

Activities shall not resume until NMFS is able to review the circumstances of the prohibited take. NMFS will work with CALTRANS to determine what is necessary to minimize the likelihood of further prohibited take and ensure MMPA compliance. CALTRANS may not resume their activities until notified by NMFS via letter, email, or telephone.

(b) In the event that CALTRANS discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead MMO determines that the cause of the injury or death is unknown and the death is relatively recent (*i.e.*, in less than a moderate state of decomposition as described in the next paragraph), CALTRANS will immediately report the incident to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at 301-427-8401, and/or by email to [Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov](mailto:Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov) and [Rob.Pauline@noaa.gov](mailto:Rob.Pauline@noaa.gov) and NMFS West Coast Regional Stranding Coordinator ([Justin.Viezbicke@noaa.gov](mailto:Justin.Viezbicke@noaa.gov)). The report must include the same information identified in Condition 8(a) above. Activities may continue while NMFS reviews the circumstances of the incident. NMFS will work with CALTRANS to determine whether modifications in the activities are appropriate.

(c) In the event that CALTRANS discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead MMO determines that the injury or death is not associated with or related to the activities authorized in Condition 3 of this Authorization (*e.g.*, previously wounded animal, carcass with moderate to advanced decomposition, or scavenger damage), CALTRANS shall report the incident to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at 301-427-8401, and/or by email to [Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov](mailto:Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov) and [Robert.pauline@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.pauline@noaa.gov) and NMFS West Coast Regional Stranding Coordinator ([Justin.Viezbicke@noaa.gov](mailto:Justin.Viezbicke@noaa.gov)) within 24 hours of the discovery. CALTRANS shall provide photographs or video footage (if available) or other documentation of the stranded animal sighting to NMFS. CALTRANS can continue its operations under such a case.

(9) A copy of this Authorization must be in the possession of all contractors and marine mammal monitors operating under the authority of this Incidental Harassment Authorization.

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NMFS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the take of marine

mammals incidental to construction of the East Span of the SF-OBB and made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on November 4, 2003. Due to the modification of part of the construction project and the mitigation measures, NMFS reviewed additional information from CALTRANS regarding empirical measurements of pile driving noises for the smaller temporary piles without an air bubble curtain system and the use of vibratory pile driving. NMFS prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and analyzed the potential impacts to marine mammals that would result from the modification of the action. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on August 5, 2009. The proposed activity and expected impacts remain within what was previously analyzed in the EA and SEA. Therefore, no additional NEPA analysis is warranted. A copy of the SEA and FONSI is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

#### Endangered Species Act (ESA)

NMFS has determined that issuance of the IHA will have no effect on ESA-listed marine mammals, as none are known to occur in the action area.

#### Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to CALTRANS for the potential harassment of small numbers of harbor seals, California sea lions, harbor porpoises, and gray whales incidental to construction of a replacement bridge for the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in California, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed activity would result in the harassment of only small numbers of harbor seals, California sea lions, harbor porpoises, and possibly gray whales and will have no more than a negligible impact on these marine mammal stocks.

Dated: April 23, 2015.

**Perry F. Gayaldo,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2015-09915 Filed 4-28-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit 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 (NOAA).

*Title:* U.S. Caribbean Commercial Fishermen Census.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-xxxx.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular (new information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 1,522.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Burden Hours:* 761.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for a new information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to conduct a census of small scale fishermen operating in the United States (U.S.) Caribbean. The proposed socio-economic study will collect information on demographics, capital investment in fishing gear and vessels, fishing and marketing practices, economic performance, and miscellaneous attitudinal questions. The data gathered will be used for the development of amendments to fishery management plans which require descriptions of the human and economic environment and socio-economic analyses of regulatory proposals. The information collected will also be used to strengthen fishery management decision-making and satisfy various legal mandates under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Flexibility Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act, and other pertinent statutes.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Frequency:* One time.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

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

notice to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: April 24, 2015.

**Sarah Brabson,**

*OAA PRA Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015-09979 Filed 4-28-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 1540414365-5365-01]

RIN 0660-XC019

### Broadband Opportunity Council Notice and Request for Comment

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In furtherance of the Presidential Memorandum entitled *Expanding Broadband Deployment and Adoption by Addressing Regulatory Barriers and Encouraging Investment and Training*, which established the Broadband Opportunity Council (Council), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are requesting public comment to inform the deliberations of the Council.<sup>1</sup> The Council's objectives are to: (i) Engage with industry and other stakeholders to understand ways the government can better support the needs of communities seeking to expand broadband access and adoption; (ii) identify regulatory barriers unduly impeding broadband deployment, adoption, or competition; (iii) survey and report back on existing programs that currently support or could be modified to support broadband competition, deployment, or adoption; and (iv) take all necessary actions to remove these barriers and realign existing programs to increase broadband competition, deployment, and

<sup>1</sup> Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, *Expanding Broadband Deployment and Adoption by Addressing Regulatory Barriers and Encouraging Investment and Training*, March 23, 2015, available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/23/presidential-memorandum-expanding-broadband-deployment-and-adoption-addr>.

adoption.<sup>2</sup> We welcome input from all interested parties, including the stakeholder groups identified in the Presidential Memorandum.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before 5 p.m. Eastern time on June 10, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted by email to: [BOCrfc2015@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:BOCrfc2015@ntia.doc.gov). Include Broadband Opportunity Council in the subject line of the message. Comments submitted by email should be machine-readable and should not be copy-protected. Written comments may also be submitted by mail to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4626, Attn: Broadband Opportunity Council, Washington, DC 20230. Responders should include the name of the person or organization filing the comment, as well as a page number on each page of their submissions. Paper submissions should also include a CD or DVD with an electronic version of the document, which should be labeled with the name and organization of the filer. Please do not include in your comments information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal information or proprietary information. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2015/broadband-opportunity-council-comments> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Information obtained as a result of this notice may be used by the federal government for program planning on a non-attribution basis.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Karen Hanson, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4626, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0213; email: [khanson@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:khanson@ntia.doc.gov); or Denise Scott, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-1910; email: [Denise.Scott1@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Denise.Scott1@wdc.usda.gov). Please direct media inquiries to NTIA's Office of Public Affairs, (202) 482-7002.

<sup>2</sup> Fact Sheet: Next Steps in Delivering Fast, Affordable Broadband, March 23, 2015, available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/23/fact-sheet-next-steps-delivering-fast-affordable-broadband>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Background

On January 13, 2015, President Obama announced new Administration efforts to help more people, in more communities around the country, gain access to fast and affordable broadband.<sup>3</sup> Communities across the country, including state, local, and tribal governments, are leveraging public and private investments to form new partnerships to bring world-class Internet to their businesses, institutions, and homes. To assist these communities and partnerships, support economic growth, and promote a level playing field for all competitors, President Obama called on the Executive Branch agencies to remove all unnecessary regulatory and policy barriers to broadband build-out, adoption, and competition.

On March 23, 2015, the White House released a Presidential Memorandum establishing a new Broadband Opportunity Council (Council), co-chaired by the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. The Council comprises 25 federal agencies (Member Agencies) that can play a role in accelerating broadband deployment and promoting the technology's adoption across the country. To respond to this Presidential Memorandum, Member Agencies will provide a list of actions that they can take to identify and mitigate regulatory barriers, incentivize investment, promote best practices, align funding policies and decisions, and support broadband deployment and adoption. The Presidential Memorandum also directs the Council to consult with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as telecommunications companies, utilities, trade associations, philanthropic entities, policy experts, and other interested parties to identify and assess regulatory barriers and determine possible actions. This Notice seeks public comment to bolster the Council's work and to improve the number and quality of ideas under consideration.

### II. Objectives of This Notice

This Notice offers an opportunity for all interested parties to share their perspectives and recommend actions the federal government can take to promote broadband deployment,

<sup>3</sup> See FACT SHEET: Broadband That Works: Promoting Competition & Local Choice In Next-Generation Connectivity, White House, January 13, 2015, available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/13/fact-sheet-broadband-works-promoting-competition-local-choice-next-gener>.