

SUBJECT: Change Request to Existing PRA Submission
OMB Control Number 0648-0203

Recently, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Northwest Region (NWR) collect ownership interest information about business entities that either own or uniquely hold (i.e; lease) a trawl endorsed Pacific Coast Groundfish permit. The PFMC is currently developing alternatives for a groundfish individual fishing quota program and will begin to analyze those alternatives shortly. The PFMC's request seeks to obtain information about those individuals who have ownership interest in a business entity (i.e.; corporation) that either owns or otherwise uses a trawl endorsed Pacific Coast limited entry permit. The Pacific Fishery Management Council seeks this information to assess and characterize the nature of ownership in the groundfish trawl fishery in order to develop appropriate policy for a trawl individual fishing quota program.

We propose to mail the attached form as part of our annual groundfish limited entry permit renewal process. This information collection would not involve publishing regulations. On a **voluntary basis**, an authorizing representative for the company would be asked to characterize the nature of the business entity (corporation, partnership, etc) and provide names and business addresses for every individual who has an ownership interest in the business entity, and the percentage of ownership in that entity for each individual. The estimated time required to complete the form is 15 minutes. At present, there are a total of 398 Pacific Coast Groundfish limited entry permits, of which 178 are trawl endorsed. We estimate that there are about 145 business entities that own or uniquely hold a trawl endorsed permit. If all of the estimated 145 business entities completed this form, the incremental time burden for the existing information collection would be 36.25 hours.

This form would be mailed to the 145 business entities as part of the annual Pacific Coast Groundfish limited entry permit renewal process. Respondents would return this form with their renewal form. There would be no additional mailing costs associated with this collection. NMFS NWR will implement this information collection without regulation at this time. However, when the Council decides on an ITQ program alternative, it may be necessary to require this information on a mandatory basis. If this becomes part of the Council's alternative, NMFS would require this collection in regulation and submit a PRA collection for this.

Our current PRA collection allows for NMFS NWR to collect ownership interest information from sablefish endorsed permit owners and holders both as part of the annual renewal process and anytime a permit is transferred. This allows NMFS to enumerate the number of permits owned or otherwise held by a particular individual and to enforce the limits of owning and/or holding sablefish permits.