

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD363]

Marine Mammals; File No. 27460

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Jose Pablo Vazquez-Medina, Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley, 3040 Valley Life Sciences Bldg., #3140, Berkeley, CA 94720, has applied in due form for a permit to import specimens of marine mammals for scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 19, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting “Records Open for Public Comment” from the “Features” box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 27460 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 27460 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hubbard or Erin Markin, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to receive, import, and export biological samples from up to 200 pinnipeds (excluding

walrus) and 200 cetaceans annually. Sources of foreign and domestic parts may include subsistence harvests, captive animals, other authorized researchers or curated collections, bycatch from legal commercial fishing operations, and foreign stranded animals. The samples will be used to generate cell lines and examine the effects of stress hormones and organic pollutants on marine mammal cellular and tissue functions. The permit would be valid for 5 years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 12, 2023.

Julia M. Harrison,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–20180 Filed 9–18–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–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; Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program: Permits and Reports**

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 November 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0545 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 Gabrielle Aberle, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK, 99802–1668. Telephone 907–586–7356.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting extension of a currently approved information collection.

This information collection contains requirements for the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program (Rockfish Program) and is necessary for NMFS to administer and monitor compliance with the management provisions of the Rockfish Program. This information collection is required in Rockfish Program regulations at 50 CFR part 679.

The Rockfish Program is a limited access privilege program developed to enhance resource conservation and improve economic efficiency in the Central Gulf of Alaska rockfish fisheries. The rockfish fisheries are conducted in Federal waters near Kodiak, Alaska, by trawl vessels and longline vessels. The Rockfish Program assigns quota share (QS) to License Limitation Program (LLP) licenses for rockfish primary and secondary species based on legal landings associated with that LLP.

Each year, an LLP license holder assigns the LLP license with rockfish QS to a rockfish cooperative. Each rockfish cooperative receives an annual cooperative fishing quota (CQ), which is an amount of primary and secondary rockfish species the cooperative is able to harvest in that fishing year.

This collection contains the information collection requirements submitted by the rockfish cooperatives for an annual rockfish CQ permit, inter-cooperative quota transfers, and vessel check-in/check-out and termination of fishing reports.

The Application for Rockfish Cooperative Fishing Quota is submitted annually by a rockfish cooperative to receive the cooperative’s annual CQ

permit. The application collects rockfish cooperative identification information, LLP holder and ownership documentation for the members of the cooperative applying for QS, identification information for vessels of the cooperative members, shoreside processor associate identification information, certifications of the cooperative representative and processor associate(s) and required attachments.

The Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of CQ is used by a rockfish cooperative to transfer CQ to another rockfish cooperative. The information collected includes information on the QS to be transferred. This information is used by NMFS to monitor transfers to ensure they do not exceed ownership or use caps for the fishery.

The Rockfish Program vessel check-in report must be submitted before a vessel authorized to fish under the cooperative's permit starts fishing for the cooperative, and a check-out report when a vessel stops fishing for the cooperative during the fishing season. The check-in and check-out reports are necessary so that NMFS's catch accounting system can identify catch by a vessel that should accrue to a rockfish cooperative quota allocation from catch that occurs in other, non-Rockfish Program fisheries.

A rockfish cooperative may choose to terminate its CQ permit through a termination of fishing report submitted to NMFS. This notifies NMFS that all vessels fishing for the cooperative have completed fishing in the Rockfish Program for the year.

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected by mail, fax, delivery, and electronically through eFISH on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/webapps/efish/login>.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0545.

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: 7.

Estimated Time Per Response:

Application for Rockfish Cooperative Fishing Quota: 2 hours; Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of Rockfish Cooperative Quota: 10 minutes; Rockfish Program Vessel Check-In/Check-Out and Termination of Fishing Report: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 35 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$35 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

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

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

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 Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2023–20278 Filed 9–18–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–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; American Lobster—Annual Trap Transfer Program

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 April 21, 2023 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

Title: American Lobster—Annual Trap Transfer Program.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0673.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 204.

Average Hours Per Response: 10 minutes.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 17.

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

The American lobster resource and fishery are cooperatively managed by the states and NMFS under the authority of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, according to the framework established by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in Amendment 3 of its Interstate Fishery Management Plan (ISFMP). This collection of information is in response to several addenda to Amendment 3 of the ISFMP that work to reduce trap fishing effort through limited entry fishing and trap allocation limit reductions. The Trap Transfer Program is intended to foster economic flexibility for the lobster industry while reducing fishing effort on the American lobster resource. The regulations implementing the FMP in the EEZ are specified at 50 CFR part 697.

This collection of information is being conducted to help mitigate the economic burden of scheduled trap allocation reductions in Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2 and 3 on Federal lobster permit holders through the Annual Lobster Trap Transfer Program, which allows all qualified Federal lobster permit holders to buy and sell trap allocation from Areas 2, 3, or Outer Cape Cod. NMFS collects application forms from Lobster permit holders who wish to transfer trap allocation from these areas during a 2-