

transfer. Monitoring carried out by the Program has supported science-based decision making and led to improvements in the design and implementation of habitat restoration projects. To evaluate the effectiveness of restoration actions in a cost-effective way, the Program is establishing consistent processes for monitoring and evaluating the performance of individual and collective restoration actions. The Program collects and reports this information in a manner that will inform future projects and investments, and ultimately improve the performance of the Program. The Program also facilitates increased public access to monitoring and evaluation data by implementing NOAA's Data Sharing Policy for Grants and Cooperative Agreements issued in 2012 which requires that all NOAA grantees share data produced under NOAA grants and cooperative agreements. Program staff works with cooperative agreement recipients to develop a data sharing plan as part of their cooperative agreement award narrative.

*d. Funding Sources, Mechanisms, and Eligible Participants*

As described in the prior sections, providing financial assistance is a tool that the Program uses to accomplish habitat restoration, complemented by the Program's leadership, coordination, and technical assistance capabilities. Financial assistance is provided competitively through FFO announcements and awarded and managed following the Department of Commerce Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manual and 2 CFR part 200. The Program primarily establishes cooperative agreement awards with selected applicants based on a competitive, technical review process to maximize opportunities for public access to Program resources. In limited circumstances, contracts may also be awarded. All domestic applicants other than individuals may apply for financial assistance. Activities that constitute legally required mitigation or are required by federal, state, or local law or court order are not part of the Program.

*e. Reporting*

The Program uses a specific reporting format that has received Paperwork Reduction Act clearance. The progress report format assists recipients of Program funding in tracking their progress towards self-defined milestones and performance measures. Progress reports may also include monitoring and evaluation results. The Program-specific form also helps the Program populate a project tracking

database, which supports agency-wide performance measure reporting and provides public information through the Restoration Atlas at [www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/restorationatlas](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/restorationatlas).

*f. Regulatory Compliance*

The Program assists its restoration partners and financial assistance recipients in completing their regulatory compliance responsibilities when possible, and may serve as lead agency for consultation and analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable federal laws and regulations. The Program takes a programmatic approach to regulatory compliance when available. A current list of programmatic compliance documents that may be used to fulfill regulatory compliance responsibilities can be found at <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/applicantresources.html>.

Dated: September 14, 2015.

**Samuel D. Rauch III,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2015-23503 Filed 9-17-15; 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:* Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation, Planning, Protection, or Restoration.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0459.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 51.

*Average Hours per Response:* Plans, 120 hours to develop, 35 hours to revise or update; project application and checklist, 20 hours; semi-annual and annual reporting, 5 hours each.

*Burden Hours:* 1,410.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

The FY 2002 Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act directed the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) to protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion, and to issue guidelines for this program delineating the criteria for grant awards. The guidelines establish procedures for eligible applicants who choose to participate in the program to use when developing state conservation plans, proposing or soliciting projects under this program, applying for funds, and carrying out projects under this program in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of the program. Guidelines for the CELCP can be found on NOAA's Web site at: <http://www.coast.noaa.gov/czm/landconservation/> or may be obtained upon request via the contact information listed above. The CELCP was reauthorized in under P.L. 111-111, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, as a component of the Coastal Zone Management Act. NOAA also has, or is given, additional authority under the Coastal Zone Management Act, annual appropriations or other authorities, to issue funds to coastal states, localities or other recipients for planning, conservation, acquisition, protection, restoration, or construction projects. The required information enables NOAA to implement the CELCP, under its current or future authorization, and facilitate the review of similar projects under different, but related, authorities.

*Affected Public:* State, local or tribal government; not-for-profit institutions.

*Frequency:* One time, semi-annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

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: September 15, 2015.

**Sarah Brabson,**

*NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015-23451 Filed 9-17-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-P**