

Justification for Change Request for 0648-0214

The electronic logbook data collection system takes advantage of emerging technology to enhance the efficiency of reporting and recordkeeping, while saving time for fishery participants, reducing human error, and improving data accuracy. This collection provides fishermen an alternative to the currently required paper logbook forms. Fishermen would be allowed to submit logbook data to NMFS on removable non-paper media (such as diskette, CD-ROM, memory stick, etc.), and also allow the data to be transmitted in near real time to NMFS via e-mail or other remote communication systems (where appropriate and feasible). Reporting of catch and effort data electronically in association with vessel monitoring system (VMS) units would simplify the collection and reduce the burden on participants. Logbook data are currently entered daily on forms provided by NMFS to prevent data quality problems from faulty recall. Pre-trip notifications are made by telephone, fax, or email, as are pre-landing/off-loading notifications.