

Dated: May 31, 2016.

**Paul Piquado,**

*Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Coastal Mapping Strategy 1.0: Coastal Lidar Elevation for a 3D Nation Draft for Review

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability, Request for Comments; Webinar.

**SUMMARY:** The National Ocean Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) publishes this notice on behalf of the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology's Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM) to announce a 60-day public comment period on the draft National Coastal Mapping Strategy (NCMS), Version 1.0.

Through this public comment period and corresponding webinar, the IWG-OCM seeks to solicit input on the draft NCMS.

**DATES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for location of the electronic version of the draft NCMS and webinar date.

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for how to submit comments via email or by mail.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sasha Pryborowski, (*Sasha.Pryborowski@noaa.gov*, 301-713-2702 x 111) or, Ashley Chappell (*Ashley.Chappell@noaa.gov*, 301-713-2702 x 110).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The IWG-OCM, of which NOAA is a member agency, was formed in 2006 to provide federal interagency coordination on ocean and coastal mapping. In accordance with the 2009 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (OCMIA), the IWG-OCM is enhancing its coordination of ocean and coastal mapping to more effectively and efficiently provide stakeholders and the public with comprehensive geospatial information.

This first version of the NCMS is intended to address interagency data acquisition and coordination mandates in the OCMIA, and the National Ocean Policy. It is focused on coastal

topographic-bathymetric lidar elevation data collection; subsequent versions will focus on other types of data collection (e.g., bathymetry, photogrammetry). Lidar stands for Light Detection and Ranging, a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system—generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics, in particular elevation. More information on lidar can be found at <http://ocean.service.noaa.gov/facts/lidar.html>.

*Following is the executive summary from the draft NCMS Version 1.0, which provides additional detail on the National Coastal Mapping Strategy:*

Informed choices in the coastal zone, whether for the safety of coastal residents, environmental protection, security or economic decisions, require accurate and up-to-date U.S. coastal elevation data. The acquisition of this mapping data—in particular high-accuracy, high-resolution topographic and bathymetric lidar—must be comprehensive, coordinated, cost-effective, and recurring. Such a strategic approach to land-water lidar mapping at the coasts would bring the United States much closer to becoming a 3D Nation—a nation that translates robust mapping coordination into a seamless, modern elevation foundation for stronger, more resilient communities and a more competitive U.S. economy.

The IWG-OCM, tasked by Congress to develop a coastal mapping plan in the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act of 2009, has produced this first iteration of a NCMS to focus on that portion of the U.S. coastal zone that can be successfully mapped by a mix of lidar techniques for accurate elevation data. Recognizing the ongoing progress on lidar mapping coordination in the coastal zone, the IWG-OCM decided to capitalize on this existing momentum, and focus this first version of the NCMS on topographic and bathymetric lidar mapping of the U.S. coasts, Great Lakes, territories and possessions. Future iterations will include ocean mapping in the offshore and Outer Continental Shelf regions using technologies such as acoustic, aerial photography, hyperspectral and satellite imagery, to continue to build out the U.S. elevation dataset and meet other mapping needs (e.g., bathymetry, nautical charting, habitat assessment, tsunami models). This NCMS 1.0 assesses the next steps needed to achieve the vision of the United States as a 3D Nation with comprehensive lidar elevation coverage,

including whether there is sufficient interest in mapping U.S. coastal areas routinely through the judicious, efficient and closely-aligned collection of lidar bathymetry and topography. The strategy also contains four actionable components on the path to develop Coastal Lidar Elevation for a 3D Nation.

- Component 1 describes the organization of IWG-OCM Coastal Mapping Summits linked to web-based reporting in order to enhance existing and ongoing coordination on coastal lidar acquisition.

- Component 2 details definitions for bathymetric lidar Quality Levels that will foster the collection of interoperable datasets by all IWG-OCM member agencies involved in lidar collection.

- The focus of Component 3 is to improve interagency coordination on data management tasks (validation, processing, stewardship, dissemination and archiving) in order to reduce costs, maximize efficiency, and avoid duplication of effort.

- Lastly, Component 4 lays out an approach for cooperation on targeted methods, research, and technique development. New tools and improved technologies developed through this structure will facilitate interagency collaboration in obtaining the maximum value from shared coastal mapping data.

#### Other Information

The draft NCMS Version 1.0 can be found at: <http://www.iocm.noaa.gov/iwg/>.

Stakeholders and the public are encouraged to submit comments and questions on the NCMS. Electronic comments and questions on the NCMS may be submitted via email to [iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov](mailto:iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov). Written comments may also be submitted to NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Program, SSMC-3, #6815, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

A webinar has also been scheduled to answer questions that stakeholders or the public may have on the NCMS and to gather input on how to improve the draft, such as by identifying missing elements or incorporating other perspectives. All interested parties are encouraged to participate. Comments and questions are welcomed both ahead of, and after, the webinar using the mechanisms identified above.

*National Coastal Mapping Strategy Webinar—[June 23, 2016, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST]*

- **TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION**
- Dial-in Number: 1-888-459-8313

- Passcode: 6564989#
- **WEB CONFERENCE INFORMATION**
- Persons wishing to attend the meeting online via the web conference must register in advance no later than 5 p.m. EST on June 20, 2016, by sending an email to [Sasha.Pryborowski@noaa.gov](mailto:Sasha.Pryborowski@noaa.gov).
- Instructions to Join Web Conference on June 23, 2016:
  - Join the meeting: <http://www.my-meetings.com/nc/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=748882585&p=&t=c>
  - Enter the required fields (no passcode required)
  - Meeting Number: 748882585
  - Meeting Passcode: none required
  - Indicate that you have read the Privacy Policy.
  - Click on Proceed.

Note that the web conference is limited to 200 participants and will therefore be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The agenda for the webinar will include time for questions and answers, and comments. The agenda will be posted to <http://www.iocm.noaa.gov/iwg/> at least 10 days before the webinar.

#### Other Information

*Paperwork Reduction Act:* NOAA has determined that this action does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 31, 2016.

**W. Russell Callender,**

*Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Electronic Monitoring Systems and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

**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 of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 8, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [JJessup@doc.gov](mailto:JJessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Margo Schulze-Haugen, (301) 427-8503 or [Margo.Schulze-Haugen@noaa.gov](mailto:Margo.Schulze-Haugen@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

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

VMS and electronic monitoring systems collect important information on fishing effort, catch, and the geographic location of fishing effort and catch for certain sectors of the Atlantic HMS fleet. Data collected through these programs are used in both domestic and international fisheries management, including for law enforcement, stock assessments, and quota management purposes. Atlantic HMS vessels required to use VMS are pelagic longline, purse seine, bottom longline (directed shark permit holders in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), and gillnet (directed shark permit holders consistent with the requirements of the Atlantic large whale take reduction plan requirements at 50 CFR 229.39.(h)) vessels. In addition to VMS, pelagic longline vessels are also required to have electronic monitoring systems to monitor catch and account for bluefin tuna harvest and discards.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) monitors fleet adherence to gear- and time-area restrictions with VMS position location data. Gear restricted areas and time-area closures are important tools for Atlantic HMS management that have been implemented to reduce bycatch of juvenile swordfish, sea turtles, and bluefin tuna, among other species. Electronic monitoring data from the pelagic longline fleet includes bluefin tuna discard and harvest information. These data are used by NMFS to accurately monitor bluefin tuna catch by the pelagic longline fleet, to ensure compliance with Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) limits and requirements,

and to ensure that the Longline category bluefin tuna quota is not over-harvested. VMS reporting of bluefin tuna catch is used to monitor the status of IBQ allocations in real-time.

Atlantic HMS fisheries are managed under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Atlantic Tunas Conservation Act (ATCA). Under the MSA, management measures must be consistent with ten National Standards, and fisheries must be managed to maintain optimum yield, rebuild overfished fisheries, and prevent overfishing. Under ATCA, the Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate regulations, as necessary and appropriate, to implement measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

##### II. Method of Collection

First-time VMS respondents must install a VMS unit and submit an activation checklist to NMFS via mail. Hail-out, hail-in, hourly position reports, and bluefin tuna catch reports must be submitted to NMFS via the VMS communication system. First-time electronic monitoring respondents must have an electronic monitoring system installed by a NMFS contractor. Electronic monitoring data must be submitted after each pelagic longline trip via mail.

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0372.

*Form Number(s):* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 311.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Four hours for initial VMS installation; 5 minutes per VMS initial activation checklist; 2 minutes per VMS hail-out/hail-in declaration; 6 hours for electronic monitoring installation; 5 minutes for VMS pelagic longline bluefin tuna catch reporting; 15 minutes for VMS purse seine bluefin tuna catch records; 1 minute for dockside review of bluefin tuna catch records previously submitted via VMS; 2 hours for electronic monitoring data retrieval.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 20,402.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$389,416 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.