

- Three-year review of Amendment 7 on bluefin tuna management;
- A proposed rule and draft Environmental Impact Statement for pelagic longline bluefin tuna area-based and weak hook management measures;
- Scoping for Amendments 13 (bluefin tuna), and spatial management research and data collection.

We also anticipate inviting other NMFS offices and the United States Coast Guard to provide updates, if available, on their activities relevant to HMS fisheries.

Additional information on the meeting and a copy of the draft agenda will be posted prior to the meeting at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/may-2019-hms-advisory-panel-meeting>.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Peter Cooper at (301) 427-8503 at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Dated: March 4, 2019.

Karen H. Abrams,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Region Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Economic Data Reports

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 May 6, 2019.

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 PRAComments@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Gabrielle Aberle, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, Telephone (907) 586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

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

The Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program) is a limited access privilege program managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-199, Sec. 801), and the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab (FMP). The CR Program allocates crab among harvesters, processors, Western Alaska Community Development Quota groups, and coastal communities for nine crab fisheries. The CR Program also includes a comprehensive economic data collection program requiring participants to complete annual Economic Data Reports (EDRs). These EDRs are intended to aid the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to assess the performance of the CR Program and to develop amendments to the FMP or regulations to mitigate any unintended consequences of the CR Program.

NMFS has designated Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) as the Data Collection Agent for the CR Program. NMFS and PSMFC administer the crab EDR program under the guidance of the Council. The crab EDR program collects annually reported cost, revenue, ownership, and employment data from harvest and processing sector participants in the CR Program fisheries. This information is necessary to monitor and assess the economic effects of the CR Program and support rigorous economic analysis to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the FMP.

Participation in the crab EDR program is mandatory under Federal fisheries regulations at 50 CFR 680.6 for all active vessel and processing sector participants in the CR Program fisheries.

This information collection contains the three EDRs used by participants in the CR Program: Catcher Vessel Crab EDR, Catcher/Processor Crab EDR, and Processor Crab EDR. An EDR is required

from any owner or leaseholder of a vessel or processing plant, or a holder of a registered crab receiver permit that harvested, processed, custom processed, or obtained custom processing for CR crab in specified BSAI crab fisheries during the prior calendar year. The EDRs are submitted annually and are due on or before July 31 of the following year. The information collection also includes information required to be submitted for audits to verify data submitted by respondents. Additional information on the crab EDR program is available on the PSMFC website at http://www.psmfc.org/alaska_crab/.

II. Method of Collection

The EDRs may be submitted online, by mail, or by fax. PSMFC mails EDR announcements and filing instructions to respondents by the end of May each year. Respondents are encouraged to complete the forms online on the PSMFC website at http://www.psmfc.org/alaska_crab/. EDR forms also are available on the PSMFC website as a fillable PDF; these may be downloaded, printed, and mailed or faxed to PSMFC.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0518.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 99.

Estimated Time per Response: 20 hours each for full Catcher Vessel Crab EDR and full Catcher/Processor Crab EDR; 16 hours for full Processor Crab EDR; 2 hours each for certification-only Catcher Vessel Crab EDR, certification-only Catcher/Processor Crab EDR, and certification-only Processor Crab EDR; and 8 hours for Verification of Data. These estimates are based on the most recent supporting statement prepared for this EDR information collection in 2018. This supporting statement is available on NOAA's Paperwork Reduction Act web page at <https://www.cio.noaa.gov/itmanagement/pdfs/0518Ext16.pdf>.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,624 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$318,414 in recordkeeping and 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,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG822

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Biorka Island Dock Replacement Project

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; proposed issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) that would cover a subset of the take authorized in an IHA previously issued to FAA to incidentally take marine mammals, by Level A and Level B harassment, during construction activities associated with the Biorka dock replacement project in Symonds Bay, Alaska. The applicant was unable to complete the work before the expiration date of the 2018 IHA and NMFS is proposing to issue, an IHA authorizing incidental take for the remaining activities. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to incidentally take marine mammals

during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on a possible one-year renewal that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met, as described in *Request for Public Comments* at the end of this notice.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than April 8, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. Physical comments should be sent to 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and electronic comments should be sent to ITP.Guan@noaa.gov.

Instructions: NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments received electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, 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: Shane Guan, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the original application and supporting documents (including NMFS FR notices of the 2018 proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who

engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed incidental take authorization may be provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization) with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment. This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and a Categorical Exclusion memo was signed in October 2017.

History of Request

On March 31, 2017, NMFS received a request from the FAA for an IHA to take marine mammals incidental to pile driving and removal and down-the-hole (DTH) pile driving in association with the Biorka Island Dock Replacement Project (Project) in Symonds Bay, Alaska. NMFS published a notice of a proposed IHA and request for comments in the **Federal Register** on August 30,