

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
SOUTHEAST REGION PERMIT FAMILY OF FORMS
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0205**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The Southeast Region covers the eight coastal states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, the inland states of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is entrusted with the conservation, management, and protection of marine fishery resources inhabiting federal waters off the southeastern United States from North Carolina through Texas and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Division is the Region's focal point for implementing NMFS' primary legislative authority for fisheries management and research, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA).

The Division works directly with the Region's three fishery management councils established by Congress to perform the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These mandates are accomplished through fishery management plans for marine finfish and crustaceans that support important commercial and recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic Ocean, and Caribbean Sea and consider conservation and management issues, sociological and economic issues, and regulatory issues. Functions and activities required to fulfill this and other responsibilities as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act include: providing guidance on fisheries management; providing technical assistance and advise in preparing fishery management plans (FMPs) in accordance with national standard guidelines and other applicable laws; coordinating public review and compilation of comments; initiating Secretarial review of FMPs and amendments; drafting regulations and Federal Register notices, as well as reviewing and responding to comments received during rulemaking; fishery management plan (FMP) implementation; and monitoring.

A major component of fisheries management in the Region is the permit system and the information collected by these permits. The permit/endorsement system has the following uses:

- a. Registration of actual and/or potential fishing vessels/dealers.
- b. Collection of data relevant to the characteristics of both vessels and (potential) fishermen.
- c. Secure compliance (e.g., do not issue permits until unpaid penalties have been collected and reporting requirements are fulfilled).
- d. Provide a mailing list for the dissemination of regulatory information.
- e. Register participants for fisheries with special restrictions/limited access.
- f. Provide sample frames for data collection.
- g. Permit purchase information for fleet economic analyses.

Accordingly, numerous FMPs and Amendments have been developed by the Region which requires the collection of information for purposes of proper implementation of these rules. Regulations implementing the FMPs and their collection of information appear at 50 CFR 600.305, 50 CFR 600.315, and 50 CFR 622.5.

Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

In 1999, NOAA Fisheries, on behalf of the Secretary, designated the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) as the administrative lead in jointly preparing and amending a dolphin and wahoo FMP. This plan was to be completed with the cooperation of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils acting in an advisory capacity to the SAFMC. Several logistic issues delayed the finalization of the joint FMP. The SAFMC was concerned that identified social and economic issues in their area of jurisdiction (the U.S. Atlantic coast) would not be addressed in a timely manner. In July 2002, the SAFMC requested that the Secretary re-designate them as true lead on an FMP encompassing only the U.S. Atlantic coast. In January 2003, NOAA Fisheries, on behalf of the Secretary, formally announced approval of this re-designation in a *Federal Register Notice*. Requirements are included in 50 CFR 622.4.

The rule implemented the FMP for the dolphin and wahoo fishery in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the Atlantic states (Maine through the east coast of Florida), the rule required vessel owners to obtain commercial vessel and charter vessel/headboat permits and submit reports; required operators of commercial vessels, charter vessels, and headboats to obtain operator permits; required dealers to obtain permits and submit reports; established bag and trip limits; established a minimum size limit (dolphin only); closed the longline fisheries in areas closed to the use of such gear for highly migratory pelagic species; prohibited sale without a commercial vessel permit; specified allowable gear; and established a framework procedure by which the SAFMC could establish and modify certain management measures in a timely manner. The intended effects are to conserve and manage dolphin and wahoo and to ensure that no new fisheries for dolphin and wahoo develop.

Information obtained on permit applications provides baseline data on participants and the activities of vessels, dealers, and vessel operators in the Atlantic dolphin and wahoo fishery that were not available. Collection of the taxpayer identification number (i.e., employer identification numbers for corporations, and social security number for individuals) on the Application under authority of the Debt Collection Act enhances NMFS's identification of the applicants for management and compliance purposes. To be eligible for exemption from the bag and possession limits for dolphin and wahoo in the Atlantic EEZ or to sell dolphin and wahoo harvested in the Atlantic EEZ, the rule requires a vessel to have on board a Federal commercial permit for Atlantic dolphin and wahoo. As an exception to this permit requirement, a vessel with a Federal commercial permit in a fishery other than the Atlantic dolphin and wahoo fishery would have a 200-lb trip limit, in lieu of a bag and possession limit, and would be allowed to sell dolphin or wahoo, provided that all fishing on and landings from that trip were landings from waters north of 39° N. lat. (near Dover, Delaware).

NMFS issues an Atlantic dolphin and wahoo commercial permit for a vessel that has a Federal commercial permit for king mackerel, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, or Atlantic swordfish or for a vessel, whose owner meets both the earned income requirement and the landings

requirement. An owner meets the earned income requirement if he or she derived at least 25 percent of earned income or at least \$10,000 from commercial fishing (i.e., the harvest and first sale of fish) or from charter/headboat fishing during one of the 3 calendar years 1996, 1997, or 1998. An owner meets the landings requirement if he or she owned a vessel that landed and sold at least 250 lb of dolphin and/or wahoo harvested from the Atlantic during the period January 1, 1996, through May 21, 1999. If a vessel has a Federal commercial vessel permit issued by NMFS in the king mackerel, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, or swordfish fishery, dolphin and wahoo is added to the fisheries for which the permit is valid upon written request to NMFS from the owner or operator for such addition.

An owner of a vessel who desires a commercial vessel permit based on the earned income and landings requirements is required to obtain a permit application form from and submit it to NMFS. Information on the application form and accompanying documentation consists of the standard information and documentation required for commercial vessel permits issued by NMFS. Such information and documentation is not required if they are available to NMFS through a valid permit issued in another fishery. The earned income requirement has to be documented by an optional affidavit signed by the applicant, or by the applicant's tax records demonstrating that he/she does meet the income qualifications of the fishery. The original rule stated that tax records were the only accepted documentation for proof of participation in the fishery. However, the optional affidavit was developed to reduce burden on the participants while still providing documentation of participation.

The landings requirement has to be documented by a listing of landings by date, species, amount, and dealer. Only landings verified as having been received between January 1, 1996, and May 21, 1999, by the following would qualify: (1) Fishing vessel logbooks received by the Science and Research Director of either the NMFS Southeast or Northeast Fisheries Science Centers; (2) state trip ticket systems; or (3) for landings not covered by vessel logbook or state trip ticket system requirements: dealer records accompanied by signed earned income affidavits. Dealer records must definitively show dates and amounts of landings of the species known as dolphin and/or wahoo and the vessel's name, official number, or other reference that clearly identifies the vessel. Dealer records must contain a sworn affidavit by the dealer confirming the accuracy and authenticity of the records. A sworn affidavit is an official written statement wherein the individual signing the affidavit affirms that the information presented is accurate and can be substantiated, under penalty of law. Only landings that were harvested, landed, and sold in compliance with state and Federal regulations would be used to establish eligibility. No appeals, or reconsiderations of ineligibility, are allowed.

To possess a dolphin or wahoo in or from the Atlantic EEZ on board a charter vessel or headboat, the rule requires that a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for Atlantic dolphin and wahoo be on board that vessel. There is no earned income or landing requirement for the charter vessel/headboat permits. The owner of a vessel who desires a charter vessel/headboat permit for the Atlantic dolphin and wahoo fishery is required to obtain a permit application form from, and submit it to, NMFS. An owner of a charter vessel or headboat who desires to sell dolphin is required to obtain a commercial vessel permit for dolphin and wahoo in addition to the charter vessel/headboat permit.

To enhance enforcement of fishery regulations, the rule requires an operator of a commercial vessel or a charter vessel/headboat in the Atlantic dolphin and wahoo fishery to obtain a permit.

"Operator" is defined as the master or other individual aboard and in charge of a vessel. Each vessel that has a Federal commercial vessel or charter vessel/headboat permit for the Atlantic dolphin and wahoo fishery is required to have on board at least one person who has a valid operator permit when the vessel is at sea or offloading. This provides operator characteristics data, and enforcement information to increase compliance in the fishery. Information required on an application includes name, address, and other identifying information, such as date of birth, height, weight, and hair and eye color, of the applicant, and other information necessary for the issuance or administration of the permit. In addition, each applicant is required to provide two recent (no more than 1-yr old) color, passport-sized photographs. In general, an operator permit is valid for a 3-year period. An operator of a vessel in the Atlantic dolphin and wahoo fishery is required to present his/her operator permit for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer.

This rule also requires a dealer of dolphin or wahoo to obtain a dealer permit for such species. "Dealer" is defined as a person who first receives fish by way of purchase, barter, or trade or who first receives dolphin or wahoo harvested from the Atlantic EEZ upon transfer ashore. To obtain such permit, the applicant has to have a valid state wholesaler's license in the state(s) where the dealer operates, if required by such state(s), and have a physical facility at a fixed location in such state(s).

Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

Amendment 22 to the FMP for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico proposes a mandatory observer program for selected commercial and for-hire (charter vessel/headboat) vessels in the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery. This requires a revision to 0648-0205 to allow the collection of data associated with the reef fish vessel owners notifying the agency regarding their fishing activities, by telephonic communication, so that observers can arrange to board the vessel and observe the fishing trip. No form or application is required. The regulatory citation is 50 CFR 622.4.

South Atlantic Shrimp Amendment 6

Brown, pink, or white shrimp (penaeid) vessel owners must submit applications for federal fishing permits and provide relevant information on those applications. This collection is associated with rulemaking to implement Amendment 6 to the FMP for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, as prepared and submitted by the SAFMC. The shrimp fishery off the southern Atlantic states is managed under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the SAFMC and is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

The rulemaking requires an owner or operator of a trawler that harvests penaeid shrimp in the EEZ off the southern Atlantic states to obtain a Federal fishing permit in 50 CFR 622.4.. This family of forms includes data collection of data for agency observers aboard fishing vessels. Amendment 6 proposes an observer program for selected commercial vessels in the South Atlantic penaeid shrimp and rock shrimp fisheries.

Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Amendment 13

Amendment 13 of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) shrimp fishery FMP amends the FMP to include a royal red shrimp endorsement, an observer program, an annual landings report, and a permit moratorium under which eligibility for a permit must be established. Additionally, the final rule implementing Amendment 13 to the shrimp FMP establishes a new requirement to have all permit transfers in the Gulf of Mexico notarized. Burden hours and costs for this requirement will also be added to OMB Control No.: 0648-0327, Highly Migratory Species Permit Family of Forms.

The royal red shrimp fishery in the GOM is a very small component of the overall shrimp fishery, and there are very limited data on this fishery on which to make management decisions. Consequently, there is a need to collect additional information on areas fished, effort, catch per unit effort, markets, value, etc. A separate royal red shrimp vessel permit or an endorsement to the existing commercial shrimp vessel permit would provide a readily accessible database from which to identify participants in this fishery.

In developing a methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch for the shrimp fishery of the GOM as required by Section 303 (a) (11) of the M-SFCMA, the Council is confronted with two problems. First, the bycatch is made up of a very large number of species that differ depending on the species of shrimp being harvested, environmental perturbations, and the geographic location of trawling. This problem is compounded by seasonal differences in abundance and the fact that the vast majority of this bycatch is made up of species that have very little or no commercial or recreational value and are discarded. The total amount of bycatch is also large: approximately 600.0 million pounds, annually. Consequently, although a rough estimation of the amount of bycatch can be made by sampling bycatch to shrimp catch ratios and multiplying, this method does not address the legal requirement of assessing the “type” of bycatch – because, being unwanted, it is discarded without identification.

The second problem is concerned with estimating effort. There are currently approximately 2,500 permitted vessels that harvest shrimp from the Exclusive Economic Zone, and the Council estimates that there are over 13,000 boats that fish in state waters. With such a large number of vessels of differing sizes, gears used, and fishing capabilities compounded by seasonal variability in abundance and price and the broad geographic distribution of the fleet, it is practically impossible to estimate the actual amount of fishing effort using current methods and data.

Therefore, along with a royal red endorsement, the entire shrimp fishery is being placed under a moratorium under which vessels will have to qualify for a permit. In addition, a requirement to provide annual landings will identify species composition within the fishery. Having such a database will allow managers and scientists to gather additional biological, social, and economic data in order to appropriately manage this fishery where and when warranted.

Falsifying permit transfers has caused a number of problems to both the permit section and the fishermen themselves. The new requirement of notarized transfers is expected to quell the problem of forged or falsified permit transfers. Requirements in RIN 0648-AS15 will be added to 50CFR622.4 (the related revision to OMB Control No.: 0648-0205 OMB approved on 6-23-06).

Activity	Fishery	Form	Regulation Citation
Dealer Permit	South Atlantic Snapper/Grouper; Gulf Reef Fish; Golden Crab; Wreckfish; Rock Shrimp;	Multiple Fishery Dealer Application	50 CFR 622.4
Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit	Dolphin/Wahoo; Gulf Reef Fish; South Atlantic Snapper/Grouper; Coastal Migratory Pelagic	Federal permit application for vessels fishing in the EEZ	50 CFR 622.4
Commercial Vessel Permit	King and Spanish Mackerel; Wreckfish; Spiny Lobster; Gulf Shrimp; Gulf Reef Fish; South Atlantic Rock Shrimp; South Atlantic Snapper/Grouper; South Atlantic Golden Crab; Colombian Treaty Waters	Federal permit application for vessels fishing in the EEZ	50 CFR 622.4 50 CFR 622.15 50 CFR 622.17 50 CFR 635.4 50 CFR 640.4
Vessel Operator Permit Card	Dolphin/Wahoo; South Atlantic Rock Shrimp	Federal permit application for southeast region issued operator card	50 CFR 622.4
Commercial Vessel Tailing Permit	Spiny Lobster	Federal permit application for vessels fishing in the EEZ	640.4
Commercial Vessel Monitoring System Installation	South Atlantic Rock Shrimp	Checklist	50 CFR 622.4
Commercial Vessel Monitoring System Maintenance	South Atlantic Rock Shrimp	No Form	50 CFR 622.4
Commercial Vessel Permit Transfer	Various	Federal permit application for vessels fishing in the EEZ	50 CFR 622.4
Vessel Permit	Octocoral Coral or Allowable Chemical	No Form – Written Request for Either Permit	50 CFR 622.4
Site Permit	Aquacultured Live Rock	Individual Form	50 CFR 622.4
Site Evaluation Report	Aquacultured Live Rock	Individual Form	50 CFR 622.4
Vessel Permit Endorsement Transfer	Gulf Reef Fish Trap; Gulf Red Snapper; Mackerel Gillnet	Federal permit application for vessels fishing in the EEZ	50 CFR 622.4
Vessel Permit Endorsement Placement	Gulf Red Snapper	No Form – Written Request	50 CFR 622.4

Activity	Fishery	Form	Regulation Citation
Notification of Lost or Stolen Traps	South Atlantic Golden Crab; Caribbean Spiny Lobster; Gulf Reef Fish; South Atlantic Snapper/Grouper	No Form – Notification	50 CFR 622.17 50 CFR 622.6
Observer coverage	South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Penaeid Shrimp; South Atlantic Sargassum; South Atlantic Golden Crab; Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish	No Form - Notification	50 CFR 622.8
Zone Transit Notification	South Atlantic Golden Crab	No Form – Notification	50 CFR 622.17
Notification of Authorization for Trap Retrieval	Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper/Grouper; South Atlantic Golden Crab	No Form – Written Notification of Authorization	50 CFR 622.4
Notification of Harvest Activity	Aquacultured Live Rock	No Form – Notification	50 CFR 622.41
Coupons for Tracking ITQ	Wreckfish	Coupon	50 CFR 622.15
Gulf of Mexico shrimp permit moratorium	Gulf of Mexico shrimp	Basis of eligibility for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Moratorium	50 CFR 622.4
Gulf of Mexico shrimp permit	Gulf of Mexico shrimp	Federal permit application for vessels fishing in the EEZ for shrimp	50 CFR 622.4
Royal red shrimp endorsement	Gulf of Mexico shrimp	Federal permit application for vessels fishing in the EEZ for shrimp	50 CFR 622.4
Transfer notarization	All fisheries with allowable transfer of permits	Applicable permit, license, or endorsement	50 CFR 622.4
Annual landings report	Gulf of Mexico shrimp	Gulf of Mexico shrimp federal permit reporting form	50 CFR 622.4

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The information requested is used by various offices of NMFS, Regional Fishery Management Council staff, the U.S. Coast Guard and state fishery agencies under contract to NMFS to develop, implement and monitor fishery management strategies. Analyzes and summarizations of data are used by NMFS, the Regional Councils, the Departments of State and Commerce, OMB, the fishing industry, Congressional staff and the public to answer questions about the

nature of the Nation's fishery resources.

These data serve as input for a variety of uses, such as: biological analyzes and stock assessments; E.O. 12291 regulatory impact analyzes; quota and allocation selections and monitoring; economic profitability profiles; trade and import tariff decisions; allocations of grant funds among states; identify ecological interactions among species. NMFS would be significantly hindered in its ability to fulfill the majority of its scientific research and fishery management missions without these data.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NMFS retains control over the information and safeguards it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measure and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of the Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

Regarding the permitting data collection, the Southeast Region's Web site allows the public to obtain a copy of the permit application, which can be downloaded and completed electronically, and then printed. Otherwise, the Southeast Region currently has no resource or technological capability for electronic (i.e., Web site) permit application and issuance. This capability cannot be accomplished in the Southeast Region without significant changes to the permit issuance criteria and our permit issuance processes. These changes have been initiated, in that the Southeast Region Permits Team may be switching from a non-Web database (Rbase) to a Web-based database (Oracle) in the future. The Southeast Region also has initiated clearance of a survey of permitted vessel owners to determine the feasibility of Web site application and associated costs/benefits. The survey results will be used to evaluate the feasibility of electronic permit transactions for possible inclusion in future permitting system changes and resource/technology allocations. Such changes could support NOAA's proposed initiative for One-Stop Shopping (to improve customer service through coordination of NOAA consultation and permitting activities).

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act's operational guidelines require each FMP to evaluate existing state and federal laws that govern the fisheries in question, and the findings are made part of each FMP. Each Fishery Management Council membership is comprised of state and federal officials responsible for resource management in their area. These two circumstances identify other collections that may be gathering the same or similar information. In addition, each FMP undergoes extensive public comment periods where potential applicants review the proposed permit application requirements. Therefore, NMFS is confident it is aware of similar collections if they exist. The other information proposed to be collected is not being collected elsewhere; therefore, this data collection would not cause duplication.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Because all applicants are considered small businesses or small entities, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data to meet the current and future needs of NMFS's fisheries management are requested from the vessel owners.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

The Region's three fishery management councils established by Congress are expected to fulfill the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These mandates are accomplished through fishery management plans for marine finfish and crustaceans that support important commercial and recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic Ocean, and Caribbean Sea and consider conservation and management issues, sociological and economic issues, and regulatory issues. Functions and activities required to fulfill this and other responsibilities as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act include: providing guidance on fisheries management; providing technical assistance and advise in preparing FMPs in accordance with national standard guidelines and other applicable laws; coordinating public review and compilation of comments; initiating Secretarial review of FMPs and amendments; drafting regulations and Federal Register Notices, as well as reviewing and responding to comments received during rulemaking; FMP implementation; and monitoring.

A major component of fisheries management in the Region is the permit system and the information collected by these permits. Without the collection of this information, mandates accomplished through fishery management plans cannot be fulfilled.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

There are no special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register notice solicited comments on this renewal request; none were received.

These data collection programs were all part of FMPs or amendments to these FMPs. As such public comments were solicited for all parts of the rule, including the collection of information requests. As part of the FMP development process, public hearings are held throughout the

region soliciting comments from constituents about any part of the proposed FMP and associated rule. Additionally, upon publication of the Notice of Availability of the Amendment in the Federal Register, the public has 60 days to comment on the Amendment. Likewise, upon publication of the proposed rule, which includes any reporting requirements, the public has 45 days to comment on the rule and its associated collections. Also, notices were published regarding all aspects of the collection discussed earlier in this supporting statement.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

There are no payments or other remunerations to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All data submitted under the proposed collection will be handled as confidential material in accordance with M-SFCMA, Section 402b, and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics.

This information collection will be included in a comprehensive NMFS Permits and Registrations System of Records Notice, to be submitted for review to the Department of Commerce before the end of Fiscal Year 2006.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No questions of a sensitive nature are asked.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Burden hours for this collection of information total 15,670, reduced from 15,770. There are 1176 permits annually for which the optional affidavit for income qualifiers applies, with a time savings per response of 5 minutes (1176 applicants x 5 minutes saved = 98 hours). The additional two hours' difference is due to cumulative rounding errors.

Responses have decreased from 62,408 to 60,248, also due to cumulative errors (see # 15).

Form/Notification /Endorsement	Total Number of Respondents	Annual Number of Responses	Time per Response	Total Time Hours
Multiple Fishery Dealer Application	548	274	5 min	23
Multiple Fishery Vessel Application	9797	3294	20 min	1312
South Atlantic Wreckfish Vessel Form	8	8	20 min	3

Form/Notification /Endorsement	Total Number of Respondents	Annual Number of Responses	Time per Response	Total Time Hours
Rock Shrimp Vessel Monitoring System Maintenance	168	168	2 hours	336
Rock Shrimp Vessel Monitoring System Installation	0	0	4 hours	0
Rock Shrimp Vessel Operator Permit Card Applications	168	56	1 hour	56
Rock Shrimp Vessel Position Reports	168	33,600	14 minutes	7,840
Rock Shrimp Vessel Non-renewed Endorsement Requests	30	10	2 hours	20
South Atlantic Golden Crab Vessel Form	10	5	20 min	2
Colombian Treaty Vessel Form	20	20	20 min	7
Aquacultured Live Rock Site Evaluation Report	1	1	45 min	1
Aquacultured Live Rock Site Permit	1	1	20 min	1
Notification of Permit Purchase Price – Permit Transfer	658	329	5 min	28
Endorsement Transfer – Gulf red snapper	0	0	20 min	0
Endorsement (Placement) – Gulf red snapper	130	65	5 min	5
Endorsement – South Atlantic rock shrimp	0	0	20 min	0
Endorsement – Gulf Reef Fish Trap	59	30	20 min	10
Endorsement – Mackerel Gillnet	52	26	20 min	9
Notification of Golden Crab Lost or Stolen Traps	2	2	5 min	10 minutes
Notification – Sargassum Vessel Observer	0	0	5 min	0
Notification – Golden Crab Observer	2	2	5 min	10 minutes
Transit Notification – Golden Crab Vessel	5	5	5 min	1

Form/Notification /Endorsement	Total Number of Respondents	Annual Number of Responses	Time per Response	Total Time Hours
Notification Authorization for Trap Retrieval – Gulf Reef Fish	5	5	15 min	1
Notification Authorization for Trap Retrieval – South Atlantic – Snapper/grouper	2	2	15 min	1
Notification Authorization for Trap Retrieval – Golden Crab	1	1	15 min	15 minutes
Notification Harvest Activity – Aquacultured Live Rock	10	10	5 min	1
Notification Lost Traps – Caribbean Spiny Lobster	2	2	5 min	10 minutes
Request for Octocoral Coral or Allowable Chemical Vessel Permit	0	0	5 min	0
Dolphin/ Wahoo permit applications/operator cards	8,459	8,479	30 minutes	4,240
Notification - Reef Fish, Golden Crab, Rock Shrimp. Royal Red Shrimp Observer coverage	5758	5758	5 minutes	479
Gulf of Mexico Shrimp permit applications	1731	1731	20 minutes	589
Royal Red Shrimp permit application	14	14	22 minutes	5
Gulf of Mexico shrimp annual landings report	2500	2500	5 minutes	208
Notarization of transfers	1350	1350	20 minutes	450
Gulf of Mexico shrimp moratorium eligibility form	2500	2500	1 minute	42
Total		60,248		15,670

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

The total annual cost burden for this collection of information is \$650,978. The total revenue generated by permit fees is \$569,244: 1) fishery permits cost \$50 for the first fishery and \$20 for each additional fishery; 2) operator cards cost \$50; 3) Golden crab permits cost \$40; 4) aquacultured live rock cost \$175 for a new permit, and \$31 for renewals and 5) Wreckfish permits cost \$50 (there is no charge for the Colombian treaty permit); 6) dealer permits cost \$100 for the first fishery, and \$25 for each additional fishery. Notarization of transfers cost \$13,500 (1350 transfers @ \$10.00 each). The remaining \$68,234 is accounted for by postage for mailing in permit applications and other required reporting forms.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Only the observer program associated with this collection has costs to the government, which if implemented at the requested level, would cost \$1,040,000.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

There is a reduction of 98 hours (1176 responses x 5 minutes) due to a program change: the use of an optional income qualification affidavit for those fisheries that require income qualification for permitting. The reduction in hours results from these participants not having to gather their tax information on a yearly basis for renewal of their permits. An additional decrease of 2 hours is due to an adjustment: cumulative rounding or other calculation errors.

A reduction of 2,160 responses is also an adjustment. After retracing and double checking all changes to this collection since 2003, this decrease can be due only to small cumulative calculation errors.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The results from this collection are not planned for statistical publication, although NOAA Fisheries may distribute the results of the observations for general information.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

The OMB number will be displayed where appropriate.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

There are no exemptions to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of OMB 83-I.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.