

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
ALASKA ROCKFISH PILOT PROGRAM
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0545**

INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, a pilot program for management of three rockfish fisheries in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the coast of Alaska. The Rockfish Program provides exclusive harvesting and processing privileges for a specific set of rockfish species and associated species harvested incidentally to those CGOA rockfish; an area from 140° W. long. to 168° W. long. Implementing regulations may be found at 50 CFR part 679 (see attached FR 0648-AT71).

This action is a request for revision of an existing collection. The collection revision is necessary due to removal of one form, addition of another form, and minor revisions to other forms. In addition, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) changed the submittal date for some applications. These changes are in response to: 1) comments received on the proposed rule [71 FR 33040, June 7, 2006](#) and 2) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) policy clarifying the collection of the social security number under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134) (Debt Collection Act).

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

NMFS will issue a final rule (RIN 0648-AT71) to implement Amendment 68 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP). This rule will implement statutory provisions for the CGOA Rockfish Pilot Program (hereinafter referred to as the Program). Changes occur to this collection due to comments NMFS received on the proposed rule and also changes pertinent to the Debt Collection Act.

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.

a. General changes.

1. NMFS adopted a new term “cooperative quota (CQ),” to replace the term “cooperative fishing quota (CFQ)” to reduce confusion with an acronym used by the Council in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) rationalization program under development.

2. In response to public comment requesting additional time to prepare and submit the annual application for CQ, the rockfish limited access fishery, entry-level fishery, and opt-out fishery, NMFS changed the submittal date from December 1 of the year prior to fishing to March

1 of the year in which the person intends to fish. This deadline change provides both the time to gather records and coordinate with other participants in the fishery.

3. In response to recent DOC policy (attached), clarifying collection of the social security number under the Debt Collection Act, one field, the mandatory social security number (or tax id number) was added to the quota permit application. Date of birth (or date of incorporation) is also now required, in conformance with a pending memo from the NMFS Under Secretary, to assist with identification purposes. Both were added to the limited access application and the opt out application. Tax ID number was removed from the inter-cooperative transfer application. The burden estimate for these applications is very liberal, estimated to be 2 hours. Therefore, the addition of three fields of information readily available is not expected to increase the burden estimate.

b. Rockfish cooperative vessel check -in and check-out.

A new requirement is added to this collection. Instead of requiring a cooperative permit revision through a lengthy procedure when changes occur in vessels fishing under a CQ permit, NMFS established a more flexible reporting system that allows a cooperative's authorized representative to submit a list of vessels fishing under its CQ permit. The cooperative would submit this list prior to fishing activity, an action that would "check-in" the cooperative. This would allow the cooperative to determine how and when vessels will fish under a CQ permit. Authorized cooperative representatives could "check-in" a vessel when it is fishing under a CQ permit during the rockfish cooperative fishing year, and "check-out" vessels no longer fishing under its CQ permit.

Vessel check-in report.

Rockfish cooperatives would need to designate at least one vessel to fish the CQ permit for that cooperative effective on May 1. The authorized representative must designate any vessel that is fishing under a CQ permit before that vessel may fish under a CQ permit for that rockfish cooperative through this check-in procedure. A vessel check-in must be submitted 48 hours prior to the beginning of a fishing trip by that vessel. A check-in report is effective at the beginning of the first fishing trip after the designation has been submitted. This advance notice may take the form of a letter which includes a list of vessels and will provide NMFS time to adjust catch accounting procedures and accurately monitor catch.

The authorized representative could submit no more check-in reports in a calendar year than an amount equal to three times the number of License Limitation Program (LLP) licenses that are assigned to that rockfish cooperative in that calendar year. This limit would reduce the number of check-in reports and vessels that NMFS must track and reduce the chance that specific vessel's catch is misapplied in NMFS' catch accounting system.

Vessel check-out.

The authorized representative must designate any vessel that is no longer fishing under a CQ permit for that rockfish cooperative. The authorized representative could submit no more check-out reports in a calendar year than an amount equal to three times the number of LLP licenses that are assigned to that rockfish cooperative in that calendar year. A vessel checkout must be

submitted within 6 hours after the effective date and time of the designation. This will ensure that catch is properly debited against a CQ account and reduces the risk that a subsequent trip would be misapplied as occurring under a CQ permit and have to be corrected. This designation is effective the earlier of:

The end of a complete offload if that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit for a catcher vessel cooperative; or

The end of the week-ending date as reported in the weekly production report if that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit for a catcher/processor cooperative; or

The end of a complete offload if that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit for a catcher/processor cooperative.

The authorized representative of the rockfish cooperative must submit a vessel check-in or check-out report by one of the following methods:

By mail to: Sustainable Fisheries, P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802-1668; or

By fax to: 907-586-7131.

Vessel Check-in/Check-out Report

CQ Permit number

Vessel ADF&G vessel registration number and USCG documentation number

Date and time when check-in or check-out begins

Vessel Check-in/Check-out Report , Respondent	
Number of respondents	20
Total annual responses	40
Number responses per respondent = 2	
Total burden hours	20 hr
Time per response = 30 min = 30/60 = 0.5	
Total personnel cost (20 x 25)	\$500
Total miscellaneous costs	\$112
Postage cost (0.39 x 20 = 7.80)	
Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 40 = 4)	
FAX cost (\$5 x 20 = 100)	

Vessel check-in/Check-out Report, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	40
Total burden hours (40 x .25)	10
Time per response = 15/60 min = .25	
Total personnel cost (10 x \$25)	\$250
Total miscellaneous cost	0

c. Application to Transfer Eligible Rockfish Processor Permit. [Removed]

d. Application to Participate in the Rockfish Pilot Program.

To become an eligible processor or harvester, an eligible harvester or processor must submit an Application to Participate in the Rockfish Program. Once a person holding a valid fully transferable LLP license with legal rockfish landings has submitted a complete application that is approved by NMFS, that person would be an eligible harvester. Once a person with processing

history has submitted a complete application that is approved by NMFS, that person would be an eligible rockfish processor.

The application must be received by NMFS no later than January 2, 2007, or postmarked by that date (if mailed). The application form is available on the NMFS, Alaska Region website (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>). Also, interested persons may contact NMFS to request an application package (telephone: (907) 586-7344). Further, NMFS will mail an application package to all potentially eligible LLP license holders based on the address on record at the time the application period opens. An application may be submitted by mail, fax, or hand delivery.

Application to Participate in the Rockfish Pilot Program

Indicate type of eligibility for which you are applying

Block A -- Applicant information.

Applicant's name, NMFS person ID (if applicable), and tax ID or social security number* (required)

**The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government.*

Permanent business mailing address, business telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available);

Indicate (YES or NO) if the applicant is a U.S. citizen; if YES, provide date of birth

Indicate (YES or NO) if the applicant is a U.S. corporation, partnership, association, or other business Entity; if YES, provide date of incorporation

Indicate (YES or NO) if the applicant is a successor-in-interest to a deceased individual or to a non-individual no longer in existence; if YES attach death certificate or evidence of dissolution.

Block B – Agreement with rockfish program official record

Agree. If agree with official rockfish program record summary, sign application

Disagree. If disagree with official rockfish program record summary, complete Block C, or Blocks D and E, and sign in Block F; attach explanation of disagreement and provide evidence to support claims.

Did not receive an official rockfish program record summary. Complete Block C or Blocks D and E, and sign in Block F; attach explanation for basis or eligibility

Block C -- Harvester Legal rockfish landings

If claiming Legal Rockfish Landings associated with a groundfish LLP license, and you **do not agree** with the official rockfish program record, enter the following information

Original Qualifying Vessel (OOV)

LLP license number

Name of vessel

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) vessel registration number

United States Coast Guard (USCG) documentation number

Date landings made in 2000 or 2001

All other vessels used under this LLP license

LLP license number

Name(s), ADF&G No., and USCG No. of vessel

Date landings made in 2000 or 2001

Block D – Legal rockfish landings in catcher/processor sector

If claiming Legal Rockfish Landings in the Catcher/Processor Sector and you **do not agree** with the official rockfish program record, enter the following information

LLP license number

Catcher/processor name

ADF&G vessel registration number

USCG documentation number

Block E – Processor eligibility

Indicate (YES or NO) whether applicant received not less than 250 metric tons in round weight equivalent of aggregate Legal Rockfish Landings of Primary Rockfish Species each calendar year in any four of the five calendar years beginning 1996 through 2000 during the season dates for that Primary Rockfish Species as

established in Table 28 to part 679

If YES, enter the following information for each processor where legal rockfish landings were received

Name of receiving processor

ADF&G processor code

Qualifying years/seasons

Name of the community in which the primary species rockfish were processed.

Enter the four calendar years from 1996 through 2000, that applicant wishes NMFS to use to determine an association with a rockfish cooperative

Attach a copy of the contract showing the legal processing history.

Block F -- Applicant signature and certification.

Signature of applicant and date signed

Printed name of applicant (or authorized representative); if representative, attach authorization

Application to Participate in the Rockfish Pilot Program, Respondent	
Number of respondents	71
48 catcher vessels	
15 catcher/processors	
8 shoreside processors and SFPs	
Total annual responses	71
Number responses per respondent = 1	
Total burden hours	142
Time per response = 2 hr	
Total personnel cost (142 x 25)	\$3550
Total miscellaneous costs (269.50)	\$270
Postage cost (0.39 x 20 = 7.80)	
Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 71 = 7.10)	
FAX cost (\$5 x 51 = 255)	

Application to Participate in the Rockfish Pilot Program, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	71
Total burden hours (71 x 0.5=35.50)	35
Time per response = 30/60 min = .5	
Total personnel cost (35 x \$25)	875
Total miscellaneous cost	0

Before fishing begins in January of 2007 or 2008, NMFS requires eligible rockfish harvesters to declare (file an application) if they are going to participate in a cooperative, limited access fishery, or opt-out fishery. This declaration helps NMFS decide how to monitor harvests, and whether there is sufficient catch available in a limited access fishery to allow NMFS to open the fishery without risk of exceeding the available catch. These declarations are due by March 1 of the year fishing will occur. These applications apply for one year.

e. Application for Rockfish Cooperative Fishing Quota (CQ).

The Program regulates the formation of cooperatives and the use of the annual catch amount by the cooperative. In addition to the requirements for the application to join a cooperative, an eligible rockfish harvester or eligible rockfish processor must meet specific requirements that differ between the catcher vessel sector and the catcher/processor sector. Each Rockfish Cooperative must be formed as a partnership, corporation, or other legal business entity that is registered under the laws of one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Each Rockfish Cooperative must appoint an individual as designated representative to act on the Rockfish Cooperative's behalf and serve as contact point for NMFS for questions regarding the operation

of the Rockfish Cooperative. The designated representative may be a member of the Rockfish Cooperative or some other individual authorized by the Rockfish Cooperative to act on its behalf. A cooperative that submits a complete application that is approved by NMFS will receive a Rockfish Cooperative permit and annual allocation.

Application for Rockfish Cooperative Fishing Quota (CQ)

Block A – Rockfish Cooperative Identification

Legal name
Type of business entity under which organized
State in which legally registered as a business entity
Date of incorporation
Tax ID number*

**The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government.*

Printed name and signature of designated representative and date signed
Permanent business address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available)

Block B – Members of the Rockfish Cooperative

Harvester identification
Full name and NMFS Person ID
LLP license number(s)
Tax ID or social security number*

**The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government.*

Name, ADF&G vessel registration number, and USCG documentation number of vessel on which CQ issued to rockfish cooperative will be used

LLP Holdership documentation
Names of all persons, to the individual level, holding an ownership interest in the LLP license
Percentage ownership each person and individual holds in the LLP license

Block C -- Processor Associates of the Rockfish Cooperative

Identification
Full name and NMFS Person ID
Tax ID*

**The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government.*

Processing facility name, ADF&G processor code, and Federal Fisheries Permit (FPP) number
Stationary floating processor name, ADF&G processor code, FPP number, and USCG documentation number

Processor ownership documentation
Names of all persons, to the individual level, holding an ownership interest in the processor
Percentage ownership each person and individual holds in the processor.

Attachments

Attach to the application
A copy of the business license issued by the state in which the Cooperative is registered as a business entity;
A copy of the articles of incorporation or partnership agreement of the Rockfish Cooperative

A copy of the membership agreement signed by the members of the rockfish cooperative (if different from the articles of incorporation or partnership agreement of the rockfish cooperative)

Any article of incorporation or agreement submitted by the Rockfish Cooperative must include terms that specify that:

Eligible processor affiliated harvesters do not participate in price setting negotiations except as permitted by general antitrust law; and

The Rockfish Cooperative has established a monitoring program sufficient to ensure compliance with the Rockfish Program.

Block D – Certification of applicant

Signature of applicant and date signed
 Printed name of applicant (or authorized representative); if representative, attach authorization

Application for Rockfish Cooperative CQ, Respondent	
Number of respondents	20
Total annual responses (1 response per respondent)	20
Total burden hours	40
Time per response = 2 hr	
Total personnel cost (\$25 x 40)	1000
Total miscellaneous costs	79
Postage cost (0.39 x 5 = 1.95)	
Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 20 = 2)	
FAX cost (\$5 x 15 = 75)	

Application for Rockfish Cooperative CQ, Federal Government	
Total responses	20
Total burden hours (0.5 x 20 = 2.5)	10
Time per response = 30/60 min = 0.5	
Total personnel cost (\$25 x 10)	250
Total miscellaneous cost	0

f. Application for rockfish limited access fishery

An eligible rockfish harvester or eligible rockfish processor may fish in the limited access fishery if that person chooses not, or cannot, participate in a cooperative or the opt-out fishery.

Application for rockfish limited access fishery

Block A -- Applicant information

Applicant's name and NMFS person ID
 Tax ID or social security number*

**The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government*

Permanent business mailing address
 Business telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available)
 Indicate (YES or NO) if the applicant is a U.S. citizen; if YES, provide date of birth
 Indicate (YES or NO) if the applicant is a U.S. corporation, partnership, association, or other business Entity; if YES, provide date of incorporation
 Whether the applicant is an Eligible Rockfish Harvester
 Whether the applicant is participating in the Limited Access Fishery

Block B -- Vessel identification

Vessel name
 ADF&G vessel registration number, USCG documentation number, and LLP license number(s) held by the applicant and used on that vessel.

Block C – LLP Holdership documentation.

Names of all persons, to the individual level, holding an ownership interest in the LLP license
Percentage ownership each person and individual holds in the LLP license.

Block D -- Applicant certification

Signature of applicant and date signed
Printed name of applicant; if submitted by a representative, attach authorization

Application for Rockfish Limited Access Fishery, Respondent	
Number of respondents	40
Total annual responses	40
Total annual time burden hours	80
Time per response = 2 hr	
Total personnel cost (80 x \$25)	\$2000
Total miscellaneous cost	\$181
Postage cost (0.39 x 5 = 1.95)	
Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 40 = 4)	
FAX cost (\$5 x 35 = 175)	

Application for Rockfish Limited Access Fishery, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	40
Total annual time burden hours	20
Time per response = 30 min/60 = 0.5	
Total personnel cost (20 x \$25)	500
Total miscellaneous cost	0

g. Application for Entry-Level Rockfish Fishery.

The entry-level fishery is available for all persons who are not eligible rockfish harvesters or processors. This fishery is intended to provide opportunities for harvesters and processors who have not traditionally participated in the CGOA rockfish fisheries. An applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. corporation, partnership, association, or other business entity to participate as a harvester.

Application for Entry-Level Rockfish Fishery

Block A -- Applicant Information

Name and NMFS person ID (if applicable)
Tax ID or social security number* (required)

*The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person’s relationship with the government.

Permanent business mailing address
Business telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available);
Indicate (YES or NO) whether applicant is a U.S. citizen; If YES, enter date of birth
Indicate (YES or NO) whether applicant is a U.S. corporation, partnership, association, or other business entity;
if YES, enter the date of incorporation;

Block B – Vessel Information

Vessel name
ADF&G vessel registration number and USCG documentation number of the vessel
LLP license number(s) held by the applicant and used on that vessel.

Block C -- Attachments

Attach a statement from an eligible entry level processor that affirms that the processor has a market for any rockfish delivered by that harvester in the entry-level fishery

Block D -- Applicant certification

Signature of applicant and date signed

Printed name of applicant (or authorized representative); if representative, attach authorization

Application for Entry-Level Rockfish Fishery, Respondent	
Number of respondents	1071
171 trawl vessels	
900 non-trawl vessels	
Total annual responses	1071
Total annual time burden hours	2142
Time per response = 2 hr	
Total personnel cost to all applicants (2142 x \$25)	\$53550
Total miscellaneous cost	\$5135
Postage cost (0.39 x 71 = 27.69)	
Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 1071 =107.10)	
FAX cost (\$5 x 1000 = 5000)	

Application for Entry-Level Rockfish Fishery, Federal Government	
Total responses	1071
Total burden hours (1071 x 0.5)	535
Time per response = 30/60 = 0.5	
Total personnel cost (535 x \$25)	\$13375
Total miscellaneous cost	0

h. Application to Opt-out of Rockfish Fishery.

An eligible rockfish harvester that holds an LLP license with a catch history allocation in the catcher/processor sector may choose to opt-out of many of the Program restrictions. If an eligible catcher/processor assigns an LLP license to the opt-out fishery, then that LLP license may not be used on a vessel that is participating in a cooperative, limited access fishery, or the entry level fishery.

Application to Opt-out of Rockfish Fishery

Block A -- Applicant information

Name and NMFS person ID

Tax ID or social security number

*The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government.

Permanent business mailing address

Business telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available)

Indicate (YES or NO) whether applicant is a U.S. citizen; If YES, enter date of birth

Indicate (YES or NO) whether applicant is a U.S. corporation, partnership, association, or other business entity; if YES, enter the date of incorporation;

Indicate (YES or NO) whether the applicant is an Eligible Rockfish Harvester

Indicate (YES or NO) whether the applicant is opting-out of the Rockfish Pilot Program

Indicate (YES or NO) whether the applicant holds an LLP with a Catch History Allocation assigned to the catcher/processor sector

Block B -- Vessel information

Name, ADF&G vessel registration number, and USCG documentation number of the vessel

LLP license number(s) held by the applicant and used on that vessel.

Block C -- LLP Holdership documentation

Names of all persons, to the individual level, holding an ownership interest in the LLP license
 Percentage ownership each person and individual holds in the LLP license.

Block D -- Applicant certification

Signature of applicant and date

Printed name of applicant (or authorized representative); if representative, attach authorization

Application to Opt-out of Rockfish Fishery, Respondent	
Number of respondents	3
Total annual responses	3
Total annual time burden hours	6
Timer per response = 2 hr	
Total personnel cost to all applicants (6 x \$25)	\$150
Total miscellaneous cost	\$11
Postage cost (0.39 x 1 = 0.39)	
Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 3 = 0.3)	
FAX cost (\$5 x 2 = 10)	

Application to Opt-out of Rockfish Fishery, Federal Government	
Total responses	3
Total burden hours	2
Time per response = 0.5 hr	
Total personnel cost (\$25 x 2)	\$50
Total miscellaneous cost	0

i. Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of CQ.

Once NMFS issues an annual catch amount to a cooperative it may be fished by members of the cooperative or transferred to another cooperative. However, a cooperative in the catcher vessel sector may not transfer an annual catch amount to a cooperative in the catcher/processor sector.

This transfer of an annual catch amount is only valid during the calendar year of the transfer. A cooperative may only transfer or receive by transfer an annual catch amount if the cooperative submits an application for inter-cooperative transfer to NMFS.

Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of CQ

Block A -- Identification of transferor

Name and NMFS Person ID of cooperative

Name of transferor designated representative

Permanent business mailing address (and temporary mailing address, if appropriate)

Business telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available)

Block B -- Identification of transferee

Name and NMFS Person ID

Name of transferee designated representative

Permanent business mailing address (and temporary mailing address, if appropriate)

Business telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available)

Block C -- Identification of Rockfish Cooperative member

Name and NMFS person ID

Amount of CQ applied

Block D -- CQ to be transferred

Identify the type and amount of Primary Species, Secondary Species, or Rockfish Halibut PSC to be transferred

Block E -- Certification of transferor.

Signature of transferor and date signed

Printed name of transferor (or authorized representative); if representative, attach authorization

Printed name and signature of eligible rockfish processor associated with cooperative and date signed

Block F -- Certification of transferee.

Signature of transferee and date signed

Printed name of transferee (or authorized representative); if representative, attach authorization
 Printed name and signature of eligible rockfish processor associated with cooperative and date signed

Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of CQ, Respondent	
Number of respondents	5
Total annual responses (3 x 5) 3 transfers per coop per season	15
Total annual time burden hours Time per response = 2 hr	30
Total personnel cost (30 x \$25)	\$750
Total miscellaneous cost Postage cost (0.39 x 5 = 1.95) Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 15 = 1.5) FAX cost (\$5 x 10 = 50)	\$53

Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of CQ, Federal Government	
Total responses	15
Total burden hours Time per response = 0.5 hr	8
Total personnel cost (8 x 25)	\$200
Total miscellaneous cost	0

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 will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. 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 measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of 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.

Applications are “fillable” on the computer screen by participant at the NMFS Alaska Region Home Page at www.fakr.noaa.gov, then downloaded, printed, and faxed to NMFS. Future plans include interactive permit applications completed through the Internet.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

None of the information collected as part of this information collection duplicates other collections. This information collection is part of a specialized and technical program that is not like any other.

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

The collection-of-information does not impose a significant impact on small entities.

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

The intent of this collection is to provide permits for a CGOA Rockfish Pilot Program. Without the specified permitting scheme described in this Supporting Statement, the program would be jeopardized. The consequences of not collecting this information would be that NMFS could not fulfill the intent of the law Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004

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

No inconsistencies occur in this collection.

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.

The NMFS Alaska Region will submit a final rule coincident with this submission.

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

No payment or gift will be provided under this program.

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

The information collected is confidential under section 303(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*); and also under NOAA Administrative Order (AO) 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

This information collection requests the mandatory social security number or Tax ID number. The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government.

All information collected is part of a system of records: NOAA #17, notice published March 3, 2005.

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.

NA.

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

Estimated total unique respondents, 1,142. Estimated total annual responses, 1,408 up from 1,369. Estimated total annual burden, 3,285 up from 3,267 hr. Estimated total annual personnel cost, \$82,063 up from \$81,600.

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).

Estimated annual total miscellaneous costs \$5,954, up from \$5,829.

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

Estimated total annual burden, 755 up from 746 hr. Estimated total annual personnel cost, \$20,763 up from \$20,538. Estimated total annual miscellaneous cost, \$0.

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

Due to comments received on the rockfish proposed rule, NMFS made the following changes to this collection.

- Removal of Application to transfer processor eligibility. Although processor eligibility transfers are likely to be necessary should Congress provide additional authority to NMFS to extend this Program, the Council did not specifically recommend provisions to allow processors to transfer their eligibility to another processor. NMFS has deleted the provision concerning the transfer of processor. This removes one response, two hours and \$1 in miscellaneous costs.
- Addition of a rockfish cooperative vessel check-in/check-out reports for vessels authorized to fish under a CQ permit. This adds 40 responses, 20 hours and \$112.00 in miscellaneous costs.

In addition, a recent DOC memo clarifying the collection of the social security number under the Debt Collection Improvement Act has caused a mandatory social security number and/or the tax ID number to be added to the quota permit application. In addition, in conformance with a pending memo from the NMFS Under Secretary, NMFS Alaska region will require that the date of birth (or date of incorporation) be requested on permit applications; this information is added to the limited access application and opt out application.

Correction of the current miscellaneous cost of \$5,829 to \$5,841, and a further adjustment of \$2 due to postage increase, added \$14.

These actions result in a net increase of 39 responses, 18 hours and \$125 in miscellaneous costs.

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

The information collected will not be published.

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.

In accordance with OMB requirements, the control number and the expiration date of OMB approval are shown on the forms.

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

No exceptions to the certification statement are requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.