

(Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

R. David Paulson,

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-SM-2008-N0309] [70101-1261-0000-L6]

Proposed Information Collection; OMB Control Number 1018-0120; Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Membership Application/Nomination and Interview Forms

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (Fish and Wildlife Service) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. This IC is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2009. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: Your comments must be received by February 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the IC to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401 North

Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail), or *hope_grey@fws.gov* (e-mail).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Hope Grey by mail or e-mail (see ADDRESSES) or by telephone at (703) 358-2482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101) designates the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture as the key agencies responsible for implementing the subsistence priority on Federal public lands for rural Alaska residents. These responsibilities include the establishment of Regional Councils with members from each region who are knowledgeable about the region and subsistence uses of the public lands. One-third of the seats on the Regional Councils become vacant each year. Additional vacancies may occur due to resignations or deaths of sitting members.

Each person desiring to serve on a Regional Council must complete FWS Form 3-2321 (Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Membership Application/Nomination). Persons nominating other individuals for membership must also complete this form. Applicants must provide three references and information on:

- (1) Their knowledge of fish and wildlife resources as well as subsistence and other uses of the resources.
- (2) Their service on working groups, conservation committees, etc.
- (3) How they would represent the people in the region.
- (4) Their willingness to travel and attend meetings.

Federal staff will use FWS Form 3-2322 (Regional Advisory Council Candidate Interview Form) to conduct applicant interviews by telephone.

Respondents do not see the printed form. Interviewers will ask questions regarding the applicant's willingness to serve on the Regional Council and will ask the applicant to explain information provided on FWS Form 3-2321.

Federal staff will use FWS Form 3-2323 (Regional Council Reference/Key Contact Interview Form) to conduct interviews of references/key contacts for prospective Regional Council members. We conduct all interviews by telephone and the respondents do not see the printed form. Interviewers will ask questions about the applicant's:

- (1) Knowledge of fish and wildlife resources as well as subsistence practices and commercial/sport activities.
- (2) Leadership ability.
- (3) Ability to communicate.

The Federal Subsistence Board uses this information to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for appointment of members to the Regional Councils. We restrict the information collected to the Regional Council member selection process and only to staff that the Federal Subsistence Board deems necessary. The information collections in this program are part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1018-0120.

Title: Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Membership Application/Nomination and Interview Forms.

Service Form Number(s): FWS Forms 3-2321, 3-2322, and 3-2323.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Alaska residents.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Activity	Number of annual respondents	Number of annual responses	Completion time per response	Annual burden hours
FWS Form 3-2321	100	100	2 hours	200
FWS Form 3-2322	100	100	30 minutes	50
FWS Form 3-2323	400	400	15 minutes	100
Totals	600	600	350

III. Request for Comments

We invite comments concerning this IC on:

- (1) whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;

(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include and/or summarize each comment in our request

to OMB to approve this IC. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying

information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: November 6, 2008

Hope Grey,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Fish and Wildlife Service.*

FR Doc. E8-29138 Filed 12-9-08; 8:45 am

BILLING CODE 4310-55-S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-FHC-2008-N0330] [51320-1334-0000 L4]

Information Collection Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; OMB Control Number 1018-0127; Horseshoe Crab Tagging Program

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (Fish and Wildlife Service) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. The ICR, which is summarized below, describes the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This ICR is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2008. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this information collection while it is pending at OMB.

DATES: You must send comments on or before January 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on this ICR to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB-OIRA at (202) 395-6566 (fax) or OIRA_DOCKET@OMB.eop.gov (e-mail). Please provide a copy of your comments to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401

North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail) or hope_grey@fws.gov (e-mail).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Hope Grey by mail or e-mail (see ADDRESSES) or by telephone at (703) 358-2482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0127.

Title: Horseshoe Crab Tagging Program.

Service Form Number(s): FWS Forms 3-2310 and 3-2311.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Tagging agencies include Federal and State agencies, universities, and biomedical companies. Members of the general public provide recapture information.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion. When horseshoe crabs are tagged and when horseshoe crabs are found or captured.

Activity	Number of annual respondents	Number of annual responses	Completion time per response	Annual burden hours
FWS Form 3-2310	500	1,500	10 minutes	250
FWS Form 3-2311	10	10	73 hours*	730
Totals	510	1,510	980

*Average time required per response is dependent on the number of tags applied by an agency in 1 year. Agencies tag between 25 and 9,000 horseshoe crabs annually, taking between 2 to 5 minutes per crab to tag. Each agency determines the number of tags it will apply.

Abstract: Horseshoe crabs play a vital role commercially, biomedically, and ecologically along the Atlantic coast. Horseshoe crabs are commercially harvested and used as bait in eel and conch fisheries. Biomedical companies along the coast also collect and bleed horseshoe crabs at their facilities. *Limulus* Amoebocyte Lysate is derived from crab blood, which has no synthetic substitute, and is used by pharmaceutical companies to test sterility of products. Finally, migratory shorebirds also depend on the eggs of horseshoe crabs to refuel on their migrations from South America to the Arctic. One bird in particular, the red knot, feeds primarily on horseshoe crab eggs during its stopover. That bird is under a status review for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

In 1998, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a management organization with representatives from each State on the

Atlantic Coast, developed a horseshoe crab management plan. The ASMFC plan and its subsequent addenda established mandatory State-by-State harvest quotas, and created the 1,500 square mile Carl N. Shuster, Jr. Horseshoe Crab Sanctuary off the mouth of Delaware Bay.

Although restrictive measures have been taken in recent years, populations are not showing immediate increases. Because horseshoe crabs do not breed until they are 9 years or older, it may take some time before the population measurably increases. Federal and State agencies, universities, and biomedical companies participate in a Horseshoe Crab Cooperative Tagging Program. The Maryland Fishery Resources Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, maintains the information that we collect under this program and uses it to evaluate migratory patterns, survival, and abundance of horseshoe crabs.

Agencies that tag and release the crabs complete FWS Form 3-2311 (Horseshoe Crab Tagging) and provide the Service with:

- (1) Organization name.
- (2) Contact person name.
- (3) Tag number.
- (4) Sex of crab.
- (5) Prosomal width.

(6) Capture site, latitude, longitude, waterbody, State, and date.

Members of the public who recover tagged crabs provide the following information using FWS Form 3-2310 (Horseshoe Crab Recapture Report):

- (1) Tag number.
- (2) Whether or not tag was removed.
- (3) Whether or not the tag was circular or square.
- (4) Condition of crab.
- (5) Date captured/found.
- (6) Crab fate.
- (7) Finder type.
- (8) Capture method.
- (9) Capture location.
- (10) Reporter information.
- (11) Comments.

If the public participant who reports the tagged crab requests information, we send data pertaining to the tagging program and tag and release information on the horseshoe crab he/she found or captured.

Comments: On June 24, 2008, we published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 35705) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew this ICR. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on August 25, 2008. We received one comment. The commenter did not address the necessity, clarity, or accuracy of the information collection,