Diana Hynek 05/10/2006
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.

Room 6625

Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for approval of a new information collection received on 03/27/2006.

TITLE: Southern Resident Killer Whale Watching Industry

Socioeconomic Study

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0540

EXPIRATION DATE: 05/31/2009

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	0	0	0
New	293	401	0
Difference	293	401	0
Program Change		401	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

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

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of

Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's

Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. 1. Agency/Subagency originating request 2. OMB control number b. [] None 3. Type of information collection (*check one*) Type of review requested (check one) Regular submission a. [b. [Emergency - Approval requested by ____ a. [] New Collection Delegated b. [] Revision of a currently approved collection c. [] Extension of a currently approved collection 5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [] Yes [] No d. [] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. [] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired 6. Requested expiration date f. [] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number a. [] Three years from approval date b. [] Other Specify: For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions 7. Title 8. Agency form number(s) (if applicable) 9. Keywords 10. Abstract 11. Affected public (Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x") 12. Obligation to respond (check one) a. __Individuals or households d. ___Farms
b. __Business or other for-profite. ___Federal Government] Voluntary Business or other for-profite. Federal Government

Not-for-profit institutions f. State, Local or Tribal Government Required to obtain or retain benefits 1 Mandatory 13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden 14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (in thousands of a. Number of respondents b. Total annual responses a. Total annualized capital/startup costs 1. Percentage of these responses b. Total annual costs (O&M) collected electronically c. Total annualized cost requested c. Total annual hours requested d. Current OMB inventory d. Current OMB inventory e. Difference e. Difference f. Explanation of difference f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change 1. Program change 2. Adjustment 2. Adjustment 16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (check all that apply) 15. Purpose of information collection (Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X") a. [] Recordkeeping b. [] Third party disclosure] Reporting a. ___ Application for benefits Program planning or management 1. [] On occasion 2. [] Weekly Program evaluation f. Research 3. [] Monthly General purpose statistics g. Regulatory or compliance 4. [] Quarterly 5. [] Semi-annually 6. [] Annually 7. [] Biennially 8. [] Other (describe) 18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding 17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods the content of this submission) [] Yes [] No Phone:

OMB 83-I 10/95

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

OMB 83-I 10/95

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

SUPPORTING STATEMENT SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE WATCHING INDUSTRY SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-xxxx

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The study of the 'human dimensions' of marine ecosystems and fisheries has been implemented over the last several years with the addition of social science staff in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. With this increase in staff, come increased efforts to systematically data collection related to human dimensions. Examples of this type of research can be found in the Community Profiling Projects being conducted by social scientists in all regions to describe coastal fishing communities.

The driving factor for this study is the endangered species listing of the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the protected status under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). In conjunction with the SRKW is a whale watching industry -- a human dimension, for which the SRKW are essentially a marine resource. Currently the whale watching industry is not regulated but maintains viewing guidelines for their industry. It has been determined that one of the possible future options to address the ESA and MMPA requirements, may result in regulatory action. At this time, it has not been determined whether or not regulatory action will be required, but in the event it is required, laws require the consideration of human, social, and economic impacts to be addressed.

In this uncertain environment, it is therefore important to understand the social dynamics of the whale watching industry to be appropriately prepared to respond to the possibility of future legal requirements. Information collected will allow the identification and description of the industry and the ability to better address questions of the impacts of regulatory change on the industry. Without this information, questions of impacts would not be able to be adequately addressed. In the event that regulation is not required, the information in this study will still serve a distinct purpose as it will provide a better understanding of the industry. This understanding may lead to voluntary beneficial changes in the industry which may yield benefits to the SRKW. The information may also be duplicated over time to show the status and trends of the industry which again, may lead to beneficial changes in the industry that will assist in the recovery of the SRKW.

NEPA

The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider the interactions of natural and human environments, and the impacts on both systems of any changes due to governmental activities or policies. This consideration is to be done through the use of '...a systematic, interdisciplinary approach that will insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences...in planning and decision-making which may have an impact on man's environment;' (NEPA Section 102 (2) (A)). Under NEPA, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) is required to assess the impacts on the human environment of any federal activity. NEPA specifies that the term 'human environment' shall be

interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment' [NEPA Section 102 (C)] (see Attachment A).

Executive Order 12898

The Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994 on Environmental Justice requires federal agencies to consider the impacts of any action on disadvantaged, at risk and minority populations. To evaluate these impacts, information about the vulnerability of certain stakeholders must be better understood. Indicators of vulnerability can include but are not limited to income, race/ethnicity, household structure, education levels and age. Although some general information related to this issue is available through census and other quantitative data, these sources do not disaggregate those individuals or groups that are affected by changes in marine resource management or the quality of the resource itself. Therefore, other types of data collection tools must be utilized to gather information related to this executive order.

Endangered Species Act

In the event regulatory action is deemed necessary in conjunction with the listing of the SRKW, the ESA requirements will be implemented. The ESA states '...(2) The Secretary shall designate critical habitat, and make revisions thereto, under subsection (a)(3) on the basis of the best scientific data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact, and any other relevant impact, of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. The Secretary may exclude any area from critical habitat if he determines that the benefits of such exclusion outweigh the benefits of specifying such area as part of the critical habitat, unless he determines, based on the best scientific and commercial data available, that the failure to designate such area as critical habitat will result in the extinction of the species concerned.'

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act requires federal agencies to prepare an initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis which '...shall describe the impact of the proposed rule on small entities...'. The initial regulatory flexibility analysis '...shall also contain a description of any significant alternatives to the proposed rule which accomplish the stated objectives of applicable statutes and which minimize any significant economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities. [RegFlex Section 603 (b)(5)(c)]. In addition, each final regulatory flexibility analysis shall contain '...a description of the steps the agency has taken to minimize the significant economic impact on small entities....' [RegFlex Section 604 (a)(5)] (See Attachment D).

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 sought will be of practical use as NMFS social scientists will utilize the information for descriptive and analytical purposes. In addition, in the event of future regulatory action, the information may be utilized by NMFS to meet the requirements of the regulations described above. The survey will collect demographic, some economic, cultural and social information, which is unavailable in other resources.

It should be understood that the SRKW whale watching industry is currently considered a seasonal industry, having low operating seasons from mid April to Memorial Day and after Labor Day to November, peak operating seasons from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and off season from November to April. The survey instrument is designed to take this seasonality into account.

The proposed questionnaire will collect social, cultural and some economic information on members of the U.S. SRKW watching industry. The survey instrument has five sections: 1) demographic information, 2) individual participation, 3) business characteristics, 4) industry trends, and 5) effects on the community. The questionnaire was designed after conducting secondary research, conducting meetings with all Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Northwest Regional Office marine mammal staff, and after discussions with members of the Whale Museum which is a historical resource for information on the SRKW.

The *Demographic Information* section elicits information on the respondent and his/her gender, age, household, marital status, race, ethnicity, level of education, annual income. This standard demographic information will allow us to better understand the unique population of the members of the SRKW watching industry, and allow for the comparison to their larger communities, regional counties, and state. This section also requests additional descriptive information of how income is received. This information may be related to specifics of how the industry operates tours and can then be utilized to better understand impacts on individuals if regulatory actions change how tours are operated. Residential information is also requested to better understand the movement of individuals between different communities during the SRKW watching seasons, which may then describe attachments to a community, local economic growth or decline, and occupational multiplicity.

The *Individual Participation* section seeks to describe the roles of individuals in the industry, their movement throughout the industry, their investment in the industry, how they became active members of the industry, and how they maintain income during the off-season of a seasonal industry. Information in this section will allow us better understand if there are specific occupations that lead to participation in this industry. It will also allow us to describe the industry members and trends of careers throughout the industry. We will also be able to determine commitments to the industry through the longevity of their participation and the flexibility individuals maintain to participate in a seasonal industry.

The *Business Characteristics* section elicits information on the type of business that participates in the industry, formal memberships in organizations that represent the industry, characteristics of vessels in the industry, types of tours provided by industry members, frequency of operations, and types of additional services offered by industry members. Information in this section will help describe the industry and generate a profile of the industry.

The *Industry Trends* section elicits information on respondents' knowledge of the industry and how the industry has grown or changed over time. Questions target information that would help understand the industry's capacity for growth in the future. Additional questions touch on the external influences upon the industry such as non-commercial recreational vessels, and non-U.S. vessels that also view the SRKW. This information combined with historical information obtained through secondary sources will help us describe the industry changes over time and how the industry may be impacted if additional change is mandated through regulation.

The *Effects on the Community* section elicits information on the connections SRKW industry members have within their communities. For example business relationships with other boats, tourism agencies, and shore support. Information gained in this section will assist in the understanding of social networks within the industry and the participating communities, and gain insight into the dependence of the community on the industry.

The goal of the survey with its distinct sections is to provide information on the various aspects of the industry. Aggregate data from the survey instrument can be used to describe the industry and estimate impacts of any future regulations on the industry and respective communities. The information may be used to understand the importance of the industry to the communities and the dependence of the respondents on the industry for a living.

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. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. <u>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.</u>

Data collection will occur primarily through in person surveys which will be provided to individuals to complete in the presence of the survey administrators. If respondents are not available to meet in person, options will be provided to complete the survey via the internet. In the event, the respondent does not have access to the internet, surveys will be mailed to the respondent. If surveys are mailed, methods will be provided for the return of the survey at no cost to the respondent.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

NOAA Fisheries social scientists and contractors work closely with regional academics, community based organizations, industry groups and other parties interested in this type of information. Reviews of existing information are common practice when initiating social science studies. A thorough literature review has identified where similar studies have been initiated and will ensure that efforts are not duplicated. Please see references in Attachment E. An overall strategic research plan will also guide this process and ensure that all data collected is relevant, new, and essential for achieving NOAA fisheries social science goals. Research conducted in the West Coast community profiling project and the Alaska community profiling project will be utilized as a source and guide for information to support this effort.

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

This request includes the collection of data on individuals and those whom may be linked to or represent small businesses. Prior to contacting these respondents, researchers will gather any publicly available answers to the questions. Only those questions that can not be reliably answered through this manner and may change with perspective of the respondent will be asked. In addition, participation in data collection will be voluntary.

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

In the absence of current information on the human dimensions of marine resource use and marine ecosystems, NOAA Fisheries and Regional Councils will be unable to adequately understand and predict the potential impacts of policy decisions on people, particularly those people who do not regularly attend public meetings, but are nonetheless affected by the decisions.

The federal mandates and executive orders described in Section A of this document require the analysis of the impacts that government actions have on the individuals and communities involved in fishing and marine resource related activities. Social impact assessments, analysis of the affected human environment, cumulative impacts as well as the distribution of impacts with a special emphasis on vulnerable or at risk communities are all examples of these requirements. The ability of NOAA Social Scientists to adequately respond to this charge, rests on access to timely and relevant information about the stakeholders involved.

A significant concern related to the quality of these analyses is the risk of being vulnerable to litigation for not fulfilling these mandates and executive orders. Therefore not collecting this information may lead to incomplete representation of the science and information. This could impact the decision making process and negatively impact the communities subject to the decisions.

There is a time constraint to commence the survey due to the beginning of the season for this industry. Activity commences in April and early May, which is considered part of the low season for the industry. The ability to survey individuals who may work only during the low season is critical to obtaining a wide range of perspectives on the industry. After Memorial Day the season becomes the peak season, which may represent a different set of individuals working. Therefore OMB authorization is requested by April 30th, 2006. This will allow sufficient time and flexibility to effectively and efficiently survey participants who work during the low season of the industry. The industry is already small, and we do not wish to reduce the survey respondent base any smaller by missing these participants. This would hinder the study's goal to conduct a full census of the industry members.

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

Information collections are consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those

comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Please find a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the Southern Resident Killer Whale Watching Industry Socioeconomic Study in Attachment F.

One comment was received in response to this notice. The person commenting made no specific inquiries or requests for information about the proposed research. The comment generally spoke to the status of the whales and the agency's action regarding the status of the whales. No direct reference to the socioeconomic study was made. The comment suggested that there are no more physical whales present for observation.

A meeting was conducted with members of the Whale Museum and one of their programs referred to as Soundwatch Boater Education. These individuals have been interacting, studying, observing, and living in the targeted communities and industry for over twenty years. They were informed of the objective of our study which includes an intended survey of the industry. Information on existing data, historical information, complexities of the industry, and their research was discussed. We will maintain contact with the Whale Museum and their programs as a resource to better understand the industry and to minimize any duplication of efforts.

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

There are no plans to provide any payment or gift to respondents.

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

At this time there is no specific statute or regulations that cover confidentiality for this survey. However, the survey has been designed in a manner to keep the information anonymous. No personally identifiable information will be included on the survey proper. The surveys will contain code numbers that will not be associated with the respondent. Respondent names will be kept in a separate document, not linked to the survey proper. Respondent names are being kept for the purpose of avoiding duplication of survey respondents. There will be no connection between any particular name and any particular survey or code number applied to the survey. In addition, all information will be presented in an aggregate form.

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.

There are a few different areas where issues of a potentially sensitive nature will be explored. These are listed and discussed below:

1. <u>Ethnicity and Race</u>: Questions of ethnicity and race are often useful in determining potential environmental justice issues where certain groups are negatively impacted by

governmental regulations that others. In addition, questions of this nature allow for comparisons to U.S. Census demographic data. Comparisons between the study population and other larger populations such as the census designated place, region, state, or nation assist in a description of the study community. Survey questions targeting this type of data are in compliance with OMB regulations.

- 2. Ancestry and Ethnic Origin¹: Questions of ancestry or ethnic origin are also useful in determining environmental justice issues where certain groups are negatively impacted by governmental regulations. In addition, questions of this nature allow for comparisons to U.S. Census demographic data. Comparisons between the study population and other larger populations such as the census designated place, region, state, or nation assist in a description of the study community. This line of questioning will also help determine if there is a specific ethnic group that participates in the industry and any connection this group may have to livelihoods in maritime industries.
- 3. <u>Income:</u> Survey questions inquire about the income and the source of income of the members of the study population. These questions are crucial to understanding the dependence of the study participants on the industry as a source of income. In addition, this information may be compared to information in the U.S. Census to understand how study community compares to local, regional, state, and national populations.
- 4. <u>Business Information:</u> Survey questions inquire about business characteristics of the study population. These questions are necessary to understanding the industry, the dependence of businesses on this industry, the importance of the industry to the local community, and trends within the industry.

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

The total number of burden hours is projected to be approximately 401 hours. The study includes surveys, a small number of interviews with knowledgeable members of the industry, and meetings with industry organizations. With respect to the survey, the estimated number of respondents is 263, and the time to complete the survey per respondent is estimated at 1 hour, for a total survey burden of 263 hours. In addition, an estimated number of 15 interviews are expected to range anywhere from 1 hour to 4 hours, averaging a duration of 2.5 hours. For 15 interviews this would average 37.5 burden hours, and at the maximum 60 hours. Additional burden hours estimated are to represent meetings with members of the industry inclusive of the Whale Museum, members of the Whale Watch Operators of the Northwest organization, and others. The burden hours for the meetings would be estimated at 100 hours. The total burden hours for all activities is therefore estimated at 401 hours.

Description	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses	Estimated Burden Hours
Survey Respondents	263	263	263
Interviews	15	15	38
Meetings	15	15	100
Total Burden	283	293*	401

¹ Susan Schechter confirmed that the ancestry and ethnic origin question does not conflict with OMB standards.

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*Please note a slight variance between the total burden for the number of *respondents* and the total burden for number of *responses*. It is expected that some respondents will participate in more than one descriptive activity. Their participation in more than one activity would yield more than one response from a single respondent. For example, a single respondent may participate in the survey as well as a single interview. This would result in two responses from one respondent. This duplication was estimated to yield an additional 10 responses from participating respondents.

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

No additional burdens are expected.

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

Total estimated annual coast to the federal government is ~\$71,000. The survey will be conducted by NMFS federal staff with the assistance of one contractor. In addition to contractor costs, travel costs will be incurred to various field sites, printing of surveys, and mailing surveys. Survey design, data collection and processing, and report development will be conducted by both NMFS federal staff and the contractor. These costs for the contractor have been included in the contractors cost listed below. Please see table below for itemized costs.

Description	Cost
Contractor	\$61,000.00
Travel – 20 days in field (not consecutive)	\$9,300.00
Transportation- Ferry - \$200.00	
Transportation – Vehicle - \$300.00	
Lodging - \$6000.00	
Per Diem - \$2400.00	
Parking - \$100.00	
Internet - \$300.00	
Printing	\$1,000.00
Postage	\$50.00
Total	\$71,350.00

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

This new collection of information, considered a program change, is for the collection of new socio-economic data as a result of new socio-economic programs within the NMFS.

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

In addition to survey information, documents inclusive of community profiles of whale watching industry communities, summaries of regional and global whale watching guidelines, and historical discussion documents are expected to be products of this study. Survey data will be

analyzed using standard social science quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods. Where possible and relevant, final reports and other relevant portions of the research process will be posted on the appropriate web site. Where relevant, studies in their entirety may be published as internal reports or in part may be submitted for publication in journals to encourage peer review of data collected through this process as well as to disseminate findings.

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

The expiration date will be displayed.

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

No exceptions are noted.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

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

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

The intended respondent universe is represented as a census of all participants in the U.S. Southern Resident Killer Whale watching industry. For the purposes of this study, the industry has been described as follows:

The commercial Southern Resident Killer Whale watching industry of the U.S. which operates in the Greater Puget Sound Region (also referred to as the Salish Sea). This industry accepts payment to take guests (tourists, researchers, visitors, etc.) to view or have the intent of viewing the Southern Resident Killer Whales. Tours can include, but are not limited to, transportation by marine vessel including kayaks, by automobile, or other methods.

For the purpose of this study, participants in the industry have been described as follows:

Those individuals who, either through a paid or volunteer position, are engaged in the SRKW watching industry (as defined above). This includes, but is not limited to, roles such as owner, operator, deck crew, naturalists, ticketing, administrative, and shore support personnel.

Respondents will be initially located from members of the Whale Watching Operators

Association of the Northwest, through contact information provided by the Soundwatch organization of the Whale Museum on Friday Harbor, through secondary information searches of tour guide operators on the internet, and from personal communications with members of the industry. Respondents are expected to be located in selected harbors and marinas within the greater Puget Sound and Salish Sea. The overall estimate of the number of respondents is 350. Due to the methodology of surveys being conducted in person, an estimated response rate is 75%.

Community	No. of Known Operators	No. of Respondents Targeted for Survey*	Estimated Response Rate 75%
Bellingham	3	24	18
Seattle	5	40	30
Anacortes	2	16	12
Port Angeles	1	8	6
Port Townsend	2	16	12
Everett	2	16	12
Friday Harbor	5	40	30
La Connor	2	16	12
Lopez Island	1	8	6
Orcas Island	2	16	12
Roche Harbor	1	8	6
Vashon Island	1	8	6
Snug Harbor	2	16	12
Deer Harbor	1	8	6
Rosario Resort	1	8	6
Orcas Landing	1	8	6
To be Determined	10	94	71
Total		350	263

^{*}The values in this column were determined by and taking an average of the estimated number of staff members per operator. The value was determined to be 8 persons per operator. The value was then multiplied by the number of known operators to determine an estimate of targeted survey respondents.

In addition to conducting the survey, the study will include a small number of interviews and informational meetings with researchers and industry members. It is estimated that we will conduct 15 interviews and 15 informational meetings with these researchers and industry members. This estimate was determined based on the number of researchers and industry members we expect to target for this study. These activities will be held in-person and with individuals with whom we already maintain a rapport. As a result, we expect a 100% response rate.

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

The survey will be a census of the Southern Killer Whale watching industry as described above in Section B. No.l. Sample selection will therefore be made through the identification of individuals whom meet one of the criteria identified above as being an active participant in the industry. There is no statistical methodology for sample selection as all members of the study industry are being targeted and being provided an equal opportunity to complete the survey.

Data collection will occur primarily through in person surveys which will be provided to individuals to complete in the presence of the survey administrators. Survey administrators will be available to explain the survey, answer any questions, code the surveys for anonymity and to eliminate duplication, and collect surveys upon completion. In the event individuals are unavailable to meet in person, surveys will be made available electronically over the internet and or mailed to participants without internet access. Any survey mailed to a participant will include a pre-paid postage return envelope to reduce any financial burden on the participant.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Various steps will be taken to maximize response rates.

The contractor selected to work on this study and assist in conducting the survey has been a member of the industry in various roles in the past. Knowledge of the industry provides better communication with the industry and an opportunity for easier networking with the industry. Researchers will also work with members of the Whale Museum and their Soundwatch program to be properly introduced to members of the industry and establish communications with the Whale Watch Operators Association of the Northwest and other organizations. Pre-survey informational presentations will be conducted at any industry meetings to inform members of the study and answer any questions.

Researchers will also coordinate with other NMFS biological researchers who routinely work with industry members while conducting their biological research. Coordination between NMFS social scientists and biological scientists will be maintained throughout the study. NMFS biological researchers will be provided with informational material to distribute upon request to any industry members they work with.

Survey administrators will conduct a majority of the surveys in-person. Conversations with researchers have indicated in-person surveys are more successful. Appointments will be sought to coordinate convenient times to for the industry members to take the survey. .All efforts will be made to provide opportunities for respondents to participate at their convenience and not disrupt industry operations. The availability of the survey administrator will assist in providing information and answering survey respondent questions.

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

A pre-test will be undertaken of the survey instrument with 9 or fewer industry members. The objective of the pre-test is to clarify the questionnaire, determine if the length is adequate, and make sure it is easy to complete.

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

An internal peer review of the survey instrument was conducted which included grammatical, clarity, design, and statistical review. NMFS federal staff whom reviewed the survey instrument include Karma Norman, social scientist NWFSC, (206) 302-2418; Dawn Noren, marine mammal biologist NWFSC, (206) 302-2439; Jennifer Sepez, social scientist AKFSC, (206) 526-6546; Lynne Barre marine mammal biologist, NWR, (206) 526-4745,. Additional non-federal staff who reviewed the survey instrument included Morgan Schneidler, Frank Orth Contractor for NWFSC, (206) 302-2422; and Leila Sievanan, University of Washington Research Assistant, (206) 302-2442.

The individuals who will actually collect and analyze the information are Suzanne Russell, social scientist NWFSC, and Morgan Schneidler, Frank Orth Contractor for NWFSC.

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Northwest Fisheries Science Center Southern Resident Killer Whale U.S. Whale Watching Industry Social Survey





Sponsored by:

NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Questions?

Please Contact Suzanne Russell, NWFSC Social Scientist

Phone: (206) 860-3274

Email: nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov

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SURVEY INFORMATION

WHO IS CONDUCTING THIS STUDY? The Socio-Economics group at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), studies the <u>human</u> dimensions of ecosystems. This means we study human society as it relates to marine resources. Currently, we are performing this social science study to better understand the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) watching industry. This project is jointly funded through the Marine Mammal Program and the Socio-Economics program of the NWFSC. The NWFSC is a part of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY? The purpose of this study is to create a description of the United States Southern Resident Killer Whale watching industry and its participants. The study focuses on the industry operating in the navigable waters of the Greater Puget Sound area. This is the first study of its kind and is hoped to be replicated in years to come to track the changes within the industry.

HOW WILL THIS STUDY BE USED? Upon completion of this study, any reports generated will become publicly available to those interested. Collection of social science information by NMFS is fairly new. In the future, such information may be used to inform human/social impact assessments and to meet regulatory requirements. For example, those concerning fishing communities in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act National Standard 8 and those concerning minorities in Executive Order 12898 – the Environmental Justice Initiative.

<u>HOW IS THIS SURVEY ORGANIZED?</u> The survey is organized into five parts; demographics, individual participation, business characteristics, industry trends, and effects in the community. The questions allow us to better understand roles in the industry and the industry's' importance in the community.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE? This survey takes most people 1 hour to complete.

ARE MY ANSWERS ANONYMOUS? This is an anonymous survey. Please do not write your name anywhere on this survey. Your name may be tracked in a separate document to be used to avoid duplication of survey respondents, but there will be no link between a specific survey and your name.

<u>DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE?</u> Your participation and input is **VERY** important and will help us to better understand the unique opportunities and challenges presented in this industry. However, this is a **voluntary** survey and you may choose to skip any question or end at any point in the survey.

<u>HOW WAS MY NAME OBTAINED?</u> Depending on your role in the industry, your name was obtained through ownership of a vessel, web-sites advertising whale watching activities, your link to the Whale Watch Operators Association of the Northwest (WWOANW), through your company's recommendations, or through third party referrals.

<u>Thank you for your participation.</u> Preliminary results from this survey will be available January 2007. Please contact <u>Suzanne Russell, NWFSC Social Scientist for more information.</u> She may be reached via email at nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov, or by phone: (206) 860-3274

Filled out by survey administrator		
Code number:	Survey Location:	
Date:	Name of administrator:	
Notes:		

SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

All answers given in this survey should reflect <u>YOUR</u> <u>OWN</u> perception of the US Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) watching industry based on your personal experience and knowledge.		
	← Mark one answer per question unless otherwise specified	
	← Fill in ovals completely	
Use a pen in black or I	blue ink: Do not use pencil	
Please write legibly		
Follow the directions of	arefully	
Please ask questions	at any time	
Most importantly, THA	NK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!	

SURVEY DEFINITIONS:

"SRKW" refers to the population of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

"SRKW watching industry" refers to the commercial Southern Resident Killer Whale watching industry of the United States which operates in the Greater Puget Sound Region (also referred to as the Puget Sound, and the Salish Sea). This industry accepts payment to take guests (tourists, researchers, visitors, etc.) to view or have the intent of viewing the SRKW. Tours can include, but are not limited to, transportation by marine vessel including kayaks, automobile, or other methods.

"Participation in the industry" refers to those individuals who, either through a paid or volunteer position, are engaged in the SRKW watching industry as defined above. This includes, but is not limited to, roles such as owner, operators, deck crew, naturalists, ticketing, administrative, and shore support.

"<u>Recreational whale watching</u>" SRKW watching which occurs on privately owned vessels that do not take passengers for hire.

"SRKW watching season" has been broken down into Peak, Low, and Off Season, as described below:

Peak Season: Memorial Day weekend-Labor day,

Low season: April 15-Memorial Day weekend and after Labor Day-October,

Off Season: November-April 15

2

Section A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: START

Demographic questions help us to better understand the unique characteristics of people. These questions are important. They are standard questions in social science and can be compared to the U.S. Census data to better describe a specific population. Please mark one answer per question unless otherwise directed.

What is your gender? A 1

Answer	
0	Male
0	Female

A 2 What is your age?

Answer	
0	17 and under
0	18-24 years
0	25-34 years
0	35-44 years
0	45-54 years
0	55-64 years
0	65 years and older

A 3 What is the highest level of education you have attained:

Answer	
0	Some high school
0	High school diploma or equivalent
0	Some college or vocational, no degree
0	Bachelors Degree
0	Graduate or professional degree



Please answer BOTH A 3 and A 4

A 4 Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Answer	
0	Yes, Hispanic or Latino
0	No, not Hispanic or Latino

A 5 What is your race? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	American Indian or Alaska Native
0	Asian
0	Black or African American
0	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
0	White

A 6 What is your ancestry (ethnic origin)? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer		Answer		Answer	
0	Chinese	0	Italian	0	Mexican
0	English	0	Irish	0	Norwegian
0	Filipino	0	Japanese	0	Russian
0	German	0	Korean	0	Vietnamese
0	Other (please describe)				

A 7 How many members are there in your household (including yourself)?

Answer in #

A 8 What is your current marital status?

Answer	
0	Single
0	Married
0	Divorced
0	Widowed

A 9 Please estimate your annual *total* income before taxes

Answer	
0	Less than \$10K
0	\$10K-30K
0	\$31K-\$50K
0	\$51K-\$70K
0	\$71K-\$90K
0	Above \$90K

A 10 What is the percent of your total income derived from the SRKW watching industry?

Estimated % of total income
derived from SRKW watching industry



A 11 Please mark the circle which best describes how you are paid. (Please mark all that apply)

Are you paid based on	
0	the number of hours you worked?
0	the number of trips/tours you conducted?
0	the number of days you worked?
0	a flat salary?
0	other pay determinations (please describe)

A 12 Do you receive tips?

Answer		
0	Yes	→ GO TO A 12 a and A 12 b
0	No	→ GO TO A 13

A 12 a Did you include your tips in the above total income estimate?

Answer	
0	Yes
0	No

A 12 b	Please estimate what percentage of your annual total income comes from tips?
	%

A 13 Please indicate your permanent residence (where you are registered to vote): <u>Please write legibly – Thank You</u>

City/Town:			
State:			
Zip Code:			

A 14 Please mark the following which <u>best describe where you reside</u> while participating in the SRKW whale watching industry AND the <u>number of nights a week</u> spent in that location. (Please mark all that apply)

Answer		Number of nights a week
0	I live in my primary residence.	
0	I rent housing in the area of whale watch operation.	
0	I live aboard the vessel.	
0	I stay with colleagues or family.	
0	I stay in company provided housing.	
0	I have other arrangements (please indicate)	

A 15 If you commute from your permanent residence, how often do you commute?

Answer		
0	Daily	
0	Weekly	
0	Bi-Weekly	
0	Monthly	→ GO TO A 15 a & b
0	Bi-Monthly	
0	Other (please describe)	
0	I do not commute	→ GO TO SECTION B



A 15 a What means of transportation do you utilize in your commute? (Please Mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Car
0	Bus
0	Train
0	Ferry – Drive On
0	Ferry – Walk On
0	Motorcycle
0	Bicycle
0	Other (please describe)

A 15 b What is the approximate distance you commute?

Answer in miles	

Section A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: END

Questions? Contact NWFSC Socio-economics nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov (206) 860-3274

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Section B: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION: START

In this section we seek to better understand how <u>you</u> participate in the industry and what has drawn you to this line of work. <u>Please mark one answer per question unless otherwise</u> directed.

Please indicate all those which best describes your current role(s) in the industry?
(Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Owner
0	Operator/Skipper/Captain
0	Engineer
0	Deck Hand
0	Naturalist
0	Assistant/ Jr. Naturalist
0	Guide
0	Logistics support
0	Administrative/Office
0	Maintenance
0	Volunteer
0	Other (please indicate)

B 2 Do you hold a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) issued license?

Answer		
0	Yes	→ GO TO Q B 2 a
0	No	→ GO TO Q B 3

B 2 a Do you use your USCG license while working in the SRKW watching industry?

Answer		
0	Yes	→ GO TO Q B 2 b
0	No	→ GO TO Q B 3

B 2 b What license do you hold? Please describe <u>Please write legibly – Thank You</u>



B 3 Have you engaged in any <u>professional training</u>, <u>education</u> or <u>certifications</u> related to your role in the SRKW watching industry other than a captain's license? (i.e. naturalist training, Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)) <u>Please write</u> <u>legibly – Thank You</u>

Answer		
0	Yes	if Yes (please describe):
0	No	

- **B 4** What year did you begin working in the SRKW watching industry? _____
- **B 5** Since you began working in the SRKW watching industry, how many years have you participated?

(1 year = 1 whale watching season)

_____# of years

B 6 For the current year of your participation in the industry what months did you/will you work in SKRW watching? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer		Answer		Answer		Answer	
0	January	0	April	0	July	0	October
0	February	0	May	0	August	0	November
0	March	0	June	0	September	0	December
0	All of the						

B 7 Are these months different from previous years?

Answer		
0	Yes	→ GO TO 78 a
0	No	→ GO TO B 8
0	N/A	7 60 10 6 6

B 7 a In general, have the months that you worked or intend to work. . .

Answer	
0	Increased
0	Decreased

Instructions:

For the following questions SRKW watching season is defined as April 15-November.

Low season is April 15-Memorial Day weekend AND After Labor Day to November.

Peak season is Memorial Day weekend-Labor Day weekend.

Off season is November to April 15.

B 8 In a typical week during the SRKW watching season, do you work full time or part time?

Answer	
0	Full time (approx. 40 hrs. a week)
0	Part Time (less than 40 hrs. week)
0	More than full time (over 40 hrs. week)
0	Part time during <u>low</u> season, full time during <u>peak</u> season
0	Other (please describe)



B 9 Do you work or volunteer in <u>multiple</u> jobs **in any industry** (SRKW or other) during the SRKW season?

Answer		
0	Yes multiple part time positions	→ GO TO B 9
0	Yes, both full time AND part time positions	a & b
0	Yes, multiple full time positions	
	No only one part time position	•
0	No , only one <i>part time</i> position	→ GO TO B 10
0	No , only one <i>full time</i> position	

B 9 a In what part of the SRKW watching season do you work multiple jobs? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Peak season
0	Low season

B 9 b What other roles do you occupy during the SRKW watching season? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Another SRKW watching boat with the same role
0	Another SRKW watching boat with a different role
0	Another SRKW watching role entirely
0	Another maritime related job
0	Another tourism related job
0	A paid SRKW position
0	A volunteer SRKW position
0	Other (please indicate)

B 10 Approximately how many hours a week do you work either paid or volunteer in the following categories *during* the SRKW watching season?

Answer in number of hours/week	
Hrs/wk	In the SRKW watching industry
Hrs/wk	In other non whale watching tourism jobs
Hrs/wk	In other non-tourism related jobs

B 11 Which category best describes your past work history? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Agriculture
0	Fishing
0	Other natural resources
0	Educational Services
0	Scientific
0	Health care and social assistance
0	Accommodation and/or food services
0	Recreation and or entertainment
0	Building Trades/Construction
0	Retail
0	Professional
0	Public administration
0	Other (please indicate)
0	No prior work history

B 12 Do you **still** hold any of the positions or participate in any of the occupations that you indicated in the previous questions, **B 11**?

Answer	
0	Yes
0	No
0	Not applicable

B 13 Were you ever involved in any aspect of the *maritime* industry prior to working in the SRKW watching industry?

Answer		
0	Yes	→ GO TO B 13 a
0	No	→ GO TO B 14

B 13 a If yes, please provide the following. <u>Please write legibly – Thank You</u>

Maritime	
Industry type(s)	
(i.e. fishing,	
towing, etc)	
Location(s)	
Number of years	

B 14 Do you intend on returning to the SKRW watching industry next year?

Answer		
0	Yes	→ GO TO B 14 a
0	Undecided	7 GO 10 B 14 a
0	No	→ GO TO B 15

B 14 a In what role(s) do you intend to return to next year? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Owner
0	Operator/Skipper/Captain
0	Engineer
0	Deck Hand
0	Naturalist
0	Assistant/ Jr. Naturalist
0	Guide
0	Logistics support
0	Administrative/Office
0	Maintenance
0	Volunteer
0	Other (please indicate)

B 15 Are you interested in owning your own whale watching vessel or company in the future?

Answer	
0	Yes
0	No
0	Possibly
0	Already an owner

B 16 In the SRKW off seasons, indicate in the table below what type of work you did in 2005/2006 and expect to do in 2006/2007. Also please specify in what city or place. (Please mark all that apply) Please write legibly – Thank You

	2005/2006	2006/2007	City or place
A whale watch industry in a different location	0	0	
Marine tourism job in the current location	0	0	N/A
A <i>marine tourism</i> job in a <i>different</i> location	0	0	
Non marine <i>tourism</i> job in the <i>current</i> location	0	0	N/A
A non-marine <i>tourism</i> job in a <i>different</i> location	0	0	
A non-tourism job in the <i>current location</i>	0	0	N/A
A non-tourism job in a different location	0	0	
Travel/take time off	0	0	
Retired	0	0	
Attend school	0	0	
Other (please indicate)	0	0	

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B 17 Below are a few reasons why you may participate in the SRKW watching industry. Indicate the extent you agree or disagree with each statement. (Please only mark one per statement)

A reason to participate in the SRKW watching industry is	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a) to make money	0	0	0	0	0
b) to transition from another maritime position	0	0	0	0	0
c). to work in the region and on the water	0	0	0	0	0
d)to educate the public about SRKW and Puget Sound natural history	0	0	0	0	0
e) to interact with coworkers who share my values	0	0	0	0	0
f) to work outside and "on the water" instead of in the office	0	0	0	0	0
g) to work a seasonal job in the tourism industry	0	0	0	0	0
h) to spend time with the SRKW and other marine animals on a daily basis	0	0	0	0	0
i) Other (please indicate)	0	0	0	0	0

Section B: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION END

Questions? Contact NWFSC Socio-economics nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov (206) 860-3274

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Section C: BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS: START

Business characteristics describe the business you own or work for. These questions will help us understand what is unique about the business you own or work for in comparison to other SRKW watching businesses and other tourism businesses in general. Please mark one answer per question unless otherwise directed.

C 1 Is the vessel(s) which you work on/own, a member(s) of the Whale Watch Operators Association Northwest (WWOANW)?

Answer	
0	Yes, we belong to WWOANW
0	No, we do not belong to WWOANW
0	I work on multiple vessels and some are members and some are not
0	Not Applicable
0	Don't Know

C 2 If you are an owner of a SRKW watching vessel(s) that currently operates in the industry, please indicate the number below.

Answer	
	Number of vessels owned
0	Not applicable

C 3 If you are not an owner and work for an SRKW watching company, please indicate the number of vessels which your company currently operates in the SRKW watching industry.

Answer	
	Number of vessels
0	Not applicable
0	Don't know

C 4 Please indicate how strongly each service matches the tours/trips offered by your company or the company you work for. If you operate multiple tours please indicate all that best apply. (Please mark one per statement)

Description of service	Strongly applies	Applies	Occasionally applies	Not applicable
a) Boat-based tours on which viewing the SRKW is the exclusive intent	0	0	0	0
b) Boat-based tours on which the SRKW are a focal point amongst other wildlife	0	0	0	0
c) Boat-based wildlife tours	0	0	0	0
d) Kayak tours on which the SRKW are a focal point amongst other wildlife	0	0	0	0
e) Kayak tours exclusively	0	0	0	0
f) Land based whale watching tours	0	0	0	0
g) Private vessel charter on which whales are occasionally seen but not targeted	0	0	0	0
h) Transit service on which whales are occasionally seen.	0	0	0	0
i) Other (please describe)	0	0	0	0

Questions? Contact NWFSC Socio-economics nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov (206) 860-3274

C 5 Please estimate what percentage of the vessel's activity is dedicated to SRKW watching trips? (Please answer for all that apply)

	Answer in %
Vessel 1	%
Vessel 2	%
Vessel 3	%

C 6 Do you conduct commercial activities or provide additional tourism services other than SRKW watching with your vessel? (For example, transportation, fishing, vessel assist, etc.)

Answer		
0	Yes	→ GO TO C 6 a & b
0	No	→ GO TO C 7

C 6 a	If yes, please describe the service. Please write legibly - Thank You

C 6 b When do you conduct additional activities/services? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	during the peak season
0	during the low season
0	during the off season
0	All of the above



C 7 To the best of your ability, please complete the following table to describe the whale watching vessel you own, operate, or work on: (N/A= for not applicable, UK= for unknown). Please write legibly – Thank You

<u>Item</u>	Vessel No. 1	Vessel No. 2	Vessel No. 3
<u>OPTIONAL</u> : Vessel name			
a) Home Port/Port of Registration			
b) Operational Port			
c) Vessel Length over all (feet)			
d) Vessel Beam (feet)			
e) Vessel Draft (feet)			
f) Vessel Height from Waterline			
g) Number of Viewing Decks			
h) Height of Viewing Decks from Waterline			
i) Inboard or Outboard Engine			
j) Engine Description (For example, make, horsepower, model, etc.)			
k) Fuel capacity			
I) Vessel Tonnage			
m) Hull Type (mono, dual, rigid hull, etc)			
n) Vessel average operating speed (knots)			
o) Rated Passenger Capacity			
p) Actual/Operational Passenger Capacity			
q) Number of Crew Required (Include Skipper)			
r) Actual Number of Operating Crew (If changes with passenger count please provide range)			

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C 8 Please describe the unique characteristics/features of the vessel you own, operate or work on. (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Galley
0	Restrooms (head)
0	Inside seating/viewing
0	Outside seating/viewing
0	Food which is included with price of tour
0	Food for sale
0	Spotting network
0	Hydrophone
0	Binoculars provided
0	Underwater viewing camera
0	Other (please describe)

C 9 On average, during the peak, low and off SRKW watching seasons, how many tours do you conduct per day? (Please indicate average for all vessels)

Number of tours per boat during the	Quantity
low season	
peak season	
off 000000	
off season	



C 10 Please complete the following table to help describe your tour schedules based on start time: (Please mark all that apply) <u>Please write legibly – Thank You</u>

Time of To	ur Departure	Answer	Length of Tour in hours	Number of Tours
a) Sunrise	Before 8 am	0		
b) Morning	8am to 9:59 am	0		
c) Mid-Morning	10 am to 11:59am	0		
d) Mid- day	Noon to 1:59 pm	0		-
e) Afternoon	2:00 to 3:59 pm	0		
f) Late-afternoon	4:00 to 5:59 pm	0		
g) Evening (please indicate)	After 6pm	0		
h) Other (please des	ccribe)	0		

C 11 To the best of your ability, please estimate your occupancy rates (in percentage) per season.

Answer in %		
% occupancy	High season	Memorial Day weekend-Labor Day
% occupancy	Low season	April 15-Memorial Day and after Labor Day- October
% occupancy	Off season	November-April 15

own?		uld you change the ch	aracteristics of the vessel you work on c
own? Answer	Yes	uld you change the ch	aracteristics of the vessel you work on c
own? Answer			aracteristics of the vessel you work on o
Answer O	Yes No No opinion How would y example wou	← Go to C 13 a ← Go to Section D ou change the characuld you increase your sigher viewing platform	aracteristics of the vessel you work on content of the vessel you work on? (Fospeed for greater range, or purchase and for better distance viewing?) Please verse.
Answer O O O	Yes No No opinion How would y example wou vessel with h	← Go to C 13 a ← Go to Section D ou change the characuld you increase your sigher viewing platform	teristics of the vessel you work on? (Fo

SECTION C: BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS END

Questions? Contact NWFSC Socio-economics nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov (206) 860-3274



Section D: INDUSTRY TRENDS START

This section will help us to understand how the U.S. SRKW watching industry is unique. It will help us to understand how the industry has developed and changed over time. Please mark only one answer per question unless otherwise directed.

D 1 In your opinion has the general size and type of **vessel** used in the <u>U.S.</u> SRKW watching industry changed?

Answer		
0	Yes	← Go to D 1 a
0	No	← Go to D 2
0	No opinion	- GO TO D Z

D 1 a If yes, how have the <u>U.S.</u> SRKW watching **vessels** changed? (**Please mark all that apply**)

Answer	
0	Larger vessels than previously
0	Smaller vessels than previously
0	Increased passenger capacity
0	Decreased passenger capacity
0	Faster vessels
0	Slower vessels
0	Taller vessels with higher viewing platforms
0	Recreational style vessels (i.e. Bayliners)
0	Mono-hull
0	Multi-hull (i.e. catamarans)
0	Rigid hull inflatable
0	Other(please describe)

D 2 In your opinion has the **ownership structure** of **U.S.** SRKW vessels changed?

Answer		
0	Yes	← Go to D 2 a
0	No	← Go to D 3
0	No opinion	← G0 10 D 3

D 2 a If yes, how has the ownership structure changed? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	New owners are entering the industry with new boats
0	New owners are entering the industry with boats already in the SRKW fleet
0	Existing owners are absorbing (buying) boats already in the SRKW fleet
0	Existing owners are absorbing (buying) companies in the SRKW industry
0	Existing owners are buying new boats
0	Co-operatives forming (small businesses partnering with each other)
0	Small businesses are being absorbed by large businesses
0	Small businesses are growing to be larger businesses
0	Large businesses are shrinking to be smaller
0	Other (please describe)

D 3 In your opinion have owners expanded their operations to include other **SRKW viewing** opportunities?

Answer		
0	Yes	← Go to D 3 a
0	No	← Go to D 4
0	No opinion	- G0 10 D 4

D 3 a If yes, in what ways have owners expanded their operations? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Kayaking
0	Shore based viewing
0	Sea planes
0	Other(please describe)

D 4 In your opinion have owners expanded their operations to include **other wildlife viewing** opportunities?

Answer		
0	Yes	← Go to D 4 a
0	No	← Go to D 5
0	No opinion	C G0 10 D 3

D 4 a If yes, in what ways have owners expanded their operations? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Other whale species, e.g. gray whale
0	Other marine mammals, e.g. seals and sea lions
0	Birds
0	Other(please describe)

Special Instructions

In the following **four** questions you will find descriptions of a few changes that **MAY OR MAY NOT** be occurring in the SRKW watching industry. Based on *your own* current knowledge of the industry, please indicate the extent you agree or disagree with each statement. (**Please only mark one per statement**)

D 5 <u>Vessels</u> in the <u>**U.S.**</u> SRKW watching industry.

"The U.S. SRKW watching industry is in general"	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a)declining in number of U.S. operated VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
b) stable, there are about the same number of U.S. operated VESSELS from year to year	0	0	0	0	0
c)growing in number of U.S. operated VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
d) saturated with no room for more U.S. operated VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
e) Other (please indicate)					

D 6 Tourists in the **U.S.** SRKW watching industry.

"The U.S. SRKW watching industry is in general"	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a)declining in the number of SRKW watching TOURISTS	0	0	0	0	0
b) stable about the same number of SRKW watching TOURISTS from year to year	0	0	0	0	0
c)growing in number of SRKW watching TOURISTS	0	0	0	0	0
d) saturated with no room for more whale watching TOURISTS	0	0	0	0	0
e) Other (please indicate)					

D7 <u>Vessels</u> in the <u>Non-U.S</u>. SRKW watching industry.

"The NON-U.S. SRKW watching industry is in general"	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a)declining in number of Non- U.S. operated VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
b) stable , there are about the same number of Non-U.S. operated VESSELS from year to year	0	0	0	0	0
c)growing in number of Non U.S. operated VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
d) saturated with no room for more Non U.S. operated VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
e) Other (please indicate)					

D 8 Recreational vessels (privately-owned, not-for-hire) around the SRKWs.

"RECREATIONAL SRKW watching is in general"	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a)declining in number of recreational VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
b) stable, there are about the same number of recreational VESSELS from year to year	0	0	0	0	0
c)growing in number of recreational VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0
d) saturated with no room for more recreational VESSELS	0	0	0	0	0

e) Other (please indicate)

Questions? Contact NWFSC Socio-economics nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov (206) 860-3274

D 9 In the previous questions we asked about current trends within the industry. Now we would like to know about <u>your opinions</u> on the **POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH** within each of the following sectors related to U.S. SRKW watching industry.

Industry segment	Significant <i>room</i> for growth	Some room for growth	Neutral	<i>No room</i> for growth
Gift shops	0	0	0	0
Number of tourists	0	0	0	0
Number of whale watching vessels	0	0	0	0
Longer operating season for whale watching vessels	0	0	0	0
Nature based non whale watching tourism	0	0	0	0
Non-whale related tourism	0	0	0	0
Other (Please describe)	0	0	0	0

D 10 In your opinion are there more tourists participating in the **Non-U.S.** SRKW industry than the U.S. SRKW industry?

Answer	
0	Yes
0	No
0	No opinion

Section D: INDUSTRY TRENDS END

Questions? Contact NWFSC Socio-economics nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov (206) 860-3274

Section E: EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY: START

Communities may be built based on the presence of a specific industry. Changes in the industry may effect or impact the community as a whole. We would like to understand the relationship of the SRKW watching businesses to their specific communities. Please mark one answer per question unless otherwise directed.

E 1 Does your household include a spouse, partner, or other family member?

Answer		
0	Yes	→ Go to E 1 a
0	Νo	→ Go to E 2

E 1 a Does your spouse, partner, or other family member help you with your SRKW watching business (For example, accounting, marketing, office management, booking, etc.). *Please write legibly – Thank You*

Answer	
	Yes (please describe)
0	
0	No

E 2 Do you have any partnerships with any other members of the tourist industry? (For example, other boats, travel agents, chamber of commerce, tourism companies, etc...). (Please mark all that apply)

Answer		
0	Booking Agents	
0	Chamber of commerce	
0	Travel agents	
0	Vacation resorts	
0	Private marina	→ GO TO E 2 a
0	Other tourism companies	
0	Other boats	
0	Other (please indicate)	
0	None	→ GO TO E 3

E 2 a If you do have partnerships where are they located? (Please mark all that apply)

Answer	
0	Local entities – within port of operation
0	Regional entities –within the Greater Puget Sound
0	Washington State entities
0	National entities
0	International entities
	Other (please indicate)
0	



E 3 In the chart below please indicate which shore support facilities/companies you use for your whale watching and tour operations. (**Please mark all that apply**)

Item	N/A	Vessel 1	Vessel 2	Vessel 3
Food Services (catering)	0	0	0	0
Fuel	0	0	0	0
Gift Shops	0	0	0	0
Ticketing Kiosk	0	0	0	0
Cleaning Services	0	0	0	0
Office or other Rental Space	0	0	0	0
Vessel Maintenance	0	0	0	0
Web/computer services	0	0	0	0
Graphics/printing	0	0	0	0
Marketing	0	0	0	0
Other (please describe)	0	0	0	0
None		0	0	0

E 4 If you do utilize shore services, please indicate where most services are utilized by providing a percentage by location below:

Answer in %	Location
%	Home port of vessel
%	Operating port of vessel
%	Other (please indicate)
0	Do not use any of the above shore support facilities/services

E 5	In your opinion, please describe the significance of the SRKW watching industry to the local community in which your business operates. <i>Please write legibly – Thank You</i>
E 6	In your opinion, please describe the significance of the SRKW watching industry to the general public. <u>Please write legibly – Thank You</u>

E 7	Please feel free to provide any additional comments that would help us better understand the important and unique characteristics of the SRKW watching industry. Please write legibly – Thank You

END SURVEY

Thank you for participating in this survey.

Public reporting or burden for this survey is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instruction, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Suzanne Russell, NWFSC-Socio-economics, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112-2097.

Questions? Contact NWFSC Socio-economics nwfsc.wwindustrystudy@noaa.gov (206) 860-3274

Attachment A – NEPA Section 102 (c)

Section 4332. Cooperation of agencies; reports; availability of information; recommendations; international and national coordination of efforts [NEPA Section 102]

The Congress authorizes and directs that, to the fullest extent possible: (1) the policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies set forth in this chapter, and (2) all agencies of the Federal Government shall -

- (A) utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in planning and in decisionmaking which may have an impact on man's environment:
- (B) identify and develop methods and procedures, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality established by subchapter II of this chapter, which will insure that presently unquantified environmental amenities and values may be given appropriate consideration in decisionmaking along with economic and technical considerations:
- (C) include in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, a detailed statement by the responsible official on -
 - (i) the environmental impact of the proposed action,
 - (ii) any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented,
 - (iii) alternatives to the proposed action,
 - (iv) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and
 - (v) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented.

Prior to making any detailed statement, the responsible Federal official shall consult with and obtain the comments of any Federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved. Copies of such statement and the comments and views of the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, which are authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards, shall be made available to the President, the Council on Environmental Quality and to the public as provided by section 552 of Title 5, and shall accompany the proposal through the existing agency review processes;

- (D) Any detailed statement required under subparagraph (C) after January 1, 1970, for any major Federal action funded under a program of grants to States shall not be deemed to be legally insufficient solely by reason of having been prepared by a State agency or official, if:
 - (i) the State agency or official has statewide jurisdiction and has the responsibility for such action,
 - (ii) the responsible Federal official furnishes guidance and participates in such preparation,
 - (iii) the responsible Federal official independently evaluates such statement prior to its approval and adoption, and
 - (iv) after January 1, 1976, the responsible Federal official provides early notification to, and solicits the views of, any other State or any Federal land management entity of any action or any alternative thereto which may have significant impacts upon such State or affected Federal land management entity and, if there is any disagreement on such impacts, prepares a written assessment of such impacts and views for incorporation into such detailed statement.

The procedures in this subparagraph shall not relieve the Federal official of his responsibilities for the scope, objectivity, and content of the entire statement or of any other responsibility under this chapter; and further, this subparagraph does not affect the legal sufficiency of statements prepared by State agencies with less than statewide jurisdiction.

- (E) study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources;
- (F) recognize the worldwide and long-range character of environmental problems and, where consistent with the foreign policy of the United States, lend appropriate support to initiatives, resolutions, and programs designed to maximize international cooperation in anticipating and preventing a decline in the quality of mankind's world environment:
- (G) make available to States, counties, municipalities, institutions, and individuals, advice and information useful in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of the environment;
- (H) initiate and utilize ecological information in the planning and development of resource-oriented projects; and (I) assist the Council on Environmental Quality established by subchapter II of this chapter.

Attachment B – Executive Order 12898

3-302. Human Health and Environmental Data Collection and Analysis.

To the extent permitted by existing law, including the Privacy Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. section 552a): (a) each Federal agency, whenever practicable and appropriate, shall collect, maintain, and analyze information assessing and comparing environmental and human health risks borne by populations identified by race, national origin, or income. To the extent practical and appropriate, Federal agencies shall use this information to determine whether their programs, policies, and activities have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations;

- (b) In connection with the development and implementation of agency strategies in section 1-103 of this order, each Federal agency, whenever practicable and appropriate, shall collect, maintain and analyze information on the race, national origin, income level, and other readily accessible and appropriate information for areas surrounding facilities or sites expected to have a substantial environmental, human health, or economic effect on the surrounding populations, when such facilities or sites become the subject of a substantial Federal environmental administrative or judicial action. Such information shall be made available to the public, unless prohibited by law; and (c) Each Federal agency, whenever practicable and appropriate, shall collect, maintain, and analyze information on the race, national origin, income level, and other readily accessible and appropriate information for areas surrounding Federal facilities that are:
 - 1) subject to the reporting requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. section 11001-11050 as mandated in Executive Order No. 12856; and
 2) expected to have a substantial environmental, human health, or economic effect on surrounding populations. Such information shall be made available to the public, unless prohibited by law.
- (d) In carrying out the responsibilities in this section, each Federal agency, whenever practicable and appropriate, shall share information and eliminate unnecessary duplication of efforts through the use of existing data systems and cooperative agreements among Federal agencies and with State, local, and tribal governments.

Sec. 4-4. Subsistence Consumption of Fish and Wildlife.

4-401. Consumption Patterns.

In order to assist in identifying the need for ensuring protection of populations with differential patterns of subsistence consumption of fish and wildlife, Federal agencies, whenever practicable and appropriate, shall collect, maintain, and analyze information on the consumption patterns of populations who principally rely on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence. Federal agencies shall communicate to the public the risks of those consumption patterns. 59 FR7632

4-402. Guidance.

Federal agencies, whenever practicable and appropriate, shall work in a coordinated manner to publish guidance reflecting the latest scientific information available concerning methods for evaluating the human health risks associated with the consumption of pollutant-bearing fish or wildlife. Agencies shall consider such guidance in developing their policies and rules.

Attachment C – Endangered Species Act

DETERMINATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES AND THREATENED SPECIES SEC. 4. (a) GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary shall by regulation promulgated in accordance with subsection (b) determine whether any species is an endangered species or a threatened species because of any of the following factors:

7 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 Sec. 4

- (3) The Secretary, by regulation promulgated in accordance with subsection (b) and to the maximum extent prudent and determinable—(A) shall, concurrently with making a determination under paragraph (1) that a species is an endangered species or a threatened species, designate any habitat of such species which is then considered to be critical habitat; and (B) may, from time-to-time thereafter as appropriate, revise such designation.
- (b) Basis for Determinations.—(1)(A) The Secretary shall make determinations required by subsection (a)(1) solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available to him after conducting a review of the status of the species and after taking into account those efforts, if any, being made by any State or foreign nation, or any political subdivision of a State or foreign nation, to protect such species, whether by predator control, protection of habitat and food supply, or other conservation practices, within any area under its jurisdiction, or on the high seas.
- (B) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall give consideration to species which have been—
- (i) designated as requiring protection from unrestricted commerce by any foreign nation, or pursuant to any international agreement; or
- (ii) identified as in danger of extinction, or likely to become so within the foreseeable future, by any State agency or by any agency of a foreign nation that is responsible for the conservation of fish or wildlife or plants.
- (2) The Secretary shall designate critical habitat, and make revisions thereto, under subsection (a)(3) on the basis of the best scientific data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact, and any other relevant impact, of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. The Secretary may exclude any area from critical habitat if he determines that the benefits of such exclusion outweight the benefits of specifying such area as part of the critical habitat, unless he determines, based on the best scientific and commercial data available, that the failure to designate such area as critical habitat will result in the extinction of the species concerned.

Attachment D – Regulatory Flexibility Act

Section 603. Initial regulatory flexibility analysis

- (a) Whenever an agency is required by section 553 of this title, or any other law, to publish general notice of proposed rulemaking for any proposed rule, or publishes a notice of proposed rulemaking for an interpretative rule involving the internal revenue laws of the United States, the agency shall prepare and make available for public comment an initial regulatory flexibility analysis. Such analysis shall describe the impact of the proposed rule on small entities. The initial regulatory flexibility analysis or a summary shall be published in the Federal Register at the time of the publication of general notice of proposed rulemaking for the rule. The agency shall transmit a copy of the initial regulatory flexibility analysis to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration. In the case of an interpretative rule involving the internal revenue laws of the United States, this chapter applies to interpretative rules published in the Federal Register for codification in the Code of Federal Regulations, but only to the extent that such interpretative rules impose on small entities a collection of information requirement.
- (b) Each initial regulatory flexibility analysis required under this section shall contain-
- (1) a description of the reasons why action by the agency is being considered;
- (2) a succinct statement of the objectives of, and legal basis for, the proposed rule;
- (3) a description of and, where feasible, an estimate of the number of small entities to which the proposed rule will apply;
- (4) a description of the projected reporting, recordkeeping and other compliance requirements of the proposed rule, including an estimate of the classes of small entities which will be subject to the requirement and the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record;
- (5) an identification, to the extent practicable, of all relevant Federal rules which may duplicate, overlap or conflict with the proposed rule.
- (c) Each initial regulatory flexibility analysis shall also contain a description of any significant alternatives to the proposed rule which accomplish the stated objectives of applicable statutes and which minimize any significant economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities. Consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes, the analysis shall discuss significant alternatives such as--
- (1) the establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities;
- (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance and reporting requirements under the rule for such small entities:
- (3) the use of performance rather than design standards; and
- (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for such small entities.

Section 604. Final regulatory flexibility analysis

- (a) When an agency promulgates a final rule under section 553 of this title, after being required by that section or any other law to publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking, or promulgates a final interpretative rule involving the internal revenue laws of the United States as described in section 603(a), the agency shall prepare a final regulatory flexibility analysis. Each final regulatory flexibility analysis shall contain--
- (1) a succinct statement of the need for, and objectives of, the rule;
- (2) a summary of the significant issues raised by the public comments in response to the initial regulatory flexibility analysis, a summary of the assessment of the agency of such issues, and a statement of any changes made in the proposed rule as a result of such comments;
- (3) a description of and an estimate of the number of small entities to which the rule will apply or an explanation of why no such estimate is available;
- (4) a description of the projected reporting, recordkeeping and other compliance requirements of the rule, including an estimate of the classes of small entities which will be subject to the requirement and the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record; and
- (5) a description of the steps the agency has taken to minimize the significant economic impact on small entities consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes, including a statement of the factual, policy, and legal reasons for selecting the alternative adopted in the final rule and why each one of the other significant alternatives to the rule considered by the agency which affect the impact on small entities was rejected.
- (b) The agency shall make copies of the final regulatory flexibility analysis available to members of the public and shall publish in the Federal Register such analysis or a summary thereof.

burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: December 15, 2005.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E5–7586 Filed 12–20–05; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews

AGENCY: NAF Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Decision of Panel.

SUMMARY: On December 12, 2005 the binational panel issued its decision in the review of the injury determination made by the International Trade Commission, respecting Hard Red Spring Wheat from Canada Final Injury Determination, Secretariat File No. USA-CDA-2003-1904-06. The binational panel affirmed the International Trade Commission. Copies of the panel decision are available from the U.S. Section of the NAFTA Secretariat.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caratina L. Alston, United States

Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-5438. **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter** 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1,

1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the Federal Register on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686). The panel review in this matter has been conducted in accordance with these Rules.

Panel Decision: The panel affirmed the International Trade Commission's final injury determination on remand respecting Hard Red Spring Wheat from Canada.

The NAFTA Secretariat was instructed to issue a Notice of Final Panel Action on the 11th day following the December 12, 2005 panel decision.

Dated: December 14, 2005.

Caratina L. Alston,

U.S. Secretary NAFTA Secretariat. [FR Doc. E5–7628 Filed 12–20–05; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–GT–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southern Resident Killer Whale Watching Industry Socioeconomic Study

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

ACTION: Notice.

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 21, 2006.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Suzanne M. Russell, 206–860–3274 or suzanne.russell@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Orca whales, also known as killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), are cultural icons for the human residents of the Pacific Northwest's Puget Sound. The importance of killer whales is clearly evident for the tribal cultures of the area, expressed in artwork throughout the Pacific Northwest, and for the whale watching tourism industry.

In 2003, the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) were officially listed as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This listing resulted in the development of a proposed conservation plan which outlines the steps to be taken to restore the population to full health. In 2005, the SRKW were selected for additional protection through an endangered species listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The presence of killer whales in the Puget Sound basin brings these animals in close proximity to humans. This unique circumstance has fostered the development of a whale watching industry that aims to provide tourists opportunities to view the whales. This industry is dependent on the healthy existence of the whales and their continued return to the Puget Sound.

Ongoing marine biological studies related to the SRKW consider many aspects of the ecosystem. Social sciences consider the human components of the ecosystem. Together, the biological and social sciences can complement one another, leading toward a more integrated understanding of the ecosystem. The link between the SRKW and the whale watching industry in the Puget Sound provides a uniquely important rational for conducting studies in both biological and social science disciplines. The main goal of this study is to describe the whale watching tourism industry as it pertains to the SRKW.

II. Method of Collection

Literature reviews, secondary sources including Internet sources, U.S. Census data, key informants, focus groups, paper surveys, electronic surveys, and in person interviews will be utilized to obtain the broadest scope of information as possible.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.
Form Number: None.
Type of Review: Regular submission.
Affected Public: Individuals or
households; not-for-profit institutions;
and business or other for-profit
organizations; State or Local
government, Federal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 350.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours and 50 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,000.

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

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

Dated: December 15, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E5–7585 Filed 12–20–05; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121605A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The Shrimp AP meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the SpringHill Suites Houston Hobby Airport, 7922 Mosley Road, Houston, Texas 77061.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, Florida 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Executive Director; telephone 813.348.1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Shrimp AP will receive reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the status and health of the shrimp stocks as well as a report on the biological and economic aspects of the 2005 Cooperative Shrimp Closure with the state of Texas. The Shrimp AP may make recommendations for a cooperative closure with Texas for 2006. The Shrimp AP will review scoping documents for both Amendment 27 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP)/Amendment 14 to the Shrimp FMP and Amendment 28 to the Reef Fish FMP/Amendment 15 to the Shrimp FMP. Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/ Shrimp Amendment 14 proposes actions that deal with adjustments to the total allowable catch (TAC) for red snapper; size limits; bag limits; recreational season dates; and the certification of new shrimp bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). The amendment will also look at shrimp limits on trawling gear, shrimp restrictions on the transfer of vessel permits, and possible area closures for shrimp.

Joint Reef Fish Amendment 28/ Shrimp Amendment 15 will consider such issues as gear restrictions for the reef fish fishery; establishing commercial fishing seasons; further reducing bycatch; as well as other management alternatives.

The Shrimp AP consists principally of commercial shrimp fishermen, dealers, and association representatives.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the M-SFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813.348.1630. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see ADDRESSES) at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: December 16, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. E5–7594 Filed 12–20–05; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121605B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Magnuson-Stevens Committee in November, 2005 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the New England Fishery Management Council Office, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465–0492; fax: (978) 465–3116.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will meet to review and Council positions on issues related to Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act reauthorization and, if available, a new Senate staff draft of the Act. Any committee recommendations will be forwarded for approval at the Council's January 31–February 2, 2006 meeting scheduled in Portland, ME.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under