

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 08/22/2008

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 03/26/2008

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200803-0648-004
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Northeast Region Vessel Identification Requirements
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0350
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 08/31/2011 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	5,500	4,125	55,000
New	6,000	4,500	60,000
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	500	375	5,000
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
Northeast Region Vessel Identification Requirements			50 CFR 697.8

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
NORTHEAST REGION VESSEL IDENTIFICATION
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0350**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

Regulations at [50 CFR § 648.8](#) and [§ 697.8](#) require that vessels over 25 ft in registered length, with Federal permits to fish in the Northeast, display the vessel's name and official number. The success of fisheries management programs depends upon regulatory compliance. The vessel identification requirement, which is required of all Federally permitted fishing vessels in the Northeast region, is essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing or other activity to a vessel owner or operator is crucial to the enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act ([Magnuson Act](#)) as amended in 2006. By being able to identify vessels, enforcement personnel can easily identify Federal permit holders that are fishing in restricted areas and/or during restricted times.

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.

No information is directly submitted to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) as a result of this collection. The vessel name must be affixed to the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. This identification allows law enforcement personnel, including U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, and state marine patrols, to ascertain whether the vessel's observed activities are in accordance with those authorized for that vessel. Concerned fishermen also use the number to report suspicious activities that they observe. Fishermen ultimately benefit as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred, which reduces the need for more restrictive fishing regulations.

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.

This identification requirement facilitates the visual identification of fishing vessels. Although technologies have been developed to electronically identify and monitor vessels, this form of vessel identification is indispensable. The visual collection of the vessel identification characters by law enforcement personnel may involve binoculars or other sight enhancement technology.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There is no duplication of this requirement with other collections by NOAA Fisheries. However, the U.S. Coast Guard and many states require the same identification of vessel name and official

number. These requirements are complementary and do not create additional nor duplicative requirements.

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

Nearly all the commercial fishing vessels subject to this information collection are categorized as small businesses. It is not anticipated that the information collection will have any significant impact on the operations of small businesses.

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

If commercial fishing vessels were not identifiable by the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Coast Guard, or any other cooperating enforcement agency the ability to enforce fishery regulations would be significantly impaired. The requirements of this collection are only repeated once the identification markings become illegible.

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

No special circumstances require the collections to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the 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 October 17, 2007 (72 FR 58812) solicited public comments. No comments were received.

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

No payments or gifts are provided to respondents as part of this collection.

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

Vessel identification is not considered confidential information and thus no confidentiality is provided.

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 as a part of this collection.

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

The commercial fishing vessel's official number must be displayed at a specified size on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and on a weather deck. It is estimated that each vessel will require a total of 45 minutes to paint the number in all three required locations. Each number is expected to need to be touched up or repainted on an annual basis. Table 1 provides a summary of annual burden for vessel identification. This comes to approximately 4,500 hours (45 min x 6,000 vessels).

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

The cost to the respondents is minimal. Materials needed are paint and paintbrush, and possibly a stencil. The cost of materials each year for painting/repainting can be estimated to be \$10 per respondent, totaling \$60,000. It is anticipated that repainting or repairs would occur annually due to natural weathering of the paint. Table 1 provides a summary of annual costs for vessel identification.

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

There are no costs attributed to the Federal government resulting from this collection.

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

The number of respondents, federally permitted commercial fishing vessels, has been adjusted upward by 500 respondents due to the number of permitted vessels greater than or equal to 25 feet in overall length, currently listed in the permit database. The total number of respondents and responses is now estimated to be 6,000 per year, with a corresponding increase of 375 hours (from 4,125 to 4,500) and an increase of \$5,000 (from \$50,500 to \$60,000).

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

This collection will not produce any results that will be published.

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.

This information collection does not utilize any forms to display the OMB approval expiration date.

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

There are no exceptions to the certification statement requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection will not employ statistical methods.

Table 1. Cost Table

Collection	Number of Entities	Items per Entity	Total Number of Items	Cost (\$) of Materials per vessel	Response Time (Hours)	Total Burden (Hours)	Cost (\$) to Government	Cost (\$) to Public
Vessel Identification requirements	6,000	1	6,000	10	0.75 (45 minutes)	4,500	0	60,000

e-CFR Data is current as of March 11, 2008

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 648—FISHERIES OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES Subpart A— General Provisions

§ 648.8 Vessel identification.

(a) *Vessel name and official number.* Each fishing vessel subject to this part and over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length must:

(1) Affix permanently its name on the port and starboard sides of the bow and, if possible, on its stern.

(2) Display its official number on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be clearly visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. The official number is the USCG documentation number or the vessel's state registration number for vessels not required to be documented under title 46 U.S.C.

(b) *Numerals.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the official number must be displayed in block arabic numerals in contrasting color at least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in height for fishing vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) in registered length, and at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in height for all other vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length. The registered length of a vessel, for purposes of this section, is that registered length set forth in USCG or state records.

(c) *Duties of owner.* The owner of each vessel subject to this part shall ensure that—

(1) The vessel's name and official number are kept clearly legible and in good repair.

(2) No part of the vessel, its rigging, its fishing gear, or any other object obstructs the view of the official number from any enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(d) *Non-permanent marking.* Vessels carrying recreational fishing parties on a per capita basis or by charter must use markings that meet the above requirements, except for the requirement that they be affixed permanently to the vessel. The non-permanent markings must be displayed in conformity with the above requirements.

(e) *New Jersey surf clam or ocean quahog vessels.* Instead of complying with paragraph (a) of this section, surf clam or ocean quahog vessels licensed under New Jersey law may use the appropriate vessel identification markings established by that state.

e-CFR Data is current as of March 7, 2008

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 697—ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 697.8 Vessel identification.

(a) *Vessel name and official number.* Each fishing vessel issued a limited access American lobster permit and over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length must:

- (1) Have affixed permanently its name on the port and starboard sides of the bow and, if possible, on its stern.
- (2) Have its official number displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be clearly visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. The official number is the USCG documentation number or the vessel's state registration number for vessels not required to be documented under title 46 U.S.C.

(b) *Numerals.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, each fishing vessel issued a limited access American lobster permit must display its official number in block Arabic numerals in contrasting color at least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in height for fishing vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) in registered length, and at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in height for all other vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length. The registered length of a vessel, for purposes of this section, is that registered length set forth in USCG or state records.

(c) *Duties of owner.* The owner of each vessel issued a limited access American lobster permit shall ensure that—

- (1) The vessel's name and official number are kept clearly legible and in good repair.
- (2) No part of the vessel, its rigging, its fishing gear, or any other object obstructs the view of the official number from any enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(d) *Non-permanent marking.* Vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length, fishing in the EEZ and carrying recreational fishing parties on a per capita basis or by charter must use markings that meet the above requirements, except for the requirement that they be affixed permanently to the vessel. The nonpermanent markings must be displayed in conformity with the aforementioned requirements.

For questions or comments regarding e-CFR editorial content, features, or design, email ecfr@nara.gov.

For questions concerning e-CFR programming and delivery issues, email webteam@gpo.gov.

[Section 508 / Accessibility](#)

U.S. groundfish fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Washington, Oregon and California under the Pacific Coast Fishery Management Plan. In its consideration of a groundfish trawl rationalization program, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) has requested that NMFS collect detailed information for owners of trawl endorsed limited entry permits in order to develop an appropriate policy. The recent reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) placed a deadline on the PFMC to complete its consideration of the trawl rationalization program. Further, the MSA (Section 303A(5)(B)(ii)) requires that the Secretary of Commerce consider procedures to address concerns over excessive geographic and/or other consolidation in harvesting and processing sectors of the fishery. NMFS would request that all trawl endorsed permit owners who are business entities to provide the names of individuals who have an ownership interest in the entity and the percentage of interest held in the entity by such individuals. This information would be requested annually on a voluntary basis.

In addition, NMFS would revise its existing sablefish ownership interest form to request that all business entities who own or hold a sablefish permit to provide the percentage of ownership interest each individual has in the business entity. This information about the percentage of ownership interest by an individual would be requested on a voluntary basis.

II. Method of Collection

Paper applications would be provided to potential respondents and the methods of submission would include fax or mail.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0203.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit

institutions; and business or other for-profits organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 90.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes to prepare and mail response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 45 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$64,677.

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: October 11, 2007.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-20410 Filed 10-16-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Northeast Region Vessel Identification Requirements

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 17, 2007.

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 Ryan Silva, 978-281-9300 or Ryan.Silva@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Regulations at 50 CFR 648.8 and 697.8 require that owners of vessels over 25 ft. (7.6 m) in registered length that have Federal permits to fish in the Northeast Region display the vessel's name and official number. The name and number must be of a specific size at specified locations. The display of the identifying characters aids in fishery law enforcement.

II. Method of Collection

No information is submitted to NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as a result of this collection. The vessel name must be affixed to the port and starboard sides of the bow and, if possible, on its stern. The official number must be displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be clearly visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0350.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 45 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,500 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$60,000.

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: October 11, 2007.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-20411 Filed 10-16-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[FY2009–FY2014]

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Human Dimensions Strategic Plan

AGENCY: National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of availability of the NCCOS Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2009–FY2014) and responses to public comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA publishes this notice to announce the availability of the NCCOS Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2009–FY2014) and provide responses to public comments requested through a **Federal Register** Notice (*Notice of availability and solicitation of public comments on the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–FY2013)*, 72 FR 7418–7419 (Feb. 15, 2007)).

DATES: The NCCOS Human Dimensions Strategic Plan is effective FY2009–FY2014.

ADDRESSES: The NCCOS Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2009–FY2014) is available electronically at <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/human/strategy/NCCOSHDPlan.pdf>. Hard copies of the plan may be obtained by sending a request to nccos.hd@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marybeth Bauer, PhD, by e-mail at nccos.hd@noaa.gov (preferred) or mail at NOAA National Ocean Service, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, 1305 East-West Highway, NOS HQTR Route N/SCI, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of NCCOS is to provide coastal managers and other decisionmakers with scientific information and tools needed to balance society's environmental, social, and economic goals in mitigating and adapting to ecosystem stressors such as climate change, extreme natural events,

pollution, invasive species, and resource use. Humans are integral to ecosystems, and the human dimensions of ecosystems are an integral focus of the science needed to achieve this mission. Understanding the impact of humans on the ocean, the impacts of the ocean on humans, and the human aspects of ocean governance provides the scientific basis for ensuring ocean health and quality of life for this and future generations.

Marine science and policy institutions in the United States and worldwide recognize that a deeper understanding of the human dimensions of ecosystems—human causes, consequences, and responses to ecosystem stress—is needed to foster improved support for coastal and ocean decisionmaking. Examples include the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources, United States Commission on Ocean Policy, Pew Oceans Commission, and NOAA's External Ecosystem Task Team.

The NCCOS Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2009–FY2014) establishes goals and objectives for fostering improved support of coastal and ocean decisionmaking by integrating human dimensions into the NCCOS's science program. It provides the basis for subsequent development of an implementation plan specifying programmatic elements such as strategies, outcomes, partnerships, and fiscal and human resources needs.

Comments and Responses: On February 15, 2007, NCCOS published a notice of availability and solicitation of public comments on a Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (*Notice of availability and solicitation of public comments on the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–FY2013)*, 72 FR 7418–7419 (Feb. 15, 2007)). During the 30-day public comment period, NCCOS received the following comments from the City of Craig, Alaska; Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education; Island Resources Foundation; New Jersey Marine Science Consortium; NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology; NOAA's National Ocean Service, Coastal and Ocean Resource Economics Program; NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Office of Weather and Air Quality and Climate Program Office; NOAA's Research Council; and University of Massachusetts-Amherst Human Dimensions of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Program. In response to

comments received, NCCOS revised the Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan as follows.

General Comments

Comment 1: Several commenters commended NCCOS on taking this first step toward integrating the human element into coastal management and the required supporting scientific efforts.

Response: NCCOS appreciates this encouragement and advocacy from its coastal science and management partners, and looks forward to working with them to implement human dimensions research priorities.

Comment 2: Several commenters stated that the document is too long and recommended eliminating redundancy.

Response: NCCOS considerably reduced the length of the document and eliminated redundancy. To accommodate diverse levels of interest, NCCOS formatted the plan to describe each strategic objective at four levels of detail: A title, summary statement, concise rationale, and discussion. The discussion sections provide justification and explanation of strategic objectives at a level of detail that NCCOS believes is critical to cultivate a workforce that understands, appreciates, and facilitates the mission value of human dimensions research.

Comment 3: Several commenters stated that the document includes excessive social science jargon.

Response: NCCOS minimized social science jargon. However, NCCOS included and defined key technical terms such as socioeconomic driver, ecosystem service, mitigation, non-market value, and resilience. In doing so, NCCOS is responsive to the finding of the Social Science Review Panel to NOAA's Science Advisory Board that developing social science capacity in NOAA is challenged by "a lack of formal understanding of what social science is and what its contributions can be, leading to an organizational culture that is not conducive to social science research." By including and defining key technical terms, NCCOS aims to foster the human dimensions literacy and common language needed to develop an integral human dimensions focus within its science program.

Comment 5: Several commenters stated that the plan should include programmatic elements such as projects, timelines, fiscal and human resource needs, and deliverables.

Response: As explained in the "Future Directions" section of the "Overview," NCCOS wishes to clarify that this plan provides the basis for a