

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Survey Instrument Assessing Ecosystem-Based Resource Management in the United States Gulf of Mexico**

**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 July 29, 2019.

**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 [PRAcomments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAcomments@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Kathleen Ernst ([kathleen.ernst@noaa.gov](mailto:kathleen.ernst@noaa.gov)) or Julien Lartigue ([julien.lartigue@noaa.gov](mailto:julien.lartigue@noaa.gov)), NOAA RESTORE Science Program, NOAA/NCEI 1021 Balch Blvd., Suite 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529, 240-429-5966.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

The NOAA RESTORE Science Program is committed to improving ecosystem-based management practices throughout the Gulf of Mexico by funding project teams that bring together scientists and resource managers to produce findings and products that (1) increase knowledge and understanding of the ecosystem as a whole, and (2) inform ecosystem-based management. To assess progress towards these outcomes, the Science Program established a long-term outcome metric for the program: The management of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and its resources is informed by a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic linkages between the components of the ecosystem and there is growing confidence in, and capacity for, taking an ecosystem-based approach

to management. A survey instrument has been developed that will assess the state of ecosystem based management practices across the Gulf of Mexico. This survey instrument will be electronically distributed to resource managers from not-for-profit institutions and local, state, tribal, and federal government agencies. Potential participants can print the survey, or receive the survey by mail if they so choose. Currently, no survey instrument assessing the state of ecosystem-based management practices in the Gulf of Mexico has been undertaken at the regional scale. This survey instrument is intended to create a baseline of understanding regarding ecosystem-based management practices and progress in the Gulf of Mexico region of the United States.

**II. Method of Collection**

Information will primarily be collected electronically using a survey instrument to record responses. The survey instrument will be available as a Google Form, and partial responses will be recorded if a participant submits the survey but does not complete all survey questions. An option to print the survey instrument and mail it to the NOAA RESTORE Science Program Offices is also available at this url: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScp7Iom8ZAeSctSGasyqM48xjx7jVQ\\_xGXtDR6XZuTfrXUGw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScp7Iom8ZAeSctSGasyqM48xjx7jVQ_xGXtDR6XZuTfrXUGw/viewform). In the event that a potential respondent requests that a survey be mailed to them, NOAA RESTORE Science Program staff will mail the survey to the potential respondent with a stamped return envelope addressed to the NOAA RESTORE Science Program.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-xxxx.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission, new information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individual natural resource management professionals working for not-for-profit institutions; state, local, or tribal government, or the Federal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 5.5 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$1,620.00.

**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.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-JS-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:* West Coast Region Trawl Logbook Requirement.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular (New collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 21.

*Average Hours per Response:* 6 hours per logbook.

*Burden Hours:* 216 hours annually.

*Needs and Uses:* The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on the availability of fishery data. Currently, the states of Washington, Oregon, and California administer a trawl logbook on behalf of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The log used is a standard format developed by the Council to collect information necessary to effectively manage the fishery on a coast-wide basis. The trawl logbook collects haul-level effort data including tow time, tow location, depth of catch, net type, target strategy, and estimated