

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 24, 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(s) and instructions should be directed to Joe Giannamore, Economist, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4800, 301-975-4614 (phone) and 301-926-3787 (fax). In addition, written comments may be sent via e-mail to joseph.giannamore@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Sponsored by NIST, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a national network of locally based manufacturing extension centers working with small manufacturers to help them improve their productivity, improve profitability and enhance their economic competitiveness.

The information is collected to provide the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) with information regarding MEP Center performance in the delivery of technology, and business solutions to U.S.-based manufacturers. The information obtained will assist in determining the performance of the MEP Centers at both a local and national level, as well as, the impact on the national economy. Responses to the collection of information are mandatory per the regulations governing the operation of the MEP Program (15 CFR parts 290, 291, 292, and H.R. 1274—section 2). No confidentiality for information submitted is promised or provided.

This collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act received prior Office of Management and Budget clearance in May 2003, and this clearance expires on May 31, 2006.

II. Method of Collection

Web forms will be used to collect and analyze a wide range of information from the MEP centers, which includes customer satisfaction, center activities, center staff, quarterly expenses and revenues, partners and affiliates strategic plan, operating plans, and client success stories.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0693-0032.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 59.

Estimated Time per Response: 127 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 7,493.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$374,650.

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 costs) 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 will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 16, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-2524 Filed 2-22-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Vessel Monitoring Program for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 24, 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 Becky Renko, (206) 526-6110 or Becky.Renko@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NOAA has established large-scale depth-based management areas, referred to as Groundfish Conservation Areas (GCAs), where groundfish fishing is prohibited or restricted. These areas were specifically designed to reduce the catch of species while allowing healthy fisheries to continue in areas and with gears where little incidental catch of overfished species is likely to occur. Because NOAA needs methods to effectively enforce area restrictions, certain commercial fishing vessels are required to install and use a vessel monitoring system (VMS) that automatically send hourly position reports. Exemptions from the reporting requirement are available for inactive vessels or vessels fishing outside the monitored area. The vessels are also required to declare what gear will be used.

To ensure the integrity of the GCAs and Rockfish Conservation Areas, a pilot VMS program was implemented on January 1, 2004. The pilot program required vessels registered to Pacific Coast groundfish fishery limited entry permits to carry and use VMS transceiver units while fishing off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The VMS program coverage is being expanded on January 1, 2007, to include all open access fisheries in addition to the limited entry fisheries.

A separate notice will be published regarding the proposed rule RIN 0648-AU08.

II. Method of Collection

The installation/activation reports are available over the Internet. Due to the need for the owner's signature, installation reports must be faxed or mailed to NMFS. Hourly position reports are automatically sent from VMS transceivers installed aboard vessels. Exemption reports and declaration reports are submitted via a toll-free telephone number.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0478.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profits organizations; individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,061.

Estimated Time per Response: VMS installation: 4 hours; VMS maintenance: 4 hours; installation, exemption and activation reports: 5 minutes each; VMS transmissions: 5 seconds; and declaration reports: 4 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 44,687.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,257,000.

IV. Request for Comments

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

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

Dated: February 16, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-2525 Filed 2-22-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021606A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for renewal and modification and request for comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received applications to renew and modify permits from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata, CA (Permit 1068). This permit would affect SONCC coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), California Coastal (CC) Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) and Northern California (NC) steelhead (*O. mykiss*) This document serves to notify the public of the availability of the permit application for review and comment before a final approval or disapproval is made by NMFS.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Daylight savings time on March 27, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this renewal and modification request should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

For Permit 1068: Steve Liebhardt, Protected Species Division, NMFS, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521 (ph: 707-825-5186, fax: 707-825-4840).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Liebhardt at phone number (707-825-5186), or e-mail: steve.liebhardt@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and

policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NOAA Fisheries regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

This notice is relevant to the following four threatened salmonid ESUs: Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon, Northern California (NC) steelhead (*O. mykiss*), and California Coastal (CC) Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*). Renewal and Modification Requests Received.

Permit 1068

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has requested the renewal and modification 2 of Permit 1068 for take of SONCC coho salmon, associated with 2 new or modified studies assessing coho salmon in selected locations in the Klamath River. The USFWS proposes to capture juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead by rotary screw traps, seine nets, minnow traps, in-stream pipe traps, seines, weirs, trawl, and electrofishing. Renewal and Modification 1 of Permit 1068 was originally issued on April 15, 2005. USFWS has requested lethal take of up to: 168,566 juvenile and 200 adult SONCC coho salmon, 173,987 juvenile CC Chinook salmon, Renewal and Modification 2 of Permit 1068 will include two new studies using SONCC coho salmon caught in screw traps and seines to identify disease and pathogens and how it effects survival rates of salmonids. These two new studies would "sacrifice" (intentional mortality) up to 450 wild coho salmon and up to 530 hatchery coho salmon (980 coho salmon).

Renewal and Modification 2 of Permit 1068 will expire on September 1, 2013.