

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XD226

International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Capacity Limits in Purse Seine Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of request for information.

SUMMARY: NMFS is requesting information about any individual's or company's plan or intent to seek authorization for a U.S. purse seine vessel to participate in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) purse seine fishery, as managed under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (WCPFC Implementation Act), the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (SPTA) and other law, if it is not currently authorized to do so. The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Commission) recently agreed to new restrictions on the replacement of purse seine vessels in Commission members' fleets. NMFS intends to use information submitted in response to this notice to identify any purse seine vessels, whether existing, under construction, or yet to be constructed, that might replace one or more currently licensed vessels. This information will be used to help satisfy the obligations of the United States as a party to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention) and as a member of the Commission.

DATES: Information must be submitted in writing by May 12, 2014 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: You may submit information by either of the following methods:

- *Electronic Mail:* Submit written information via email to: 0648-XD226@noaa.gov.
- *Mail:* Submit written information by mail to: Michael D. Tosatto, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), 1845 Wasp Blvd., Building 176, Honolulu, HI 96818.

Instructions: Information sent by any other method, to any other address or

individual, or received after May 12, 2014, might not be considered by NMFS. Attachments to electronic mail will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Graham, NMFS PIRO, 808–725–5032.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Several authorizations are necessary for a U.S. purse seine vessel to participate in the WCPO purse seine fishery. The U.S. WCPO purse seine fishery is regulated in part under the authority of the SPTA (16 U.S.C. 973–973r) through implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 300, subpart D. The SPTA and its implementing regulations implement the terms of a treaty between the United States and 16 Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America and its annexes, schedules, and implementing agreements, as amended; hereafter called “the Treaty”). The Treaty generally governs the conduct of U.S. fishing vessel operations in the Treaty Area, which comprises much of the WCPO. The Treaty provides access by U.S. purse seine vessels to a large portion of the WCPO by authorizing, and regulating through a licensing system, U.S. purse seine vessel operations within all or portions of the exclusive economic zones of the 16 Pacific Island Parties to the Treaty (PIPs). License applications are first submitted to NMFS, which are approved or disapproved according to procedures established at 50 CFR 300.32. NMFS forwards approved applications to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA, located in Solomon Islands), which acts as the Treaty administrator on behalf of the PIPs, and which issues the licenses.

In addition to being governed by the Treaty and the SPTA, the U.S. WCPO purse seine fishery is subject to the authority of the WCPFC Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*), which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to implement the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Commission as they apply to the United States. The area of competence of the Commission, or the Convention Area, includes the majority of the Treaty Area. As a Party to the Convention and a Member of the Commission, the United States is obligated to implement the decisions of the Commission. The decisions of the Commission can be found on its Web site (<http://www.wcpfc.int/>).

Pursuant to the Convention and the decisions of the Commission, a U.S. fishing vessel must have a high seas fishing permit (see below) with a valid WCPFC Area Endorsement, issued by NMFS under 50 CFR 300.212, in order to be used for commercial fishing for highly migratory species on the high seas in the Convention Area.

The WCPO purse seine fishery is also subject to the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), particularly with respect to the operation of the fishery within the U.S. exclusive economic zone. The fishery is also subject to the authority of the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (16 U.S.C. 5501 *et seq.*), which governs the conduct of U.S. fishing vessels on the high seas, and under which a high seas fishing permit is required for a U.S. fishing vessel to be used for commercial fishing anywhere on the high seas.

Recent Decision of the Commission on the Numbers and Capacities of Vessels in Purse Seine Fleets

In December 2013, the Commission adopted a conservation and management measure for bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and skipjack tuna (CMM 2013–01). Most of the CMM's provisions are in effect from February 4, 2014, until December 31, 2017. Among other provisions, the CMM obligates certain flag States, including the United States, to limit the number of their purse seine vessels more than 24 meters in length with freezing capacity that operate between the latitudes of 20° North and 20° South to the current level (paragraph 49 of CMM 2013–01). CMM 2013–01 also obligates certain flag States, including the United States, to ensure that purse seine vessels in their fleets are not replaced with vessels with greater carrying capacity or well volume, or that the catch or fishing effort of such vessels is not greater than that of the replaced vessels (paragraph 50 of CMM 2013–01). Notwithstanding this latter obligation, CMM 2013–01 provides for flag States to allow the replacement of purse seine vessels in their fleets with vessels for which building approval has been granted and the Commission has been notified of such approval before March 1, 2014 (paragraph 50 of CMM 2013–01; this allowance is hereafter referred to as “the paragraph 50 allowance”).

Solicitation of Information About Prospective Vessels Entering the WCPO Purse Seine Fishery

The paragraph 50 allowance enables purse seine vessels to be replaced with vessels having greater carrying capacity and well volume and for the replacement vessels to make greater catches and exert greater fishing effort than the replaced vessels provided certain criteria are met. In order for the United States to comply with the paragraph 50 allowance, NMFS must be informed of any plan or intent to bring U.S. vessels into the WCPO purse seine fishery. CMM 2013–01 requires that “building approval” for the replacement vessel must have been granted before March 1, 2014, and the Commission must have been notified of such approval before March 1, 2014, for such replacement. Although this date has passed, we have notified the Commission that the agency is required to follow administrative rulemaking requirements, and it was not possible for us to solicit and evaluate information from the public within the extremely short deadlines under CMM 2013–01. Accordingly, NMFS will seek public input on the paragraph 50 allowance notwithstanding the passage of the Commission’s deadline.

NMFS invites any individual or company that plans or intends to seek authorization for a purse seine vessel more than 24 meters in length with freezing capacity to participate in the WCPO purse seine fishery (and that is not currently authorized to participate in the fishery) to notify NMFS of such plan or intent by providing the information listed below. “To participate in the WCPO purse seine fishery” means to use a U.S.-flagged purse seine vessel to fish in the Convention Area, regardless of the vessel’s carrying capacity, well volume, or other characteristics. Specifically, NMFS requests that the following information be submitted to the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Administrator (see **ADDRESSES**): (1) Whether the vessel is already built, under construction, or not yet under construction; (2) if not yet under construction, whether an agreement has been reached with a builder concerning its construction, and if so, the date of the agreement; (3) the name of the vessel, if known; (4) the U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation number of the vessel, if assigned; (5) the international radio call sign of the vessel, if assigned; (6) the vessel’s length, if known; (7) the approximate date of fishing authorization that will be sought, if known; (8) the name and contact

information of the individual or company most likely to seek authorization for the vessel to participate in the WCPO purse seine fishery; and (9) the name(s) of the currently authorized purse seine vessel(s) that that person or company intends to remove from the WCPO purse seine fishery coincident with the entry of the subject vessel, if any.

NMFS intends to use the information collected to identify prospective WCPO purse seine fishing vessels, and to determine whether any such vessel would replace one or more vessels currently authorized to participate in the WCPO purse seine fishery. Information provided in response to this request will be used only for making determinations related to the paragraph 50 allowance.

Failure to respond to this notice of solicitation of information could affect future eligibility of replacement vessels to compete for licenses and other authorizations to participate in the WCPO purse seine fishery. Responses for a plan or intent for a prospective purse seine vessel must be submitted in writing by May 12, 2014. Information submitted in response to this notice will, as appropriate, be subject to the confidentiality provisions of the WCPFC Implementation Act, section 506(d), and implementing regulations.

This request for information is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. It is part of a collection-of-information that has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control number 0648–0218, “South Pacific Tuna Act.” A change to that collection-of-information to accommodate this request for information has been approved by the OMB.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*

Dated: April 7, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has submitted a public information

collection request (ICR) entitled National Service Trust Enrollment Form and National Service Trust Exit Form for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Corporation for National and Community Service, Amy Borgstrom, at (202) 606–6930 or email to aborgstrom@cns.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY–TDD) may call 1–800–833–3722 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted, identified by the title of the information collection activity, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Ms. Sharon Mar, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service, by any of the following two methods within 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**:

(1) By fax to: (202) 395–6974, Attention: Ms. Sharon Mar, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service; or

(2) By email to: smar@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of CNCS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments

A 60-day Notice requesting public comment was published in the **Federal Register** on December 12, 2013. This comment period ended February 9, 2014. Four public comments were received from this Notice. One commenter stated that the forms may be difficult to interpret by individuals with cognitive disabilities. All members