

**SUPPORT STATEMENT  
SOUTHEAST REGION LOGBOOK FAMILY OF FORMS  
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0016**

**INTRODUCTION**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been delegated the authority and responsibility for stewardship of the marine resources for the Nation. This authority was first granted in the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) of 1976. The reauthorization of the MFCMA in 1996 continued and in some ways extended this authority. Under this authority the Secretary of Commerce, and his designee, NMFS, has promulgated separate rules that require specific types of record keeping and data submissions. These data collection/submission regulations are intended to provide reliable and accurate information from the fishing industry and communities that support scientifically viable management actions to achieve the stewardship responsibilities.

Currently, there are nine separate logbook forms included in this family of forms and actively being used by the NMFS to collect data from fishermen. It should be noted that several of the forms are used for multiple fisheries regulations. For example, the data required by the South Atlantic snapper grouper, the shark, the migratory coastal pelagic and the Gulf reef fish management plans have been combined and are reported on a single form. In addition to the nine forms, there are 2 forms that were included in this family, but are currently inactive and no reporting burden is associated with them. The 2 inactive forms are; (1) the logbooks for charter boats, (2) the form used to report the harvest of octocoral.

The nine reporting forms in the logbook family of forms are:

- Headboat survey trip report
- Gulf of Mexico reef fish, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, mackerel, shark, Atlantic dolphin / wahoo logbook (coastal logbook)
- Annual fixed cost survey for vessels required to use the coastal logbook
- Supplemental discard form for use with the coastal logbook
- Wreckfish logbook form
- Golden crab logbook form
- Aquacultured live rock reporting form
- Colombian Treaty Waters logbook form
- South Atlantic Rock Shrimp and Peneid Shrimp and Gulf of Mexico shrimp vessel logbook (shrimp logbook)

A brief descriptions of the nine actively used reporting forms follows.

Headboat Survey Trip Report

Fishing from headboats is considered recreational fishing; however, because this type of fishing represents a relatively small, but specialized sector of recreational fishing, it has not been

included in the NMFS' Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No.: 0648-0052. To collect catch and effort data from this fishery, a separate logbook program has been established in the Southeast Region. Total catch and participation estimates for all headboat fishing activity are made from the headboat survey. The need for good quality, representative catch per unit effort (CPUE) and species composition data from this sector of the recreational fishery is the primary reason that this program was implemented.

NOAA Fisheries is a partner in two state-federal cooperative data collection programs. One program, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), covers the Atlantic coast and the other program, the Fisheries Information Network (FIN), covers the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. A goal of both programs is to standardize and improve collection of data in both geographic areas).

In 2001, a pilot study was conducted in South Carolina, to compare two methodologies to collect catch and fishing effort data from the for-hire sector. The pilot study indicated that the survey methodology would provide accurate estimates of catch and fishing effort, and was less burdensome to the industry than trip reports, but produced imprecise estimates of fishing effort for the headboat fleet. Although the trip reports provided more precise estimates for the headboat fishery, the FIN Committee and the ACCSP Coordinating Council decided to endorse the survey methodology. The Committee and Council reasoned that the trip reports provided precise estimates because the trip reports were mandatory in South Carolina. However, trip reports were not mandatory in other states, and the process to obtain legislation requiring mandatory reporting in all states could take years to implement.

Trip reports, now collected as part of the Headboat Survey, have been used to collect catch and fishing effort data from the headboat portion of the for-hire sector for the past 32 years. These trip report data have been extremely valuable in stock assessments of reef fishes and pelagic species in the southeast region (North Carolina through Texas). However, the Headboat Survey trip reporting form did not previously include information on arrival time, distance from shore, pay type, number of anglers who fished, the numbers of fish released alive and the numbers of fish released dead. These additional fields have been added to compare the reported catch and fishing effort data from the Headboat Survey with estimates of catch and fishing effort produced using the survey methodology.

If it is determined that the NMFS Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey can produce precise and accurate estimates for the headboat fishery, then the Headboat Survey Trip Reports will be discontinued. Approximately three years of comparisons will be needed to benchmark the differences in results. The feasibility of expanding this to include all areas is still being explored so the headboat survey will need to continue.

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper, king and Spanish Mackerel, Shark, Atlantic Dolphin / Wahoo logbook (coastal logbook)

The program to collect logbook data in the Gulf of Mexico was initiated in April 1990. The purpose of the program is to provide critically needed data on individual fishing trips for species in this important management unit. The diversity of gear in this fishery (i.e., longline, hook and

line, traps, spears, and buoy) and the variety of species increases the need to have detailed CPUE and species composition data. Furthermore, because species in this management unit are not migratory, it is important that detailed information on the CPUE and species composition are collected by area, so that assessments can be made for major reef complexes to determine how fishing effort is affecting these complexes over time.

This logbook program includes only fishermen who have been issued a Federal vessel permit and are required to sell their catches to established (permitted) seafood dealers. Consequently, for-hire recreational fishermen do not submit logbooks for the Gulf reef fish fishery (see the description for the for-hire headboat catch reports above).

The logbook program for the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery was initiated in January 1992. The purpose of this program, as for the Gulf reef fish program, is to collect data on fishing effort, CPUE and species composition. The snapper-grouper fishery is similar to the fishery for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico; consequently, the logbook forms used for the two fisheries are the same.

Although sharks are part of the Highly Migratory Species fishery management plan, and the reporting burden for these species are covered by OMB Control No.: 0648-0371, the fishing operations for large and small coastal sharks are very similar to the fishing methods for Gulf reef fish and South Atlantic snapper-grouper species. Thus, coastal logbook form (OMB Control No.: 0648-0016) includes space for fishermen to report the catch, effort and area of catch for large/small coastal sharks. The Pelagic shark fisherman will continue to report using the highly migratory species logbook (0064-0371).

As with the fisheries in OMB Control No.: 0648-0016, the purpose of the logbook program for king and Spanish mackerel is to collect catch, effort and area for this fishery in both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. The assessments for king and Spanish mackerel will be improved with the availability of this CPUE data. There are other species in this fishery management plan; however, logbook reporting for these species is not required at this time.

#### Cost-earnings data section (20% sample size)

The purpose of this data collection is to provide economic information about commercial fishermen in Federal waters. The reporting form requests information about operating costs associated with the individual fishing trips. The intent is to use the cost information associated with the effort data for individual trips to better understand how the cost of fishing varies with changes in fishing effort. With a better (quantitative) understanding of these relationships, the NMFS can provide better estimates of the potential impacts of management regulations on fishing effort.

#### Annual fixed cost survey for vessels required to use the coastal logbook

This survey is associated with the cost-earnings data collection. The purpose of this data collection is to provide information on the annual fixed costs (i.e., expenditures that are made infrequently throughout the year or only once per year) incurred by the commercial fishermen in Federal waters. The survey instrument is sent to the same fishermen that are required to report their cost data for each trip.

## Supplemental discard reporting logbook for vessels required to use the coastal logbook

This form was developed and initiated in August 2001, as a supplemental form to the Gulf of Mexico reef fish, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, shark and mackerel logbook form. The purpose of this instrument is to have the fishermen record the species and numbers of discards that they had for each trip. The form also asks the fishermen to report any interactions with marine mammals, endangered species or sea birds that they incurred on each trip. The purpose of this data collection is to collect data on the types and numbers of animals (species) that fishermen in these coastal fisheries discard or in the case of endangered species and marine mammals interact with. This data collection is conducted as a supplement to the regular logbook reporting so that the catch, effort and area of fishing can be associated with the discards and/or interactions.

## Wreckfish

The wreckfish fishery is part of the South Atlantic snapper-group management unit, but because there were concerns about the status of the wreckfish stock, specific management measures were implemented to collect data from vessels that harvest this species. Although separate logbooks are used for this fishery, they require the same basic CPUE and fishing location data as the other logbooks in the family.

## Golden Crab

Fisheries for this species of deep water crabs occur in both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. Logbook reporting requirements have been implemented at the request of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council under advice from their Advisory Panel. This logbook program is designed to collect the quantity of golden crab that are caught in designated areas. The form is distinct from the other forms authorized by regulations (50 CFR Part 622) because lines of traps are used to catch these species and the amount of catch needs to be reported by line instead of for an entire trip.

## Aquacultured Live Rock

The purpose of this data collection is to collect information on the types and quantities of live rock that are harvested. Although these data are collected by some state fishery agencies (notably Florida), it is important to collect this information from harvesters with a Federal permit that are not from a state that requires regular reporting.

## Colombian Treaty Waters

This Federal reporting requirement is part of the negotiated treaty with Colombia that permits U.S. vessels to fish in Colombian waters. Under that agreement, U.S. fishermen are required to submit a logbook to NMFS for every trip that they make in Colombian waters. NMFS forwards those forms to the Colombian Government for their use in monitoring the fishing activity in their waters.

South Atlantic Rock Shrimp and Peneid Shrimp and Gulf of Mexico Shrimp vessel logbook form (shrimp logbook)

This shrimp logbook form is used to monitor and assess bycatch in the South Atlantic rock shrimp, panaeid shrimp and Gulf of Mexico shrimp fisheries. The preferred alternative is to require the submission of a logbook used by fishermen with a federal vessel permit for these shrimp fisheries. The purpose of the logbook form is to collect data on the amount and location of fishing effort (length of time trawls were in the water fishing) and to utilize those effort data in conjunction with data recorded by onboard observers collecting data on the types and quantities of fish and shellfish that are discarded at sea.

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

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

The catch, effort and landings statistics that will be collected by the vessel logbooks are necessary to assure NMFS that sufficient data are collected to provide comprehensive and accurate data to estimate fishing mortality. Without these data, a significant increase in the uncertainty of stock assessment analyses is likely to occur and the error bounds around the stock benchmarks, such as maximum sustainable yield, will be unacceptably large.

Another compelling reason for NMFS' logbook program is to provide comprehensive, consistent catch and effort data throughout the entire Southeast Region (i.e., North Carolina to the Texas-Mexican border). As will be discussed in the response to #4, landings statistics by vessel and trip are collected by state trip ticket program. The logbook data are also collected at the trip level; however, because only some of the states in the SE Region have fully operational trip ticket programs, it is necessary for NMFS to institute a comprehensive program that assures the collection of consistent CPUE data throughout the jurisdiction of the respective fishery management plans.

Overall, the data collection for stock assessments is authorized as part of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended. Specifically, the reporting and record keeping requirements for OMB Control No.: 0648-0016 are authorized in 50 CFR 622.5, Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. The authority for South Atlantic snapper-grouper, Gulf reef fish, king/Spanish mackerel, golden crab, and wreckfish reporting is in section 622.5(a); for the headboat catch reporting, section 622.5(b); for the octocoral and live rock reporting, section 622.5(d); for the Colombian Waters Treaty reporting, section 300.124(b).

All vessels with permits required in 50 CFR 622.4 are considered for selection, but reporting is required only when the vessel is selected by NMFS' Science and Research Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center. For some of the reporting forms, all permit holders are selected, while for other forms, statistical selections are made.

**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 on logbooks 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. Analyses and summarizations of logbook 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. Information on endangered species or marine mammals and their incidental take is requested in those fisheries where such interactions are likely to occur. These data will help NMFS meet its requirements under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. If reports of such occurrences are common, NMFS can proceed to minimize the harvest of such species through the promulgation of regulations.

These data serve as input for a variety of uses, such as: biological analyses and stock assessments; E.O. 12291<sup>1</sup> regulatory impact analyses; 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.

The logbook family of forms has evolved as a means of collecting data from specific user groups within fisheries that are managed under federally implemented fishery management plans (FMP). The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) has the responsibility for both preparation of stock assessments (estimation of maximum sustainable yield and/or other indexes of biomass) and collection of the scientific data that are required to perform the assessments. A secondary data collection responsibility is to provide information that is necessary to routinely monitor and evaluate the conditions in the fisheries under Federal management.

Similar data elements are required for most of the logbooks in this family, although a few variables may be specific to one fishery or type of management technique controlling harvest.

a) Information such as name and address of operator and owner is used to identify the respondent and the legal entity controlling the fishing practices of the vessel. The legal entity requirement is essential in monitoring the compliance of the reporting requirement, where revocations of the operators permit or fines are involved. Because many vessels are owned by corporations, identification of owner and operator on the logbook form allows NMFS to sanction the company as well as the individual vessel operator as necessary or required by the regulations. Information on the permit is obviously essential to monitoring reporting compliance.

b) Data on date of departure, date returned, days fished, duration of tows or sets, units of gear and mesh size used are all designed to quantify actual fishing effort. Fishing effort is needed to standardize differences in productivity among vessels or fishing grounds by establishing a rate

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<sup>1</sup> 1981 Presidential requirement for cabinet-level Departments to conduct a benefit-cost analysis for major changes in rules.

catch per unit time. These data allow comparisons over time, area and gear type of catches made by a variety of harvesters. Comparisons of catch and CPUE over time are significant indicators of the biological status of the fisheries. Declining CPUE, especially if data on fishing effort are sufficiently detailed to adjust for changes in effort, can provide critical information on the status of the stock, i.e., that the level of harvest is beyond the level that is sustainable by growth and reproduction of the stock.

c) Area fished, loran bearing, depth of fishing, latitude and longitude are variables that are used to establish fishing locations. This information can be related to other oceanographic and biological information to predict species availability and likely future abundance. For example, location of capture can be correlated to sea surface temperature measured by satellite to predict possible migration patterns. In addition, area or zone fished is used to cross reference locations where fishing is not permissible (such as closed spawning areas).

d) Species information such as landings, discards and sizes of fish is the basic measure of fishing success, from which fishermen, biologists and economists infer conclusions about the status of the fishery. Landings information is also needed because controlling the quantity of fish harvested is often the means for ensuring that harvests can be replenished over time.

e) Name of buyer, dealer number and port of landing are data used to cross reference the quantity of fish caught with the quantity that is handled (processed) by the market. The important cross reference is between the total amount of catch, and the respective sizes of individual fish. It would be impossible for fishermen to measure individual fish as they are being caught and stored on board the vessels. However, many species of fish, especially the large pelagic species, are individually weighted by the dealers and these weights are recorded as part of the sales transactions. By knowing the dealer that purchased the fish, cross references can be made between data submitted by the dealers and the data from the logbooks. Combining the data in this manner provides greater precision on the CPUE estimates and more information on the sizes of catches by location and time.

f). A separate form is required for many of the logbook reporting forms in OMB Control No.: 0648-0016 when a vessel does not fish during an entire calendar month. These “no-fishing” forms are necessary to assure the NMFS that the vessel did not fish instead of failing to report. The information on the no-fishing form is minimal - i.e., only the vessel ID, vessel name, the month in which the vessel did not fish and the permits that vessel has been issued (a check box is provided for ease of identifying the permits). The no-fishing forms are located in the back of the logbook booklets and are to be submitted via mail in the self-addressed, stamped envelopes provided by the NMFS. Because of the nature of the reporting, no-fishing reports are not required for the headboat trip report, the live rock report, the annual fixed cost survey, the cost-earnings form (this information is included on the regular coastal logbook form) and the supplemental discard form.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NMFS and the respective state fishery agency 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 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.**

Currently no electronic reporting is being utilized to report the detailed, trip level data for logbooks to the SEFSC. The SEFSC is investigating various methods of recording and reporting CPUE data from vessels. However, the large number of vessels involved in the affected fisheries and the cost per participant for the electronic and telecommunication equipment is too high to warrant use by fishermen. These costs significantly limit the options available for electronic reporting by vessels. The SEFSC will accept any data in an electronic format that can be easily read and inputted into the existing data base management system employed by the SEFSC.

**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. This joint participation enables identification of 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 would be aware of similar collections if they existed.

Detailed information on CPUE, effort and species composition by gear and area is not available from other sources. Some states, notably Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina, have programs to collect landings by species for individual fishing trips (i.e., operational trip ticket programs), but these programs do not include the detailed information on effort, location and effort that are required in the reporting requirements for this OMB request. Furthermore, these programs collect the data from seafood processors, and not fishermen, whereas, logbooks are submitted directly by the fishermen.

**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, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data to meet the analytical needs of the SEFSC's assessment scientists are requested from all applicants.

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

The consequence of not having detailed CPUE and species composition data is to increase the uncertainty associated with the stock assessments that are the basis for sound management decisions. As with any statistical analysis, the confidence limits (bands) for specific points will be large if the variability in the data cannot be accounted for. With the availability of the



logbook data, the sample sizes for the various stratifications of gear and area are sufficiently large to reduce the uncertainty in the data to acceptable levels.

The logbook data also provide critical information on the type and amount of effort. Without these data, there is no way of knowing whether changes in total catch are due to changes in fishing effort or changes in the abundance of the resource, or both.

If the economic data (cost, earnings, and fixed cost) were collected less frequently or not at all, then economists would be less able to estimate the effects of regulations on financial performance or fishermen's expected reactions to additional regulations. Proposed regulations for the snapper-grouper and mackerel fisheries would continue to be debated with limited economic information. Another consequence of not having representative economic data could be judicial remand of conservation regulations challenged on grounds of inadequate analysis of economic impact to individual firms.

Not having discard data would also increase the uncertainty associated with the stock assessments. Furthermore, there is a total lack of reasonably good data on discards and consequently, it is difficult to determine whether discarding is a significant problem. Clearly, the data from observers in other fisheries, notably the pelagic longline fishery, show that discards are substantial and that their occurrence is variable. Consequently, NMFS feels that it is necessary to increase the collection of discard data for coastal fisheries.

For the Colombian catch and effort programs, the United States cannot meet its international commitments without the data from this program.

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

The reporting regulations require fishermen to submit completed logbooks for all trips or sets for several reasons. First, it is critical that these data be timely. For fisheries that are significantly overfished, it is important to monitor changes in fishing mortality. Secondly, the renewal of Federal vessel permits is predicated on compliance with the reporting requirements, and timely data are needed to determine whether fishermen are complying on a regular basis. Thirdly, quality control of the logbook data is better when the review and verification process is closer to the actual time that fishing occurred.

**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.**

Because these data collection programs are part of fishery management plans, all aspects of the programs have been reviewed by both statistical and constituent advisory committees. Furthermore, comments and suggestions from fishermen required to report are routinely submitted and these are reviewed and considered. Experience with the various programs, some

of which have been operating since 1981, provides a continual feedback mechanism to NMFS on issues and concerns to the applicants. There are no major problems that have not been resolved.

A Federal Register Notice (copy attached) solicited public comment on this collection. None was received.

**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 collected via this family of forms are treated in accord with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidential Fisheries Statistics. Dealer reports are considered confidential under the Trade Secrets Act. In addition, landings statistics are considered to be in an entrepreneurial capacity and will be exempt from the Privacy Act concerns. It is the policy of the NMFS that confidential data are not to be released to non-authorized users, other than in aggregate form, as the Magnuson-Stevens Act protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those submitting data. Whenever data are requested, the NMFS ensures that information identifying the pecuniary business activity of a particular vessel is not identified.

**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.**

To comply with the reporting requirements, fishermen are required to submit either a fishing log, where they report the catch, effort and area data, or a no-fishing log, where they state that they did not fish during the specified calendar month. The number of respondents, the estimated number of responses, the time per response and the total burden for fishing and no-fishing forms for each of the nine fisheries for which logbook reporting is active and the three fisheries for which logbook reporting is inactive are presented in the following table:

Fishery	No. of Respondents	Number of responses, hr/response, total time (hours)						Total Burden (Hours)
		Fishing Responses	Time per response	Total Time (Hours)	No-fishing Responses	Time per response	Total Time	
Headboat**	156	12,093	18 min.	3,628	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,628
Golden Crab**	14	107	10 min.	18	82	2 min.	3	21
Reef fish – mackerel**	3,399	48,537	10 min.	8,090	23,728	2 min.	791	8,881
Wreckfish*	8	26	10 min.	4	0	0	0	4
Colombian log*	11	9	18 min.	3	81	2 min.	2	5
Live rock*	40	65	15 min.	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	16
Economic cost/trip****	680	9,707	10 min.	1,618	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,618
Annual fixed cost****	680	680	30 min.	340	N/A	N/A	N/A	340
Discard****	680	9,707	15 min.	2,427	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,427
Shrimp***	1,731	10,645	10 min.	1,774	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,774
Charter boat	0							0
Octocoral	0							0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,399</b>	<b>91,576</b>		<b>17,918</b>	<b>23,891</b>		<b>796</b>	<b>18,714</b>

\* 2002 data

\*\* 2003 data

\*\*\* Estimate

\*\*\*\* Projection (20% of sample based on 2003 data)

The number of respondents, responses and burden hours in the above table are based on the actual reporting activity for these fisheries during 2002- 2004, 2003 was chosen for most data sources because we did not know the impact of storms on the 2004 & 2005 data. 2002 data was used for wreckfish, Colombian water, and live rock logbooks. Economic and discard numbers are a 20% projection using 2003 coastal logbook data.

There are 16,200 burden hours in the current OMB inventory for this family of forms (0016) and the newly estimated burden is 18,714. Thus, there is an increase of 2,514 hours from the current inventory.

**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).**

There are no anticipated costs beyond the opportunity cost of completing the logbook forms. The fishermen are provided with addressed, postage-paid envelopes that they use to return the completed forms.

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

The annual cost to the Federal government is calculated from estimates of the total cost per form to process the logbook data. These estimates were made in the original SF-83 submissions, and include printing costs, labor for sight review and data entry, form development, and program management costs. Total cost to the Federal government is estimated to be \$400,000 per year.

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

The principal cause of the difference between the OMB inventory of 16,200 burden hours and the estimated annual burden hours of 18,714 is a revision to the size of the sampling universe from which for the cost and earnings reporting, annual fixed cost reporting, and the supplemental discard reporting. A 20% sample was selected randomly, for a total of approximately 680 respondents from the 3,399 vessels permitted. Contrary to the previous sampling procedure, no attempt is being made to exclude fisherman who have historically reported 'no-fishing' activity because they hold active permits and may start fishing at any time.

- a. The burden hours for the annual fixed cost reporting is estimated at 340 hours, an increase of 40 hours from the 300 hours previously estimated (125 + 175 added in the 2005 revision to this collection)..
- b. The burden for the cost and earning data is estimated at 1,618 hours, an increase of 61 hours from the 1,557 previously estimated (390 + 1167 hours estimated in the 2005 revision). The increase in sample size is partially offset by the fewer trip reports expected per vessel (14, vs. 17 for the Atlantic fisheries and 20 for the Gulf of Mexico fisheries added in the 2005 revision).
- c. The burden for the supplemental discard reporting is estimated at 2,427 hours, an increase of 1,560 hours from the 867 hours in the 2003 renewal (no additional hours were requested for this collection in the 2005 revision).

Thus, there is a burden increase of 1,661 for the economic information collections, due to the change in sampling procedure coupled with fewer responses per vessel for trip reports.

An additional net increase of 853 burden hours' increase from previous estimates is being made to account for current estimates to the coastal logbook (+884), live rock (+2), headboat (-31), wreckfish (-2), Colombian waters (0), and golden crab (0) data collection programs.

There is a net increase of 2,514 hours between the current inventory of 16,200 and the new estimated burden hours of 18,714.

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

The results from this collection are expected to be published, but will be used as empirical input to stock assessments, economic analyses, and other analyses of proposed or existing fishery management regulations prepared by the NMFS/SEFSC.

**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.

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

There are no exceptions to Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.