

hours; Closing EM trips in ODDS: 5 minutes; Submit EM Data to NMFS: 1 hour; Observer Provider Permit Application: 60 hours; Candidate College Transcripts: 8 hours; Observer Training Registration: 1 hour; Observer Briefing Registration: 7 minutes; Projected Observer Assignments: 7 minutes; Physical Examination Verification: 5 minutes; Observer Deployment/Logistics Report: 7 minutes; Observer Debriefing Registration: 30 minutes; Certificates of Insurance: 12 minutes; Observer Provider Contracts: 30 minutes; Other Reports: 2 hours; Update to Provider Information: 5 minutes; Observer Provider Invoices: 30 minutes.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 16,030 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting renewal of a currently approved information collection that contains requirements for the North Pacific Observer Program (Observer Program). A slight revision is requested to change the title of the collection from “Alaska Observer Program” to “North Pacific Observer Program.”

Section 313 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1862) authorizes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), in consultation with NMFS, to prepare a fishery research plan for the purpose of stationing observers and electronic monitoring (EM) systems to collect data necessary for the conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the commercial groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) management areas. The Observer Program is implemented by regulations at subpart E of 50 CFR part 679, which authorize the deployment of observers and EM to collect information necessary for the conservation and management of the BSAI and GOA groundfish and halibut fisheries. Under the Observer Program, observers and EM systems collect fishery-dependent information used to estimate total catch and interactions with protected species. Managers use this data to manage groundfish and prohibited species catch within established limits and to document and reduce fishery interactions with protected species. Scientists use this data to assess fish stocks, provide data for fisheries and ecosystem research and fishing fleet behavior, assess marine mammal interactions with fishing gear, and characterize fishing impacts on habitat.

All vessels and processors that participate in federally managed or

parallel groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska (except catcher vessels delivering unsorted codends to a mothership) are subject to Observer Program requirements and assigned to one of two categories: (1) The full observer coverage category, where vessels and processors obtain observer coverage by contracting directly with observer providers; or (2) the partial coverage category, where NMFS, in consultation with the Council determines when and where observer coverage is needed. Some vessels and processors may be in full coverage for part of the year and partial coverage at other times of the year depending on the observer coverage requirements for specific fisheries. Funds for deploying observers on vessels in the partial coverage category are provided through a system of fees based on the gross ex-vessel value of retained groundfish and halibut. This observer fee is assessed on all landings by vessels that are not otherwise in full coverage. The observer fee is approved under OMB Control Number 0648–0711.

Information in this collection is submitted by observer provider companies and owners and operators of vessels and processors subject to Observer Program requirements. Information submitted by owners and operators includes information on owner identification, vessels, observer coverage category, deck safety, the EM system, fishing trips, and fishing operations. Information submitted by observer provider companies includes information on ownership and operations; observers and observer candidates; observer deployment; insurance coverage; contracts with observers, vessels, and processors; costs for observer services; and other information including possible observer harassment, prohibited actions, safety concerns, observer illness or injury preventing the observer from completing duties, and any information, allegation, or reports regarding observer conflict of interest or breach of the standards of behavior. Observers, observer provider companies, and industry may submit information on improving observer data quality and resolving observer sampling issues.

More information on the Observer Program is provided on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/fisheries-observers/north-pacific-observer-program>.

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

*Frequency:* On Occasion; Weekly; Annually.

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

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

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 0648–0318.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022–04354 Filed 3–1–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Return Link Service Authorization in the United States Search and Rescue Region

**AGENCY:** National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (US SARSAT) Program, which is managed by NOAA and assisted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard, is announcing the authorization of the coding and use of Return Link Service equipped 406 MHz Satellite Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) and 406 MHz Satellite Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) within the United States Search and Rescue Region.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** SARSAT Program Analyst, Mr. Allan Knox, NOAA, [allan.knox@noaa.gov](mailto:allan.knox@noaa.gov), 301–817–4144.

*Background:* The US SARSAT Program requested input from all interested persons on the U.S.

authorization of Return Link Service (RLS) acknowledgment Type 1 capable Cospas-Sarsat 406 MHz distress beacons. Specifically, through Request for Information (RFI) notices published in the **Federal Register** on February 8, 2021 (86 FR 8598) and March 17, 2021 (86 FR 14595), the SARSAT Program sought the public's views on the inclusion of this optional RLS feature on U.S. country-coded beacons. The US SARSAT Program received 3 responses from the public to the RFI notices. Based on consideration of these responses, the addressing of several requirements requested by the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Air Force, and the update of the Standards for 406 MHz Satellite Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) and 406 MHz Satellite Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), the US SARSAT Program is authorizing the coding and use of Return Link Service equipped PLBs and EPIRBs beacons within the United States Search and Rescue Region. These RLS enabled beacons will be legal for sale and use upon the publishing of Radio Technical Commission for Maritime services 11010.4 Standard for 406 MHz Satellite Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). Due to the nature of their installation, RLS is currently not authorized for use in aviation Emergency Locator Transmitters.

*Authority:* 33 U.S.C. 883(d) and (e).

Dated: February 25, 2022.

**Mark W. Turner,**

*SARSAT Program Manager.*

[FR Doc. 2022-04369 Filed 3-1-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-HR-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; Southwest Fisheries Science Center Sea Turtle Sightings

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** during a 60-day comment period on December 6, 2021. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Commerce.

*Title:* Southwest Fisheries Science Center Sea Turtle Sightings.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular. New information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 132.

*Average Hours per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 11 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) is sponsoring a new information collection under the Endangered Species Act for the purpose of collecting data on West Coast sea turtle sightings from members of the public. The data collected would include: Date of the sighting, time of the sighting, sea turtle species (if known), behavior, estimated size, geographic location, photos (if taken), and the public respondent's email address (used to ask follow-up questions if necessary). This information would be used by the SWFSC's Marine Turtle Ecology & Assessment Program to monitor the distribution and timing of sea turtle occurrence along the U.S. West Coast, which will accordingly support its mission to conserve and protect threatened and endangered sea turtle populations.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Endangered Species Act.

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 the title of the collection.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022-04353 Filed 3-1-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB836]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The Exempted Fishing Permit would allow four commercial surfclam and ocean quahog vessels to conduct at-sea paralytic shellfish poisoning testing in the Closed Area II scallop access area in statistical area 562. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 17, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by the following method:

- *Email:* [nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line "Sea Watch Surfclam EFP."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Hansen, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9225, [Laura.Hansen@noaa.gov](mailto:Laura.Hansen@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Sea Watch is requesting exemption from the Georges Bank Closed Area specified at 50 CFR 648.76(a)(4). The proposed project would conduct at-sea testing for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) in the Georges Bank Closed Area II Scallop Access area.

This Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) would allow two commercial surfclam and ocean quahog vessels, using