

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 14, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Christopher Rogers, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301) 713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), NOAA is responsible for management of the Nation's marine fisheries. In addition, NOAA must comply with the United States' obligations under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) collects information via vessel logbooks to monitor the U.S. catch of swordfish, sharks and bluefin tuna in relation to the quotas, thereby ensuring that the United States complies with its international obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The information supplied through vessel logbooks also provides the catch and effort data necessary to assess the status of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) resources. Stock assessments are conducted and presented to ICCAT periodically and provide, in part, the basis for ICCAT management recommendations which become binding on member nations. Supplementary information on fishing costs and earnings has been collected via the HMS vessel logbook program on a voluntary basis. This economic information enables NMFS to assess the economic impacts of regulatory programs on small businesses and fishing communities. Given the need for more representative data and more complete analyses, NMFS proposes to make the cost/earnings summary a mandatory requirement of the HMS logbook program.

II. Method of Collection

Vessel operators who are issued a limited access permit in the swordfish

or shark fisheries are required to complete vessel logbooks for all trips targeting HMS. In addition, selected tuna vessels (10 percent of permitted fleet) will be required to complete logbooks. Under this revised collection, the cost/earnings summary of the logbook would be required for selected vessels after all trips targeting HMS.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0371

Form Number: NOAA Form 88-191

Type of Review: Regular submission

Affected public: Business or other for-profit (vessel operators)

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,540

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes for cost/earnings summaries attached to logbook reports.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,946 (these would be the increase in burden above the 9,481 hours previously approved for this collection).

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 (no capital expenditures required).

IV. Request for Comments

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

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

Dated: October 7, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-27015 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101299D]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Title: Bluefin Tuna Dealer Reporting Package.

Agency Form Number: NOAA 88-144.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0239.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 433 hours.

Number of Respondents: 500 (multiple responses).

Avg. Hours Per Response: Varies between 1 minute and 43 minutes depending on the requirement.

Needs and Uses: The purpose of these requirements is to comply with U.S. obligations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). The ATCA requires the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate regulations adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The information requirements serve three purposes: (1) provides stock assessment and research information, (2) monitors landings so the country quota will not be exceeded, and (3) verifies Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna export shipments in conjunction with the Bluefin Tunas Statistical Document program.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion, bi-weekly, recordkeeping. Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication to David

Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: October 8, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-27013 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101299A]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Title: Individual Fishing Quotas for Pacific Halibut and Sablefish in the Alaska Fisheries.

Agency Form Number: None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0272.

Type of Request: Existing collection in use without an OMB approval number.

Burden: 22,775 hours total but 4,005 hours for the requirements being approved.

Number of Respondents: 6,700 (multiple responses).

Avg. Hours Per Response: Varies between 5 minutes and 30 minutes depending on the requirement.

Needs and Uses: Participation in the U.S. groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska grew faster than anticipated after the cessation of the foreign groundfish harvesting operations. The rapid expansion in the U.S. fishery placed increased pressure on the resource and eventually led to overcapitalization and a dangerous "race for fish" in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska. To prevent this, an Individual Fishing Quota Program for fixed gear Pacific halibut and sablefish fisheries off Alaska Was established. This request is for the requirements established to administer this program including, but not limited to, vessel clearance and departure reports, dockside sales receipts, transshipment authorization, shipment reports, and requests for administrative waivers.

Affected Public: Individuals or household, businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion, recordkeeping. Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: October 6, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-27016 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

[Docket No. 990921258-9258-01]

National Weather Service (NWS) Modernization and Associated Restructuring; Final Certification of No Degradation of Service for the Combined Consolidation, Automation, and Closure of the Victoria, TX, Weather Service Office (WSO)

AGENCY: NWS, NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On October 7, 1999, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere transmitted to Congress a notice of consolidation, automation, and closure certification for WSO Victoria, Texas. Public Law 102-567 requires the final certifications be published in the FR. This notice satisfies that requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the final certification package should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 11426, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Beaver at 301-713-0300 ext. 136.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The WSO Victoria, Texas, consolidation

certification was proposed in the April 11, 1997, FR, Vol 62, No. 70, page 17785. The 60-day public comment period closed on June 10, 1997. No public comments were received. At its June 25, 1997, meeting, the Modernization Transition Committee (MTC) endorsed the WSO Victoria consolidation certification as not resulting in a degradation of service. The automation and closure certifications for WSO Victoria, Texas, were proposed in the October 2, 1997, FR, Vol 62, No. 191, pages 51644-51655. The 60-day public comment period closed on December 1, 1997. Nineteen individual letters and over 2100 forms were received. See attached summary of public comments and NWS response.

At its December 10, 1997, meeting, the MTC endorsed the WSO Victoria automation and closure certifications as not resulting in a degradation of service. While the MTC endorsed the certifications, it was concerned about the number of comments reporting time delays in receiving NWS products. The MTC stated, "The MTC received a briefing from the Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) of the Corpus Christi NEXRAD Weather Service Office, which has service responsibility for the Victoria area. The MTC notes that the MIC has met with the Victoria community on several occasions and attempted to rectify the problem, but believes that further efforts are needed. The MTC requests an update on NWS efforts in 6 months time."

On March 18, 1998, the MTC heard public comments from representatives of the Victoria, Texas, community and the NWS. The MTC rescinded its endorsement of the certifications for WSO Victoria and agreed to hold its June meeting in Victoria, Texas, to gather additional information.

On June 18, 1998, the MTC met in Victoria, Texas, listened to public comments, and tabled further consideration of the consolidation, automation, and closure certifications pending responses to issues it identified concerning community outreach, the Automated Surface Observing System, and local infrastructure.

On September 30, 1998, the MTC heard responses from the community and the NWS concerning the issues identified at the June 18, 1998, MTC meeting. The MTC also reviewed correspondence and received presentations from individuals representing Senators Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison and Representatives Ron Paul and Pete Sessions. Based on all the information received, the MTC endorsed and