read this Order and has signed a statement of nondisclosure affirming the user's understanding of NMFS obligations with respect to confidential data and the penalties for unauthorized use and disclosure.

. 06 **Confidential data** means data that are identifiable with any person, accepted by the Secretary, and prohibited by law from being disclosed to the public. The term "as used" does not convey data sensitivity for national security purposes [See Executive Order (E.O.) 12356 dated April 2, 1982].

. 07 **Data** refers to information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation that a person may submit, either voluntarily or as required by statute or regulation.

. 08 **GC** means the Office of General Counsel, NOAA.

. 09 **Person** means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State), and any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of such governments, including Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils).

. 10 **Public** means any person who is not an authorized user.

. 11 **Region** means NMFS Regional field offices, Fisheries Science Centers, and associated laboratories.

. 12 **Source document** means the document, paper, or electronic format on which data are originally recorded.

. 13 **State employee** means any member of a State agency responsible for developing and monitoring the State's program for fisheries or Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) program.

. 14 **Submitter** means any person or the agent of any person who provides data to NMFS either

voluntarily or as required by statute or regulation.

SECTION 4. POLICY.

For data subject to this Order, it is NMFS policy that:

- a. confidential data shall only be disclosed to the public if required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, or by court order. Disclosure of data pursuant to a subpoena issued by an agency of competent jurisdiction is a lawful disclosure. Disclosure pursuant to a subpoena must be approved by GC;
- b. individual identifiers shall be retained with data, unless the permanent deletion is consistent with the needs of NMFS and good scientific practice [See Section 6.02c]; and
- c. a notice is required on all report forms requesting data and must comply with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3) and Paperwork Reduction Act requirements in NAO 216-8, Information Collections and Requirements Needing Office of Management and Budget Clearance. [See E.O. 12600 of June 23, 1987, for additional information regarding the rights of submitters to designate commercial confidential data at the time of submission.]

SECTION 5. OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

.01 The Regional Director of each region (or, in the case of headquarters, each Office Director) has the responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of all data collected, maintained, and disclosed by the respective region.

.02 Each region shall submit to the Assistant Administrator specific procedures governing the collection, maintenance, and disclosure of confidential data. These documents shall be compiled as regional handbooks following the guidelines and standards:

- a. handbooks are to be developed in detail to ensure the maintenance of confidential data on a functional basis in each region; and
- b. handbooks shall be coordinated through the National Data Management Committee (a NMFS group established by the Assistant Administrator to develop data management policies and procedures) and reviewed annually. The regional handbooks will address, at minimum, the contents of Sections 6-7.

SECTION 6. PROCEDURES.

.01 **Data Collection.** To collect data, the Secretary may use Federal employees, contractor employees, or, pursuant to an agreement, State employees.

a. General Requirements.

1. Personnel authorized to collect Federal data must maintain all documents containing confidential data in secure facilities; and
2. may not disclose confidential data, whether recorded or not, to anyone not authorized to receive and handle such data.

b. Specific Requirements.

1. Each Federal or contractor employee collecting or processing confidential data will be required to read, date, and sign a statement of nondisclosure, that affirms the employee's understanding of NMFS obligations with respect to confidential data and the penalties for unauthorized use and disclosure of the data. Upon signature, the employee's name will be placed on record as an "authorized user," and the employee will be issued certification.
2. Data collected by a contractor must be transferred timely to authorized Federal employees; no copies of these data may be retained by the contractor. NMFS may permit contractors to retain aggregated data. A data return clause shall be included in the agreement. All procedures applicable to Federal employees must be followed by contractor employees collecting data with Federal authority.
3. Under agreements with the State, each State data collector collecting confidential data will sign a statement at least as protective as the one signed by Federal employees, which affirms that the signer understands the applicable procedures and regulations and the penalties for unauthorized disclosure.

.02 Maintenance.

- a. Maintenance is defined as the procedures required to keep confidential data secure from the time the source documents are received by NMFS to their ultimate disposition, regardless of format. [See National Institute of Standards and Technology "Computer Security Publications, List 91" for guidance.]
- b. Specific procedures in regional handbooks must deal with the following minimum security requirements, as well as any others that may be necessary because of the specific data, equipment, or physical facilities:
 1. the establishment of an office or person responsible for evaluating requests for access to data;

2. the identifications of all persons certified as authorized users. These lists shall be kept current and reviewed on an annual basis;
 3. the issuance of employee security rules that emphasize the confidential status of certain data and the consequences of unauthorized removal or disclosure;
 4. the description of the security procedures used to prevent unauthorized access to and/or removal of confidential data;
 5. the development of a catalog/inventory system of all confidential data received including: the type of source document; the authority under which each item of data was collected; any statutory or regulatory restriction(s) which may apply; and routing from the time of receipt until final disposition; and
 6. The development of an appropriate coding system for each set of confidential data so that access to data that identifies, or could be used to identify, the person or business of the submitter is controlled by the use of one or more coding system(s). Lists that contain the codes shall be kept secure.
- c. The permanent deletion of individual identifiers from a database shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Identifiers may only be deleted after:
1. future uses of data have thoroughly been evaluated, e.g., the need for individual landings records for allocating shares under an individual transferable quota program;
 2. consultation with the agency(s) collecting data (if other than NMFS), the relevant Council(s), and NMFS Senior Scientist; and
 3. concurrence by the Assistant Administrator has been received prior to deletion.

.03 Access to Data Subject to This Order.

- a. **General Requirements.** In determining whether to grant a request for access to confidential data, the following information shall be taken into consideration:

1. the specific types of data required;
2. the relevance of the data to the intended uses;
3. whether access will be continuous, infrequent, or one-time;
4. an evaluation of the requester's statement of why aggregate or nonconfidential summaries of data would not satisfy the requested needs; and
5. the legal framework for the disclosure, in accordance with GC and this Order.

- b. **Within NMFS.** NMFS employees requesting confidential data must have certification as being authorized users for the particular type of data requested.

- b. **Councils.** Upon written request by the Council Executive Director:

1. "authorized user" status for confidential data collected under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) may be granted to a Council for use by the Council for conservation and management purposes consistent with the approval of the Assistant Administrator as described in 50 CFR 603.5;
2. "authorized user" status for confidential data, collected under the Magnuson Act and MMPA, will be granted to Council employees who are responsible for Fishery Management Plan development and monitoring; and
3. Councils that request access to confidential data must submit, on an annual basis, a copy of their procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of data to the region, or in the case of intercouncil fisheries, regions. The procedures will be evaluated for their effectiveness and, if necessary, changes may be recommended. As part of this procedure, an updated statement of nondisclosure will be included for each employee and member who requires access to confidential data.

d. **States.**

1. Requests from States for confidential data shall be directed in writing to the NMFS office that maintains the source data.
2. Each request will be processed in accordance with any agreement NMFS may have with the State:
 - (a) confidential data collected **solely** under Federal authority will be provided to a State by NMFS only if the Assistant Administrator finds that the State has authority to protect the confidentiality of the data comparable to, or more stringent than, NMFS' requirements; and
 - (b) the State will exercise its authority to limit subsequent access and use of the data to those uses allowed by authorities under which the data was collected.

3. If the State has no agreement with NMFS for the collection and exchange of confidential data, the request shall be treated as a public request and disclosure may be denied subject to FOIA or the Privacy Act.

4. Where a State has entered into a cooperative exchange agreement with another State(s), NMFS will facilitate transfer or exchange of State collected data in its possession if:

- (a) NMFS has written authorization for data transfer from the head of the collecting State agency; and
- (b) the collecting State has provided NMFS a list of authorized users in the recipient State(s); and
- (c) the collecting State agrees to hold the United States Government harmless for any suit that may arise from the misuse of the data.

e. Contractors.

1. Pursuant to an agreement with NMFS, a NMFS contractor (including universities, Sea Grant investigators, etc.) may be granted "authorized user" status consistent with this Order if the use furthers the mission of NMFS.

2. The region will notify the contractor of its decision on access in writing within 30 calendar days after receipt of the request.

3. Contingent upon approval, the contractor will be provided with details regarding conditions of data access, any costs involved, formats, timing, and security procedures. If the request is denied, the reason(s) for denial will be given by the NMFS office involved. The denial will not preclude NMFS consideration of future requests from the contractor.

4. If access is granted, language in the agreement specifically dealing with confidentiality of data will be required. The language shall include all of the relevant portions of this Order and shall prohibit the further disclosure of the data. No data may be retained beyond the termination date of the agreement; and any disclosure of data derived from the accessed confidential data must be approved by NMFS.

5. Each agreement shall be reviewed by GC prior to its execution, and shall, to the extent possible, be consistent with the model agreement contained in Appendix D (Not included --WebEd).

f. Submitters. The Privacy Act allows for data to be released back to the submitter upon receipt and verification of a written request stating the data required.

04. Requests for Confidential Data. NMFS is authorized to collect data under various statutes [See Appendix A (Not include --WebEd)]. Two types of statutes govern the disclosure of confidential data collected by the Federal Government, those that contain specific and non-discretionary language within the Act, and those that provide overall guidance to the Federal Government. Sections of these Acts that deal with exceptions to disclosure may be found in Appendix B (Not included -- WebEd).

a. Magnuson Act and MMPA.

1. Data collected under 16 U.S.C. 1853 (a) or (b), and 16 U.S.C. 1383a (c),(d),(e),(f),or (h) will be handled in the following manner:

(a) data will only be disclosed to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for management plan development and monitoring; State employees pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person; a Council for conservation and management purposes [not applicable for MMPA data] or when required by court order. [See 50 CFR 229.10 and part 603];

(b) Council advisory groups are not permitted access to such confidential data [See 50 CFR 601.27(b)];

(c) requests from States that do not have an agreement with the Secretary will be processed in accordance with the Privacy Act or FOIA; and

(d) data collected by an observer under 16 U.S.C. 1853 (a) or (b) are not considered to have been "submitted to the Secretary by any person," and therefore are not confidential under Section 6.04.a of this Order. Data collected by an observer may be withheld from disclosure under the Privacy Act, or subsections (b)(3),(4),(5),(6), or (7) of FOIA.

2. Confidential data submitted to the Secretary under other Sections of the Magnuson Act or MMPA may only be disclosed in accordance with the Privacy Act or FOIA. Types of data and the collection authority may include among others:

(a) Processed Product Data -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e);

(b) Fish Meal and Oil, Monthly -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e);

(c) Data Collected Under State Authority and Provided to NMFS -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e); and

(d) Tuna-Dolphin Observer Program -- 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.

b. **South Pacific Tuna Act.** Data collected under South Pacific Tuna Act 16 U.S.C. 973j is protected from disclosure to the public in accordance with section 973j(b).

c. **Other Statutes.** Confidential data collected under other NMFS programs as authorized by statutes other than South Pacific Tuna Act (16 U.S.C 973j), MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), may only be disclosed to the public in accordance with the Privacy Act and FOIA. Types of data and the collection authority may include among others:

- (1) Monthly Cold Storage Fish Report -- 16 U.S.C. 742(a);
- (2) Market News Data -- 16 U.S.C. 742(a); and
- (3) Seafood Inspection Data -- 7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.

d. Special Procedures.

1. **Cold Storage Summary Reports.** NMFS publishes monthly cold storage holdings of fishery products. Advance knowledge of the content of these reports could give those who trade in the products an opportunity to gain competitive advantage. Therefore, in addition to the confidential protection provided to individual reports, the monthly summary report will not be disclosed to the public until 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time of the official release date. Release dates for these data are published 1 year in advance in November, and can be obtained from the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division.

2. **Surplus commodity purchases by USDA.** NMFS and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) have an interagency agreement relating to the purchase of surplus fishery products. NMFS is responsible for providing confidential data and recommendations to the USDA regarding these purchases. Advance knowledge of these data could cause a competitive advantage or disadvantage to the general public, fishing industry, and the program. Therefore, all NMFS personnel engaged in the surplus commodity purchase program will be required to sign a specific "USDA Responsibility Statement." A copy will be maintained in the Office of Trade Services.

3. **Agreements for Disclosure of Confidential Data.** A letter of agreement may authorize the disclosure of confidential data when both the Government and the submitter agree to disclosure of the data. The need to provide security for the data will vary depending on the type of data collected and the form of the disclosure. Disclosure can be undertaken if all the following conditions are met:

- (a) the person has agreed in writing to the disclosure and is aware that disclosure is irrevocable;
- (b) the recipient has been informed in writing of the sensitivity of the data; and
- (c) the wording of the agreement has been approved by GC.

.05 Disposal. NAO 205-1, NOAA Records Management Program, shall govern the disposition of records covered under this Order.

SECTION 7. PENALTIES.

.01 **Civil and Criminal.** Persons who make unauthorized disclosure of confidential data may be subject to civil penalties or criminal prosecution under:

- a. Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905);
- b. Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1));
- c. Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1858); and
- d. MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1375).

.02 **Conflict of Interest.** Employees are prohibited by Department of Commerce employee conduct regulations [15 CFR part 0] and by ethics regulations applicable to the Executive Branch [5 CFR 2635.703] from using nonpublic information subject to this Order for personal gain, whether or not there is a disclosure to a third party.

.03 **Disciplinary Action.** Persons may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal, for failure to comply with this Order. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, unlawful disclosure or use of the data, and failure to comply with implementing regulations or statutory prohibitions relating to the collection, maintenance, use and disclosure of data covered by this Order.

SECTION 8. EFFECT ON OTHER ISSUANCES. None.

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.

Article 24.

Trade Secrets Protection Act.

§ 66-152. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Misappropriation" means acquisition, disclosure, or use of a trade secret of another without express or implied authority or consent, unless such trade secret was arrived at by independent development, reverse engineering, or was obtained from another person with a right to disclose the trade secret.
- (2) "Person" means an individual, corporation, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, or any other legal or commercial entity.
- (3) "Trade secret" means business or technical information, including but not limited to a formula, pattern, program, device, compilation of information, method, technique, or process that:
 - a. Derives independent actual or potential commercial value from not being generally known or readily ascertainable through independent development or reverse engineering by persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and
 - b. Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

The existence of a trade secret shall not be negated merely because the information comprising the trade secret has also been developed, used, or owned independently by more than one person, or licensed to other persons. (1981, c. 890, s. 1.)

§ 66-153. Action for misappropriation.

The owner of a trade secret shall have remedy by civil action for misappropriation of his trade secret. (1981, 890, s. 1.)

§ 66-154. Remedies.

(a) Except as provided herein, actual or threatened misappropriation of a trade secret may be preliminarily enjoined during the pendency of the action and shall be permanently enjoined upon judgment finding misappropriation for the period that the trade secret exists plus an additional period as the court may deem necessary under the circumstances to eliminate any inequitable or unjust advantage arising from the misappropriation.

- (1) If the court determines that it would be unreasonable to enjoin use after a judgment finding misappropriation, an injunction may condition such use upon payment of a reasonable royalty for any period the court may deem just. In appropriate circumstances, affirmative acts to protect the trade secret may be compelled by order of the court.
- (2) A person who in good faith derives knowledge of a trade secret from or through misappropriation or by mistake, or any other person subsequently acquiring the trade secret therefrom or thereby, shall be enjoined from disclosing the trade secret, but no damages shall be awarded against any person for any misappropriation prior to the time the person knows or has reason to know that it is a trade secret. If the person has substantially changed his position in good faith reliance upon the availability of the trade secret for future use, he shall not be enjoined from using the trade secret but may be required to pay a reasonable royalty as deemed just by the court. If the person has acquired inventory through such knowledge or use of a trade secret, he can dispose of the inventory without payment of royalty. If his use of the trade secret has no adverse economic effect upon the owner of the trade secret, the only available remedy shall be an injunction against disclosure.

(b) In addition to the relief authorized by subsection (a), actual damages may be recovered, measured by the economic loss or the unjust enrichment caused by misappropriation of a trade secret, whichever is greater.

(c) If willful and malicious misappropriation exists, the trier of fact also may award punitive damages in its discretion.

(d) If a claim of misappropriation is made in bad faith or if willful and malicious misappropriation exists, the court may award reasonable attorneys' fees to the prevailing party. (1981, c. 890, s. 1.)

§ 66-155. Burden of proof.

Misappropriation of a trade secret is prima facie established by the introduction of substantial evidence that the person against whom relief is sought both:

- (1) Knows or should have known of the trade secret; and
- (2) Has had a specific opportunity to acquire it for disclosure or use or has acquired, disclosed, or used it without the express or implied consent or authority of the owner.

This prima facie evidence is rebutted by the introduction of substantial evidence that the person against whom relief is sought acquired the information comprising the trade secret by independent development, reverse engineering, or it was obtained from another person with a right to disclose the trade secret. This section shall not be construed to deprive the person against whom relief is sought of any other defenses provided under the law. (1981, c. 890, s. 1.)

§ 66-156. Preservation of secrecy.

In an action under this Article, a court shall protect an alleged trade secret by reasonable steps which may include granting protective orders in connection with discovery proceedings, holding in-camera hearings, sealing the records of the action subject to further court order, and ordering any person who gains access to an alleged trade secret during the litigation not to disclose such alleged trade secret without prior court approval. (1981, c. 890, s. 1.)

§ 66-157. Statute of limitations.

An action for misappropriation of a trade secret must be commenced within three years after the misappropriation complained of is or reasonably should have been discovered. (1981, c. 890, s. 1.)

§§ 66-158 through 66-162. Reserved for future codification purposes.

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 Charles L. Cooper, (301) 713-2396 or charles.cooper@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

U.S. commercial fishermen may file claims for compensation for losses or damage to fishing gear or vessels, plus 50 percent of resulting economic losses, attributable to oil and gas activities on the U.S. outer continental shelf. To obtain compensation, applicants must comply with requirements set forth in 50 CFR part 296. The requirements include a report within 15 days of the date the vessel returns to port after the incident, to gain a presumption of eligible causation and to receive an application form.

II. Method of Collection

Paper forms are used for applications, and 15-day reports are made by telephone.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0082.

Form Number: NOAA Forms 88-164, 88-166.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 hours for an application, and 5 minutes for a 15-day report.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,008.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$500.

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 27, 2007.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-23309 Filed 11-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Foreign Fishing Vessel Permit Applications

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

ACTION: Notice.

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 1, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Robert Dickinson, (301) 713-2276 or Bob.Dickinson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Section 204 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and regulations at 50 CFR part 600, Subpart F, provide for the issuance of fishing permits to foreign vessels. The information submitted in fishing applications is used to determine whether permits should be issued to authorize directed foreign fishing, participation in joint ventures with U.S.

vessels, or transshipments of fish or fish products within U.S. waters.

II. Method of Collection

Paper forms are used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0089.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6.

Estimated Time per Response: One and one half hours for an application for a directed fishery; 2 hours for a joint venture application; and 45 minutes for a transshipment permit.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,442.

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 27, 2007.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-23310 Filed 11-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Pacific Albacore Logbook

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

ACTION: Notice.

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 1, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to John Childers, (858) 546-7192 or John.Childers@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Southwest Fisheries Science Center operates a Pacific Albacore Data Collection Program. Fishermen participating in the Pacific albacore tuna fishery are required to complete and submit logbooks documenting their catch and effort on fishing trips. This is a requirement under the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan and the High-Seas Fisheries Compliance Act permit for logbook submissions. The information obtained is used by the agency to assess the status of albacore stocks and to monitor the fishery. Fishermen are also provided an electronic logbook that they can voluntarily use in place of the hard copy logbook.

II. Method of Collection

A logbook form is used that consists of a front page form that collects vessel characteristics and a log sheet form that collects daily fishing information. An electronic version of the hard copy form is also made available. Use of the electronic form is voluntary.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0223.

Form Number: NOAA Form 88-197.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,560.

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 27, 2007.

Gwennar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-23313 Filed 11-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE17

Marine Mammals; File No. 10040

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Gary Matson, Matson's Laboratory, LLC, PO Box 308, 8140 Flagler Road, Milltown, MT 5985, has been issued a scientific research permit to receive, import and export marine mammal specimens for scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1,

Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 11, 2007, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 51803) that a request for a scientific research permit had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The permit authorizes the receipt, import and export of teeth and prepared microscope slides obtained from seal and sea lion species, except walrus (Order Pinnipedia). The Matson Laboratory provides age related data to researchers and biologists. Age data are used in population modeling, with age structure an indicator of population condition. Teeth are sent to the laboratory for cementum age analysis. The number of teeth varies depending upon the nature of the project, from a single tooth to several hundred from a legal harvest; no more than 2000 teeth will be analyzed annually. Import and export authority is requested for all locations wherever pinnipeds occur and are the subject of government-authorized research and/or harvest. Principally, these locations are expected to be those within the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. There will be no incidental takes of non-target species. A permit has been issued for five years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.