



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southeast Region Permit Family of Forms**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written or on-line comments must be submitted on or before (insert date 60 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER).

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Adrienne Thomas, PRA Officer, NOAA, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 159, Asheville, NC 28801 (or via the Internet at [PRAComments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAComments@doc.gov)). All comments received are part of the public record. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Adam Bailey, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St.

Petersburg, FL 33701, phone: 727-824-5305, or email: [adam.bailey@noaa.gov](mailto:adam.bailey@noaa.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### *I. Abstract*

This request is for an extension with revisions to the existing reporting requirements approved under the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Control Number 0648-0205, Southeast Region Permit Family of Forms. The NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) Permits Office administers Federal fishing permits in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico (Gulf), and South Atlantic under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801. The SERO Permits Office also proposes to revise parts of the current collection-of-information approved under OMB Control Number 0648-0205.

The NMFS Southeast Region manages the U.S. Federal fisheries in the Caribbean, Gulf, and South Atlantic under the fishery management plans (FMPs) for each region. The regional fishery management councils prepared the FMPs pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The regulations implementing the FMPs, including those that have recordkeeping and reporting requirements, are located at 50 CFR part 622.

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR part 622 form the basis for this collection of information. The NMFS Southeast Region requests information from fishery participants. This information, upon receipt, results in an increasingly more efficient and accurate database for management and monitoring of the Federal fisheries in the Caribbean, Gulf, and South Atlantic.

The SERO Permits Office proposes to revise the collection-of-information approved under OMB Control Number 0648-0205. NMFS proposes to revise the Federal permit applications for Vessels Fishing in the EEZ (Vessel EEZ), Change of Information Form, Vessel Fishing in the Colombian Treaty Waters, Duplicate Federal Fishery Permits, Operator Card or Decal, Aquacultured Live Rock (new permit), Aquacultured Live Rock (permit renewal), Harvest of Aquacultured Live Rock in the EEZ, Southeast Region Issued Operator Card, Consolidate Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish permits, Vessels Fishing for Wreckfish in the South Atlantic States (Wreckfish), Income Qualification Affidavit for Spiny Lobster, and the Annual Dealer permit.

The purpose of revising certain NMFS SERO permit application forms is to better comply with National Standard 4 (NS4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) and the Small Business Administration's regulations implementing the RFA, Executive Order 12898, and the "fairness and equitable distribution" provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including NS4 and section 303(b)(6).

The proposed revisions to the specified application forms are administrative and would update outdated URLs, telephone numbers, and office hours. NMFS estimates that the proposed revisions would not change the annual number of respondents or responses, or annual costs to affected permit applicants from estimates in the currently approved collection. Across the application forms, NMFS estimates these revisions would not increase the overall time burden.

The SERO Permits Office also proposes to modify the limited access permits by updating the form field name related to the selling price of the permit, along with removing the section

related to the permit's selling price. NMFS does not anticipate these revisions will materially change the time burden to the applicants.

The SERO Permits Office also proposes to modify the Vessel EEZ application to include a checkbox and language related to the compliance of regulatory requirements. NMFS does not anticipate these revisions to the form will materially change the time burden to the applicants.

## *II. Method of Collection*

Respondents complete applications on paper forms, and then can either mail or bring applications to the SERO Permits Office. Online application renewals are currently available only for some of the permits included on the Federal Permit Application for Vessels Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The SERO Permits Office can mail applications and instructions or they can be downloaded from the SERO Permits Office website at

*<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/resources-fishing/southeast-fisheries-permits>.*

## *III. Data*

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0205.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission - revision and extension of current information collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 13,909.

*Estimated Time Per Response:*

- Dealer Permit Application, 30 minutes.

- Vessel EEZ Permit Application, including Golden Tilefish Endorsement and Smoothhound Shark Permit, 40 minutes.
- Wreckfish Permit Application, 40 minutes.
- Vessel Operator Card Application for Dolphin/Wahoo or Rock Shrimp, 21 minutes.
- Fishing in Colombian Treaty Waters Vessel Permit Application, 30 minutes.
- Golden Crab Permittee Zone Transit Notification, 12 minutes.
- Notifications of Authorization for Retrieval of Lost or Stolen Traps (golden crab, reef fish, snapper-grouper, spiny lobster), 13 minutes.
- Vessel Permit Transfers and Notarizations, 10 minutes.
- Annual Landings Report for Gulf of Mexico Shrimp, 20 minutes.
- International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number Registration, 30 minutes.
- Aquacultured Live Rock Permitting and Reporting - New Permit - Deposit Harvest Report, 15 minutes; Notice of Intent to Harvest, 5 minutes; Site Evaluation Report, 20 minutes; Federal Permit Application, including Site Evaluation Report, 50 minutes; and
- Aquacultured Live Rock Permitting and Reporting - Renew Permit - Deposit Harvest Report, 15 minutes; Notice of Intent to Harvest, 5 minutes; Federal Permit Application, 30 minutes

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7,940*

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$483,828 in recordkeeping or reporting costs.*

*IV. Request for Comments*

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-00506 Filed: 1/14/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 1/15/2020]