



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R7-ES-2026-1882; FXES111607MMTRP-267-FF07CAMM00;

OMB Control Number 1018-0066]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Marine Mammal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Certificates, and Registration of Certain Dead Marine Mammal Hard Parts

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection without change.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES**, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on the closing date. To ensure your comment is received and considered, you must submit it using one of the methods identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: *Comment submission:* All submissions must include the docket number [FWS-R7-ES-2026-1882] for this document. You must submit comments using one of the following methods:

- *Electronic submission:* Federal eRulemaking Portal at:

<https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS-R7-ES-2026-

1882, which is the docket number for this action. Then click the Search button. On the resulting page, you may submit a comment by clicking on “Comment.” Please ensure that you have found the correct document before submitting your comments.

- *U.S. mail:* Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R7-ES-2026-1882, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered. We will not accept comments via email, fax, or hand delivery. We are not required to consider comments that are submitted after the comment period ends or that are submitted via a method outside of these instructions. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate content will not be considered. We will post all comments at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madonna Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at Info_Coll@fws.gov, or by telephone at (703) 358-2503. Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY assistance. You may also view the information collection request (ICR) at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR described below. We are especially interested in public comments addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: Under section 101(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361-1423h), Alaska Natives residing in Alaska and

dwelling on the coast of the North Pacific or Arctic Oceans may harvest polar bears, northern sea otters, and Pacific walruses for subsistence or handicraft purposes. Section 109(i) of the MMPA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe marking, tagging, and reporting regulations applicable to the Alaska Native subsistence and handicraft take.

On behalf of the Secretary, we implemented regulations at 50 CFR 18.23(f) for Alaska Natives harvesting polar bears, northern sea otters, and Pacific walruses. These regulations enable us to gather data on the Alaska Native subsistence and handicraft harvest and on the biology of polar bears, northern sea otters, and Pacific walruses in Alaska to determine what effect such take may be having on these populations. The regulations also provide us with a means of monitoring the disposition of the harvest to ensure that any commercial use of products created from these species meets the criteria set forth in section 101(b) of the MMPA.

We collect harvest information related to Alaska Native harvest to provide a chronology of the harvest in population modeling, determining which cohorts are being killed, determining the status of populations, and predicting population trends. We will use the collected information to gain insight into the distribution and relative abundance of the three species, the level and intensity of the harvest, and the harvest impacts on the species and their subpopulations. We use three Service forms to collect the following information from Alaska Natives as part of the harvest reporting requirement:

A. ***Form 3-2414, “Polar Bear Tagging Certificates”***: Form 3-2414 collects the following information:

- Date and location of tagging;
- Hide and skull tag number;
- Village hunted from (if different from tagging location);
- Age class and sex;

- Whether sex could be verified by tagger and, if yes, sex identification information;
- Skull measurements (length, width, or not provided);
- Whether cubs were present with sow and, if yes, how many cubs;
- Bear condition (obese, average, skinny);
- Specimens collected (tooth, hair, skin, liver, fat, muscle, skin/muscle, baculum/penis bone, or other);
- Research marks/tags (collar, ear tag number, lip tattoo, or other);
- Date and location of kill (to include latitude/longitude);
- Whether it was a conflict or problem bear and whether it was taken in defense of life;
- Additional remarks; and
- Whether hunter is available for post-hunt interview and, if yes, phone number, with the following post-hunt interview questions for problem bear situations:
 1. Was there a food source/attractant that the bear was interested in? What was the attractant?
 2. Was there any attempt to haze the bear to get it to leave?
 3. Was it believed that the bear could be a threat to people?

NOTE: We would only ask these typical post-hunt questions if the biologist needed information on a bear that was marked as a problem bear. There is no standardized questioning.

B. **Form 3-2415, “Walrus Tagging Certificates”**: Form 3-2415 collects the following information:

- Date and location of tagging;
- Village hunted from (if different than tagging location);

- Marine Mammals Management Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program (MTRP) tag number of plastic-headed wire tag used for left or right tusk;
- Type of take for walrus (LK = live killed, BF = beach found) – This information increases the accuracy of the known mortality and harvest data by discriminating between a walrus killed for subsistence purposes or found dead and salvaged. Requiring all ivory that has been taken or collected (pursuant to the Alaska Native exemption) to be marked, tagged, and reported simplifies Service enforcement efforts.
- Date and location killed/found;
- Age and sex;
- Walrus tusk length and circumference;
- Number of walrus harvested without tusks; and
- Additional remarks.

C. ***Form 3-2416, “Sea Otter Tagging Certificates”***: Form 3-2416 collects the following information:

- Date and location of tagging;
- Hide and skull tag number;
- FWS permit number;
- Age class and sex;
- Details identification information;
- Specimens collected (tooth, muscle vial, whisker, carcass, or other);
- Number of otters present in pod and number harvested from pod;
- Date and location of kill (to include latitude and longitude); and

- Additional remarks.

We also require non-Native collectors to use *Form 3-2406, “Non-Native Marine Mammal Certificates.”* The collection of information via Form 3-2406 allows the Service to track individuals who register (within 30 days) beach-found hard parts to determine whether the take of marine mammal hard parts is legal. We use the below listed information collected via Form 3-2406 to verify whether it is legal for the individual to retain them:

- Date and location of tagging;
- MTRP tag number of plastic-headed wire tag used for left or right tusk;
- Date found;
- Age and sex;
- Tusk circumference at gum line and tusk length from gum line to tip along front side following the curve of the tusk;
- Exact location of kill or find;
- Tag number for skull (polar bear or sea otter) or other part;
- Any information of interest about the beach-found hard part collected;
- Other remarks; and
- Name, address, phone number, and date of birth of the person who collected the hard part.

You may request copies of all forms in this information collection by submitting a request to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, using one of the methods identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Title of Collection: Marine Mammal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Certificates, and Registration of Certain Dead Marine Mammal Hard Parts, 50 CFR 18.23(f) and 18.26.

OMB Control Number: 1018-0066.

Form Number: 3-2406, 3-2414, 3-2415, and 3-2416.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 370.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 2,030.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: 15 minutes.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 508 (rounded).

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Madonna Baucum,

Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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