

subsistence needs by: (i) Causing the marine mammals to abandon or avoid hunting areas; (ii) Directly displacing subsistence users; or (iii) Placing physical barriers between the marine mammals and the subsistence hunters; and (2) That cannot be sufficiently mitigated by other measures to increase the availability of marine mammals to allow subsistence needs to be met.

The project is not known to occur in an area important for subsistence hunting. It is a developed area with regular marine vessel traffic. However, ADOT&PF plans to provide advanced public notice of construction activities to reduce construction impacts on local residents, ferry travelers, adjacent businesses, and other users of the Auke Bay ferry terminal and nearby areas. This will include notification to local Alaska Native tribes that may have members who hunt marine mammals for subsistence. Of the marine mammals considered in this IHA application, only harbor seals are known to be used for subsistence in the project area. If any tribes express concerns regarding project impacts to subsistence hunting of marine mammals, further communication between will take place, including provision of any project information, and clarification of any mitigation and minimization measures that may reduce potential impacts to marine mammals.

Based on the description of the specified activity, the measures described to minimize adverse effects on the availability of marine mammals for subsistence purposes, and the mitigation and monitoring measures, NMFS has determined that there will not be an unmitigable adverse impact on subsistence uses from ADOT&PF's activities.

### Endangered Species Act

There are two marine mammal species (western DPS Steller sea lion and Mexico DPS humpback whale) with confirmed occurrence in the project area that is listed as endangered and threatened respectively under the ESA. The NMFS Alaska Regional Office Protected Resources Division issued a Biological Opinion on December 22, 2023 under section 7 of the ESA, on the issuance of an IHA to ADOT&PF under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS Permits and Conservation Division. The Biological Opinion concluded that this action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of western DPS Steller sea lions or Mexico DPS humpback whale, and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify western DPS Steller sea lion or Mexico DPS humpback whale critical habitats.

### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must evaluate our action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) and alternatives with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that will preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of this IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

### Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to ADOT&PF for the potential harassment of small numbers of 11 marine mammal species incidental to the construction project in Auke Bay, Alaska, that includes the previously explained mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements. The issued IHA can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-alaska-department-transportation-pile-driving-and-removal>.

Dated: January 9, 2024.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall**,  
Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-00622 Filed 1-12-24; 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; Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Report

**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 March 18, 2024.

**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 0648-0247 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 Eric Orbesen, Research Fish Biologist, NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, FL 33149, ((800) 437 3936), [Eric.Orbesen@noaa.gov](mailto:Eric.Orbesen@noaa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a current information collection.

The Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program was initiated in 1971 as part of a comprehensive research program resulting from passage of Public Law 86-359, Study of Migratory Game Fish, and other legislative acts under which the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) operates. The Cooperative Tagging Center attempts to determine the migration patterns of, and other biological information for, billfish, tunas, and swordfish. The Fish Tag Issue Report card is a necessary part of the tagging program. Fishermen volunteer to tag and release their catch. When requested, NMFS provides the volunteers with fish tags for their use when they release their fish. Usually a group of five tags is sent at one time, each attached to a Report card, which is pre-printed with the first and last tag numbers received, and has spaces for the respondent's name, address, date, and club affiliation (if applicable). He/she fills out the card with information when a fish is tagged and mails it to NMFS.

Information on each species is used by NMFS to determine migratory patterns, distance traveled, stock boundaries, age, and growth. These data are necessary input for developing

management criteria by regional fishery management councils, states, and NMFS. The tag report cards are necessary to provide tags to the volunteer angler, record when and where the fish was tagged, the species, its estimated length and weight, tag number, and information on the tagger for follow-ups if the tagged fish is recovered. Failure to obtain these data would make management decisions very difficult and would be contrary to the NMFS Marine Recreational Fishing policy objectives. Anglers are made aware of the tagging program through several forms of media: newspaper and magazine articles, through both The Billfish Foundation and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center websites, peer review papers, and by word of mouth.

## II. Method of Collection

Information is submitted by mail, and occasionally, international anglers scan the report cards and submit them via email to [tagging@noaa.gov](mailto:tagging@noaa.gov).

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0247.

*Form Number(s):* NOAA form 88–162.

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

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 5.63 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 292 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* U.S. Code: 16 U.S.C. 760e; Name of Law: Study of Migratory Game Fish.

## 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. 2024–00615 Filed 1–12–24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; State Digital Equity Capacity Grant 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 November 3, 2023, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Commerce.

*Title:* State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (SDECGP).

*OMB Control Number:* 0660–XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* New information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 56 for the Application Form, Specific Projects Form, and Consolidated Budget Form; 11 for the DE Plan Amendments Form.

*Average Hours per Response:* 11 hours.

*Burden Hours:* 571 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* With this information collection, NTIA will review the proposed applications and budgets of applicants to evaluate alignment to SDECGP requirements and program priorities. Applicants will have more structured questions and guidance for their applications. The forms will ultimately reduce the applicant burden by making the application process clearer and simpler. Additionally, the structured forms will reduce application errors and the number of application updates needed after the applications have been submitted. NTIA will use the information collected in the DE Plan Amendments Form to review changes made to the applicant's Digital Equity Plan after acceptance in order to evaluate alignment to program requirements and between the applicant's Plan and proposed SDECGP activities.

*Affected Public:* States, Territories, or possessions of the United States applying for Infrastructure Act Broadband Grant Program funding.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Sections 60304(c) and 60304(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Public Law 117–58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021).

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 Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510–60–P**