



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; Economic Surveys of Specific U.S. Commercial Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 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 on the proposed new information collection prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

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: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0773 in the subject line of your comments. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. 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 Joe Terry, Office of Science and Technology, 1315 East West Hwy, Bldg. SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282, (858) 454 -2547, joe.terry@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request for extension of an approved information collection.

The Nation Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Science and Technology is sponsoring the collection Economic Surveys of Specific US Commercial Fisheries.

The requested information includes different components of operating costs/expenditures, earnings, ownership, vessel characteristics, effort/gear descriptors, employment, and demographic information for the various types of fishing vessels operating in the 16 U.S. commercial fisheries or groups of fisheries listed below.

1. West Coast Limited Entry Groundfish Fixed Gear Fishery
2. West Coast Open Access Groundfish, Non-tribal Salmon, Crab, and Shrimp Fisheries
3. American Samoa Longline Fishery
4. Hawaii Longline Fishery
5. Hawaii Small Boat Fishery
6. American Samoa Small Boat Fishery
7. American Samoa (ESAS), Guam, and The Commonwealth of The Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Small Boat-Based Fisheries
8. Mariana Archipelago Small Boat Fishery
9. USVI Small-Scale Fisheries
10. Puerto Rico Small-Scale Fisheries
11. Gulf of Mexico Inshore Shrimp Fishery
12. Golden Crab Fisheries in the U.S. South Atlantic Region
13. West Coast Coastal Pelagic Fishery
14. West Coast Swordfish Fishery
15. West Coast North Pacific Albacore Fishery
16. Greater Atlantic Region Commercial Fisheries

A variety of laws, Executive Orders (E.O.s), and NOAA strategies and policies include requirements for economic data and the analyses they support. When met adequately, those requirements allow better-informed conservation and management decisions on the use of living marine resources and marine habitat in federally managed fisheries. Obtaining these data improves the ability of NOAA Fisheries and the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) to monitor, explain and predict changes in the economic performance and impacts of federally managed commercial fisheries. Measures of economic performance include costs, earnings, and profitability (net revenue); productivity and economic efficiency; capacity; economic stability; the level and distribution of net economic benefits to society; and market power. The economic impacts include sector, community or region-specific, and national employment, sales, value-added, and income impacts. Economic data are required to support more than a cursory effort to comply with or support the following laws, EOs, and NOAA strategies and policies:

1. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)
2. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
3. Endangered Species Act (ESA)
4. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
5. Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)
6. E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review)
7. The NOAA Fisheries Guidelines for Economic Reviews of Regulatory Actions
8. NOAA FY22-26 Strategic Plan, Building a Climate Ready Nation
9. The NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (Strategic Plan)
10. The NOAA Fisheries Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Road Map
11. The NOAA Fisheries National Bycatch Reduction Strategy
12. NOAA's Catch Share Policy.

Data collections will focus each year on a different set of the 16 commercial fisheries or

groups of fisheries. This cycle of data collection will facilitate economic data being available and updated for all those commercial fisheries.

There will be an effort to coordinate the data collections in order to reduce the additional burden for those who participate in multiple fisheries. To further reduce the burden, the requested information for a specific fishery will be limited to that which is not available from other sources. Participation in these data collections will be voluntary.

II. Method of Collection

The information will be collected by mail, internet, phone, and in-person interviews. In general, respondents will receive a mailed copy of the survey instrument in advance of a phone or in-person interview. Where feasible, survey respondents will have the option to respond to an on-line survey. If phone and in-person interviews are not feasible or not desired by the potential respondents, the information will be collected by mail or internet.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0773.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households and business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,655.

Estimated Time Per Response

West Coast Open Access Groundfish, Non-tribal Salmon, Crab, and Shrimp Economic Data Collection: 3 hours.

West Coast Limited Entry Groundfish Fixed Gear Economic Data Collection: 3 hours.

American Samoa Longline Survey: 1 hour.

Hawaii Longline Survey: 1 hour.

Hawaii Small Boat Economic Survey: 45 minutes.

American Samoa Small Boat Survey: 45 minutes.

Economic Surveys of American Samoa (ESAS), Guam, and The Commonwealth of The Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Small Boat-Based Fisheries (an add-on to a creel survey): 10 minutes.

Cost Earnings Survey of Mariana Archipelago Small Boat Fleet: 45 minutes.

Economic Expenditure Survey of Golden Crab Fishermen in the U.S. South Atlantic Region: 30 minutes.

USVI Fisheries Economic Survey (Socio-Economic Profile of Small-Scale Commercial Fisheries (SSCF) in the U.S. Caribbean): 15 minutes.

Puerto Rico Fisheries Economic Survey (Socio-Economic Profile of Small-Scale Commercial Fisheries (SSCF) in the U.S. Caribbean): 1 hour.

Gulf of Mexico Inshore Shrimp Fishery Economic Survey: 28 minutes.

West Coast Swordfish Fishery Cost and Earnings Survey: 30 minutes.

West Coast Coastal Pelagic Fishery Economic Survey: 3 hours.

West Coast North Pacific Albacore Fishery Economic Survey: 1 hour.

Greater Atlantic Region Commercial Fisheries Economic Data Collection: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,757.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

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 information collection request. 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,

*Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs,
Commerce Department.*

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