

Dated: December 15, 2020.

**Jeffrey I. Kessler,**

*Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

## Appendix

### List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the Order
- IV. Discussion of the Methodology
- V. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2020–28168 Filed 12–21–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; West Coast Region Groundfish Trawl Fishery Monitoring and Catch Accounting Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before February 22, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov](mailto:Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0619 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Matt Dunlap, Fishery Policy Analyst, West Coast Regional Office, 7600 Sand Point

Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526–6119, or [matthew.dunlap@noaa.gov](mailto:matthew.dunlap@noaa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Abstract

This submission is a renewal of an existing collection. In January 2011, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implemented a trawl rationalization program, a catch share program, for the Pacific coast groundfish fishery's trawl fleet. The program was developed through Amendment 20 to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and consists of an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the shorebased trawl fleet (including whiting and non-whiting fisheries); and cooperative (coop) programs for the at-sea mothership (MS) and catcher/processor (C/P) trawl fleets (whiting only). As part of its fishery management responsibilities, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) collects information to determine the amount and type of catch taken by fishing vessels. This collection supports monitoring requirements including scale test requirements for first receivers in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery's shorebased individual fishery quota (IFQ) program; and mothership and catcher/processors in the at-sea whiting fisheries. The collection also supports permits for businesses that provide certified observer and certified catch monitor services. The respondents are principally shore-based first receivers, catch monitor and observer service providers, mothership processors, and catcher/processors which are companies/partnerships.

#### II. Method of Collection

This collection utilizes both electronic and paper forms, depending on the specific item. Methods of submittal include email of electronic forms, and mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms. Additionally, this collection utilizes interviews for some information collection and phone calls for transmission of other information.

#### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0619.

*Form Number(s):* None.

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

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 153.

*Estimated Time per Response:* For the existing observer providers: 2 hours for preparation and submission of the annual observer provider permit renewal application. For a new observer provider: 10 hours for observer provider permit application preparation and submission. For a new observer provider: 4 hours for a written response and submission of an appeal if an observer provider permit is denied. For existing catch monitors: 1 hour for submission of qualifications to work as a catch monitor. For new catch monitors: 4 hours for a written response and submission of an appeal if a catch monitor permit is denied. For existing vessels in the Mothership or Catcher/Processor fleet, 30 minutes or less for satisfying requirements for use of at-sea scales, including daily testing reports (30 minutes), daily catch and cumulative weight reports (10 minutes), audit trail (1 minute), calibration log (2 minutes), and fault log (3 minutes).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 447 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$3,678.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* The regulations at §§ 660.140 (h), 660.150 (j), and 660.160 (g), specify observer coverage requirements for trawl vessels and define the responsibilities for observer providers, including reporting requirements. Regulations at § 660.140 (i) specify requirements for catch monitor coverage for first receivers. Regulations at § 660.15 specify equipment, performance and technical requirements for scales used to weigh catch at sea.

#### IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email 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 may 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.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Alaska License Limitation Program for Groundfish, Crab, and Scallops

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on September 3, 2020 (85 FR 54999), during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Alaska License Limitation Program for Groundfish, Crab, and Scallops.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0334.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission, extension of a current information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 105.

*Average Hours per Response:* 1 hour each for Application for Transfer License Limitation Program Groundfish/ Crab License and Application for

Transfer of Scallop LLP License; 4 hours for transfer appeals.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 56 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting renewal of the currently approved information collection for the Alaska License Limitation Program (LLP) for Groundfish, Crab, and Scallops.

The License Limitation Program (LLP) restricts access to the commercial groundfish, crab, and scallop fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska, except for certain areas where alternative programs exist. The intended effect of the LLP is to limit the number of participants and reduce fishing capacity in fisheries off Alaska. More information on the LLP can be found on the NMFS Alaska Region website and at 50 CFR 692, 679.4(g) and (k), and 679.7(i).

An LLP license is required for vessels participating in directed fishing for LLP groundfish species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) or Gulf of Alaska (GOA), or fishing in any BSAI LLP crab fisheries. An LLP license is also required for any vessel deployed in scallop fisheries in Federal waters off Alaska (except for some diving operations).

Vessels participating in directed fishing for LLP groundfish species in the GOA or BSAI, or fishing in any BSAI LLP crab fisheries, must be named on a valid copy of the LLP license that is on board the vessel, with some exceptions. An LLP groundfish or crab license authorizes the license holder to deploy the vessel in fisheries in accordance with the specific area and species endorsements, the vessel and gear designations, the maximum length overall (MLOA) specified on the license, and any exemption from the MLOA specified on the license.

An LLP scallop license authorizes the person named on the license to catch and retain scallops in compliance with State of Alaska regulations using a vessel that does not exceed the MLOA specified on the license and the gear designation specified on the license. Unlike the LLP groundfish license, the scallop license is not vessel specific. A valid copy of the LLP scallop license must be on board the vessel.

The LLP originally collected basic information so that NMFS could determine which owners of vessels were issued LLP licenses. To receive an LLP license, an eligible applicant needed to apply during the application periods established when the program was implemented. As the application periods and selection process for the

LLP licenses have ended, an LLP license may now only be obtained through transfer.

This information collection collects information necessary for transfer of LLP licenses for groundfish, crabs, and scallops. This collection contains the two applications used for those transfers and the transfer appeals process.

An LLP license holder uses a transfer application to transfer an LLP license to a person who meets the eligibility requirements. The transfer applications collect information on the transferor, the transferee, and the LLP license to be transferred. The groundfish and crab transfer application also collects information on the rockfish quota share to be transferred, the vessel currently named on the LLP license, the vessel to be named on the LLP license, and ownership interest and transaction data.

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

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

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

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0334.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

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