

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 01/29/2009

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 06/19/2008

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200806-0648-010
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Report
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0247

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: 01/31/2012

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	12,000	360	0
New	12,000	400	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	40	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

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

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Report	88-162	Tag and acknowledgement and recapture NMFS letters	

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

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

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

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

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

When a tagged fish is recaptured, the tag has the address of NMFS and a tag number. The person with the tagged fish can mail the tag to NMFS, where information on the fish is recorded and matched with the release data. This activity is covered by OMB Control No. 0648-0259, Tag Recapture Card.

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

Information on each species is used by NMFS to determine migratory patterns, distance traveled, stock boundaries, age, and growth. These data are necessary input for developing management criteria by regional fishery management councils, states, and NMFS. The tag report cards are necessary to provide tags to the volunteer angler, record when and where the fish was tagged, the species, its estimated length and weight, tag number, and information on the tagger for follow-ups if the tagged fish is recovered.

Failure to obtain these data would make management decisions very difficult and would be contrary to the NMFS Marine Recreational Fishing policy objectives.

Anglers are made aware of our tagging program through several forms of media: newspaper and magazine articles, through both The Billfish Foundation and the Southeast Fisheries Science Centers websites, peer review papers, and by word of mouth. Anglers who wish to obtain tag

kits or report recaptured tags can contact the cooperative tagging center via phone at 800-437-3936, or via written request sent to:

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

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

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

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

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

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

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

Small entities are not involved.

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

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

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

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

8. Provide 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 January 22, 2008 (73 FR 3696) solicited public comment on this renewal.

One comment was received.. The commenter suggested that there is no reason to continue this project, because in the past 50 years we should have learned fish migration patterns and fish do not change their migration patterns.

The fact is that the cooperative tagging program is an essential tool used by NOAA and International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to determine stocks and quotas. Sometimes there are shifts in migration patterns and fishing effort. Over time, more fishing hot spots are being discovered, and tagging in these areas sheds new light on how the fish are interacting with these areas. We also continue to learn more about the longevity of these fish. The tagging program has discovered that sailfish live more than twice as long as previously thought. Lastly, the cooperative tagging continues to be a great outreach program, where scientists can continue to work with the public to further our knowledge of these vulnerable species.

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

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

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

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

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

No sensitive questions are asked.

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

Estimated responses per year: 12,000
Mean time/response: 0.03 hours or 2 minutes
Total hours: 400 (12,000 x 2 minutes/60 minutes).

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

None

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

Annualized cost to the Federal Government. Annual cost of operation of the Cooperative Tagging Center:

Equipment = \$40,000

Labor = \$97,800

GS 14 (0.3yr) = \$31,400

GS 11 (0.5yr) = \$30,000

GS 9 (0.5yr) = \$26,000

Contractor = \$10,400

Total cost = \$137,800.

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

There is an adjustment from 360 hours to 400 hours, as the time per response is more accurately shown as 2 minutes (formerly 1.8 minutes).

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

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

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

Not applicable.

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

There are no exceptions.

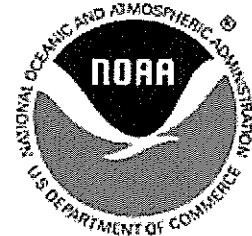
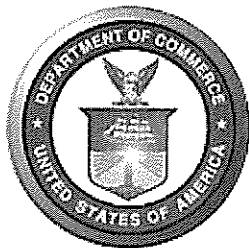
B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

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

ED DWYER
4440 JAMES RD.

COCOA BEACH FL 32926
UNITED STATES



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

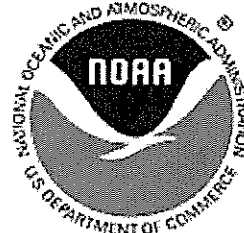
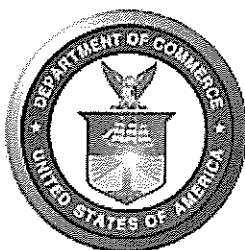
Tag Number	Species	Tag Date	Location
MIA HM053463	TUNA,YELLOWFIN	2001-06-22	28.5 -80.33

Photo courtesy of Guy Harvey

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

RON CRISP
 79 OSTROM RD.

EAST FALMOUTH MA
 02563 UNITED STATES



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

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

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

Eric Orbesen
 Fishery Biologist
 Cooperative Tagging Center

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

Photo courtesy of Guy Harvey

Fish Tagging Report

(PLEASE PRINT)

NOAA FORM 88-162 F/SEC U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (11/80)
OMB Approved No. 0648-0247 NOAA-NMFS Expires 06/30/2008

Please complete and return card as soon as possible

Tagging Date

Species

Tag No.

HM 074000

Tagging Location (Lat. and Long. Preferred)

Length (in.)

LJFL Meas.
 TL Est.

Fish Conditions/Remarks



Hooks Removed

Fighting Time

Gear Type

Weight (lbs.)

Meas.
 Est.

Yes No, leader cut

____ Hr. ____ Min.

Angler

Captain

Address

Address

City/State/Zip

City/State/Zip

Send more tags to

Captain

Angler

Quantity: _____

This report is authorized by law U.S.C.P. (16 U.S.C. 1601). While you are not required to respond, your cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate and timely. Thank you for your contribution.

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

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

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

From the U.S. Code Online via GPO Access

[Laws in effect as of January 24, 2002]

[Document not affected by Public Laws enacted between January 24, 2002 and December 19, 2002]

[CITE: 16USC760e]

TITLE 16--CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 9A--PRESERVATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES

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

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

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

Transfer of Functions

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

Section Referred to in Other Sections

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

(b) TRAINING.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the appropriate States and the National Sea Grant College Program, shall—

(1) establish programs to ensure that each observer receives adequate training in collecting and analyzing the information necessary for the conservation and management purposes of the fishery to which such observer is assigned;

(2) require that an observer demonstrate competence in fisheries science and statistical analysis at a level sufficient to enable such person to fulfill the responsibilities of the position;

(3) ensure that an observer has received adequate training in basic vessel safety; and

(4) make use of university and any appropriate private nonprofit organization training facilities and resources, where possible, in carrying out this subsection.

(c) OBSERVER STATUS.—An observer on a vessel and under contract to carry out responsibilities under this Act or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) shall be deemed to be a Federal employee for the purpose of compensation under the Federal Employee Compensation Act (5 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.).

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SEC. 404 FISHERIES RESEARCH

16 U.S.C. 1881c

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

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Within one year after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, and at least every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop and publish in the Federal Register a strategic plan for fisheries research for the 5 years immediately following such publication. The plan shall—

(1) identify and describe a comprehensive program with a limited number of priority objectives for research in each of the areas specified in subsection (c);

(2) indicate goals and timetables for the program described in paragraph (1);

(3) provide a role for commercial fishermen in such research, including involvement in field testing;

(4) provide for collection and dissemination, in a timely manner, of complete and accurate information concerning fishing activities, catch, effort, stock assessments, and other research conducted under this section; and

(5) be developed in cooperation with the Councils and affected States, and provide for coordination with the Councils, affected States, and other research entities.

16 U.S.C. 1881c-1881d
MSA §§ 404-405

(c) AREAS OF RESEARCH.—Areas of research are as follows:

(1) Research to support fishery conservation and management, including but not limited to, biological research concerning the abundance and life history parameters of stocks of fish, the interdependence of fisheries or stocks of fish, the identification of essential fish habitat, the impact of pollution on fish populations, the impact of wetland and estuarine degradation, and other factors affecting the abundance and availability of fish.

(2) Conservation engineering research, including the study of fish behavior and the development and testing of new gear technology and fishing techniques to minimize bycatch and any adverse effects on essential fish habitat and promote efficient harvest of target species.

(3) Research on the fisheries, including the social, cultural, and economic relationships among fishing vessel owners, crew, United States fish processors, associated shoreside labor, seafood markets and fishing communities.

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

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

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SEC. 405. INCIDENTAL HARVEST RESEARCH

16 U.S.C. 1881d

(a) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Within nine months after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall, after consultation with the Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council, conclude the collection of information in the program to assess the impact on fishery resources of incidental harvest by the shrimp trawl fishery within the authority of such Councils. Within the same time period, the Secretary shall make available to the public aggregated summaries of information collected prior to June 30, 1994 under such program.

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

(c) **COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC STOCK INFORMATION.**—For stocks of fish identified pursuant to subsection (b), with priority given to stocks which (based upon the best available scientific information) are considered to be overfished, the Secretary shall conduct—

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

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

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

(d) **BYCATCH REDUCTION PROGRAM.**—Not later than 12 months after the enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall, in cooperation with affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, complete a program to—

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

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

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

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

(f) **IMPLEMENTATION CRITERIA.**—To the extent practicable, any conservation and management measure implemented under this Act to reduce the incidental mortality of bycatch in the course of shrimp trawl fishing shall be consistent with—

(1) measures applicable to fishing throughout the range in United States waters of the bycatch species concerned; and

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

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.

DOC/NOAA Privacy Act Systems of Records

System name: Fishermen's Statistical Data--COMMERCE/NOAA-6.

System location: Data Management and Information Systems Division, NMFS, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington, DC 20235; and the following field locations of the National Marine Fisheries Services:

Northeast Fisheries Center, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543

Southeast Fisheries Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149

Southwest Fisheries Center, PO Box 271, LaJolla, California 92038

Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard, East, Seattle, Washington 98112

Northeast Regional Office, 14 Elm Street, Federal Building, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Southeast Regional Office, 9450 Gandy Boulevard, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Southwest Regional Office, 300 South Ferry Street, Terminal Island, California 90731

Northwest Regional Office, 1700 Westlake Avenue, North, Seattle, Washington 98105

Alaska Regional Office, PO Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802

Categories of individuals covered by the system: Marine recreational and commercial fishermen, owners/operators of registered/documented boats and vessels.

Categories of records in the system: a. Marine recreational fishermen catches by species, length, weight, area of capture, disposition of catch, and expenses and other trip records.

b. Fishery Management Plan data consist of such data as: Individual's name, address, telephone number, sex, age group, and income group, obtained in fishing censuses. Other data contain boat and vessel registration information, including owner and operator, vessel characteristics, gear types, and area fished.

Authority for maintenance of the system: a. Fish and Wildlife Act as amended (16 U.S.C. 742 et seq.). b. Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1852).

Routine uses of records maintained in the system, including categories of users and the purposes of such uses: a. See routine use paragraphs 1-5, 9, and 12 of the Prefatory Statement. b. Data in the system are required for the development and monitoring of fishery management plans.

Policies and practices for storing, retrieving, accessing, retaining, and disposing of records in the system: Storage:

Paper copy, punch cards, mag-tape, and disc files. Retrievability: Filed alphabetically by name.

Safeguards: Personnel indoctrination and screening; secured offices; and entrance into the computer system to obtain individual records would require detailed knowledge of in-house ADP procedures by a skilled computer programmer.

Retention and disposal: Records are permanently maintained.

System manager(s) and address: Executive Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3300 Whitehaven Street, Washington, DC 20235.

Notification procedure: Information may be obtained from: Assistant Administrator for Management and Budget, NOAA, 6010 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Requester should provide name pursuant to the inquiry provisions of the Department's rules which appear in 15 CFR part 4b.

Record access procedures: Requests from individuals should be addressed to: Same address as stated in the notification section above.

Contesting record procedures: The Department's rules for access, for contesting contents, and appealing initial determinations by the individual concerned appear in 15 CFR part 4b. Use above address.

Record source categories: Subject individuals.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Report**

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

ACTION: Notice.

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 24, 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 Eric Orbesen, (305) 361-4253 or Eric.Orbesen@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The Cooperative Tagging Center, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA attempts to determine the migration patterns and other biological information of billfish, tunas, and swordfish. Fishermen volunteer to tag and release their catch. The fish tagging report is provided to the angler with the tags, and he/she fills out the card with the information when a fish is tagged. Besides the tag number, the card request name, address, date, and club affiliation (if applicable). The card is then mailed back to NMFS where the data is stored.

II. Method of Collection

Information is submitted by mail.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0247.

Form Number: NOAA form 88-162.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 12,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 360.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

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

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

Dated: January 15, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information.

[FR Doc. E8-914 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southeast Region Bycatch Reduction Device Certification Family of Forms**

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 March 24, 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 Jason Rueter, (727) 824-5350 or jason.rueter@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

Any person seeking to obtain certification for bycatch reduction devices (BRD) to be used on shrimp vessels in the Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic must apply for authorization to conduct tests and submit the test results. Persons seeking certification to be observers for such tests in the Gulf of Mexico must file an application and provide three references. The information is needed for NOAA to determine if the equipment meets the standards that would allow its use in commercial fisheries.

II. Method of Collection

Paper applications and telephone calls are required from participants, and methods of submittal include mailing and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0345.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.
Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 32.

Estimated Time per Response: Pre-certification and certification applications, 2 hours and 20 minutes; pre-certification data collection, 3 hours; vessel information form, trip report/cover sheet and duplication/ mailing of independent BRD tests, 30 minutes; gear specification form, station sheet and station sheet tuning forms, Turtle Excluder Device/BRD specification form, length frequency form, condition and fate form, 20 minutes; species characterization form and program receipt form, 5 hours; sea turtle form, 15 minutes; final reports, 4 hours; testing, 4 hours; observer certifications and observer references, 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,899.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$306,495 in capital and recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information