

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 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: April 11, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-9097 Filed 4-16-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southeast Region Gulf of Mexico Electronic Logbook Program

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

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 June 18, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at Jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Anik Clemens, (727) 551-5611 or Anik.Clemens@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a current information collection.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) to prepare and amend fishery management plans for any fishery in waters under its jurisdiction. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the shrimp fishery in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) under the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The electronic logbook (ELB) regulations for the Gulf shrimp fishery may be found at 50 CFR § 622.5(a)(iii).

There are currently approximately 1,563 permitted vessels that harvest shrimp from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the Council estimates that there are over 13,000 boats that fish in state waters. With such a large number of vessels of differing sizes, gears used, and fishing capabilities compounded by seasonal variability in abundance and price and the broad geographic distribution of the fleet, ELBs provide a more precise means of estimating the amount of fishing effort than current methods. Using ELBs to improve estimating fishing effort will help improve estimating bycatch in the Gulf shrimp fleet.

II. Method of Collection

The electronic logbook autonomously collects effort data and is downloaded by contract personnel every 2-3 months. The electronic logbook memory chip will be removed from the unit and downloaded at the contractor site in College Station, Texas. A new logbook memory chip will replace the removed memory chip, a process taking less than one minute.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0543.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 600.

Estimated Time per Response: ELB removal/reinstallation 1 minute.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 60.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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: April 11, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-9096 Filed 4-16-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB069

Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Intent To Update a Recovery Plan for the Blue Whale and Prepare a Recovery Plan for the North Pacific Right Whale

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to update and prepare recovery plans; request for information.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is announcing its intent to update a recovery plan for the blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and prepare a recovery plan for the North Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*) and requests information from the public. NMFS is required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended to develop plans for the

conservation and survival of federally listed species, *i.e.*, recovery plans.

DATES: To allow NMFS adequate time to conduct the reviews, all information must be received no later than May 17, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on these documents, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2012–0091, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal www.regulations.gov. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the “submit a comment” icon, then enter NOAA–NMFS–2012–0091 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the “Submit a Comment” icon on the right of that line.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Chief, Endangered Species Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: Recovery Plans.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larissa Plants, Office of Protected Resources, 301–427–8471, or Shannon Bettridge, Office of Protected Resources, 301–427–8437.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Management responsibility for blue whales and North Pacific right whales lies with the Secretary of Commerce and has been delegated to NMFS. As such, NMFS is charged with the recovery of blue and North Pacific right whales, which are listed as endangered under the ESA. The recovery planning process is guided by the statutory language of

Section 4(f) of the ESA and NMFS policies. Recovery planning identifies all methods and procedures that are necessary to recover any endangered species or threatened species. Section 4(f)(1)(B) of the ESA specifies that recovery plans must incorporate in each plan (i) a description of such site-specific management actions as may be necessary to achieve the plan’s goal for the conservation and survival of the species; (ii) objective, measurable criteria which when met, would result in a determination, that the species be removed from the list; and (iii) estimates of the time required and cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan’s goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal.

Section 4(f)(4) of the ESA requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. NMFS requests relevant information from the public during preparation of the draft Recovery Plans. Such information should address: (a) criteria for removing the these whales from the list of threatened and endangered species; (b) factors that are presently limiting, or threaten to limit, the survival of the blue and North Pacific right whales; (c) actions to address limiting factors and threats; (d) estimates of time and cost to implement recovery actions; and (e) research, monitoring and evaluation needs. Upon completion, the draft Recovery Plans will be available for public review and comment through the publication of a **Federal Register Notice**.

Authority: 6 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: April 10, 2012.

Marta Nammack,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012–9239 Filed 4–16–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Monitor National Marine Sanctuary: Notice of Public Availability and Meetings

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public availability and meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 304(e) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), as amended, NOAA is soliciting public comment on the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment for Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

DATES: *Comments:* Comments on the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment will be considered if received on or before June 22, 2012.

Public meetings: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for the dates and locations for the public meetings.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy: For a copy of the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment, contact the Management Plan Review Coordinator, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. Copies can also be downloaded from the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Web site at <http://monitor.noaa.gov>.

To submit comments: Comments on the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment may be submitted by one of the following methods:

1. **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal with Docket Number NOAA–NOS–2012–0076.
2. By email to monitor@noaa.gov;
3. By providing comments (oral or written) at one of the public meetings (see public meetings section below); or
4. In writing to the Monitor NMS Management Plan Review Coordinator at 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will be generally posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Public meetings: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the dates and locations for the public meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Rides, Management Plan Review Coordinator, at (757) 591–7328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: