experimental design that enables researchers through the use of these EcoUnits to precisely manipulate and control a suite of environmental variables controlled by EcoUnits. Additionally, researchers will employ state of the art sensors to monitor soil temperature, moisture, and gas fluxes, as well as plant root growth an morphology, and soil microbial communities via next-generation sequencing.

Dated: February 28, 2024.

Gregory W. Campbell,

Director, Subsidies and Economic Analysts, Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2024–04574 Filed 3–4–24; 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; Expanding Industry-Collaborative Research Surveys in Untrawlable Habitats Along the Pacific Coast

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 May 6, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at *NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov.* 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 John Harms, Research Fish Biologist, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Blvd. E, Seattle, WA 98112, (206) 860–3414, *John.Harms@noaa.gov* or Dr. Melissa Monk, Research Mathematical Statistician, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 110 McAllister Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 420–3950, *Melissa.Monk@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is to initiate a collection of information from members of the recreational and commercial fishing communities along the Pacific Coast to support expansion of fishery-independent groundfish research surveys conducted by or in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) and Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). The two centers are working jointly on this collection. Statutory and regulatory authority for the conduct of these surveys and their expansion emanate from the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and NMFS National Standard (NS) 2. MSA Sec. 402(e) and NS 2 (CFR Sec. 600.315) authorize resource assessments including research surveys as a means of generating the best available scientific information for assessing and managing fish stocks, including the groundfish stocks along the Pacific Coast. MSA Sec. 404(b)(3) authorizes NMFS to conduct these surveys aboard industry vessels.

This collection will generate information essential for the expansion of existing industry-collaborative groundfish research surveys in untrawlable habitats along the Pacific Coast. Survey expansion will close spatial gaps in existing survey coverage and provide information for the monitoring, assessment, and management of ecologically and economically important groundfish stocks including quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*), copper rockfish (*S. caurinus*), yelloweye rockfish (*S. ruberrimus*), lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*), and many others. Due to the paucity of data for some of these species and the resulting uncertainty surrounding the abundance and trajectory of these stocks within stock assessments, large areas of the coast have been closed to most fishing as a precautionary measure which has been economically damaging to a considerable portion of the recreational and commercial fishing communities. Partnering with these communities which include some of the nation's most knowledgeable individuals about groundfish biology and behavior will support NMFS' efforts to expand surveys, close data gaps, reduce scientific uncertainty, and more effectively manage the groundfish stocks along the Pacific Coast.

NMFS will generate a spreadsheet template that will be distributed on a voluntarily basis to members of the recreational and fishing communities along the Pacific Coast to solicit information about the most appropriate sampling locations to include in potential survey expansion as well as the role habitat, gear type, and vessel platform may play when targeting different species. Specifically, NMFS requests GPS coordinates and depths for potential survey sampling locations as well as the habitat type and target species associated with a particular location, and the most appropriate gear type for each location. Primary respondents will be identified by collaborating with existing industry representatives and liaisons along the coast to ensure broad spatial coverage, however, NMFS plans to place no restrictions on broader, voluntary distributions by primary respondents to other knowledgeable members of the fishing community. In conjunction with the spreadsheet template, NMFS plans to convene a series of small workshops in port towns along the Pacific Coast with industry members to help raise awareness about the survey expansion effort.

II. Method of Collection

This collection will be primarily electronic in the form of a spreadsheet that will be distributed via email to voluntary recipients. Email will also be the preferred means of response. We will also provide paper copies for distribution at a series of focused discussions in port towns for individuals who wish to provide information via hard copy and submit via fax, U.S. mail, or in person.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–XXXX.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission, new information collection.

Affected Public: Primary respondents are individuals affiliated with the recreational and commercial fishing communities along the U.S. Pacific Coast.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time per Response: Response time will vary based upon the number of fishing locations an individual wishes to provide, but we estimate that on average, a response will

require approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: The estimated total annual burden in hours is 200 responses × 20 minutes = 4,000 minutes or 66.7 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: We anticipate no direct costs to the public unless an individual wishes to return a response via U.S. mail, in which case the cost per individual will be the cost of a postage stamp ($0.68). Assuming up to 20 responses are submitted via U.S. mail, the total cost to the public will be $13.60.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Magnuson-Stevens 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. 2024–04630 Filed 3–4–24; 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 for Review and Approval; Comment Request; 3D Nation Elevation Data Requirements and Benefits Study

AGENCY: National Oceanic and 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 an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed ICR must be received on or before May 6, 2024.

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 0648–0762 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 Ashley Chappell, NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordinator, 1315 East West Hwy SSMC3 Rm 6206, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 240–429–0293, or *ashley.chappell@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request for extension of a currently approved ICR.

NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are working to improve the technology systems, data, and services that provide information about 3D elevation data and related applications within the United States. By continuing to learn about business uses and associated benefits that would be realized from improved elevation data, the agencies can more effectively prioritize and direct investments that will best serve user needs. The 3D Nation Elevation Data Requirements and Benefits Study (''3D Nation Study'') is part of the continuing effort to develop and refine future program alternatives that would provide enhanced 3D data to meet many Federal, State, and other national business needs. The 3D Nation Study seeks to understand needs for 3D elevation data in terms of mission-critical activities, geographic extents of data needs, accuracy requirements, frequency needed, and anticipated benefits of having the required data.

In 2022, NOAA and the USGS completed the first 3D Nation Study assessing requirements and benefits of topographic (terrestrial elevation) and bathymetric (water depth) data in inland, nearshore, and offshore geographies. The 3D Nation Study consisted of a standardized questionnaire covering a wide range of business uses that depend on elevation data to inform policy, regulation, scientific research, and management decisions. Input was gathered from a variety of government entities (*e.g.,* Federal, State, local, Tribal) as well as not-for-profit, academic, and private/commercial users of elevation data. Collected responses were aggregated at the agency, organization, state and national levels. Responses associated with individuals were not distributed. Responses were one-time and voluntary. In-person interviews to clarify questionnaire results were arranged on a case-by-case basis.

NOAA and USGS are now analyzing respondent data from the first 3D Nation Study. The report and appendices of questionnaire and other report-related sections are available at the 3D Nation Study site (*https://3dnation.iocm.noaa.gov/*) and via NOAA's Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Program page (*https://iocm.noaa.gov/planning/3DNationStudy.html*). The findings are being used to update a baseline of national business needs and associated benefits for 3D data and associated technologies. This baseline enhances the responsiveness of NOAA, USGS, and partner agency programs to stakeholder needs. It is intended to inform the design of directed future programs that balance requirements, benefits, and costs at a national scale.

NOAA and USGS plan to revisit national elevation data needs to assess changes to the 3D Nation Study baseline in or after 2026, which is why NOAA and USGS are seeking to extend this ICR. The survey tool for the future 3D Nation Study collection will likely include a subset of questions from the original questionnaire because the 2022