Request to Adjust PRA Burden Hours for the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (OMB Control No. 0645-0052)

The NOAA Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology requests to adjust estimated FY07 and FY08 PRA burden hours for their PRA entitled, "Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey" (OMB Control No. 0648-0052). We request 841 additional burden hours in order to expand directory-frame telephone surveys of licensed marine recreational anglers into North Carolina, as well as extend the current directory-frame telephone survey that is being conducted in the Gulf of Mexico region through 2008. We currently have clearance for 44,473 burden hours to collect recreational fishing catch and effort data. This adjustment will accommodate an additional 13,567 angler interviews in FL, AL, MS, LA and NC.

The burden hours for this adjustment are estimated as follows

	Persons	Contacts	Mean Time (min.)	Total Time (hours)
Anglers with no trips*	8,140	8,140	1.0	136
Anglers with trips	5,427	5,427	7.8	705
TOTALS	13,567**	13,567		841

* Based on 40 percent of anglers having trips during last two months.

** Based on sample sizes of 4,634 in FL, 858 in AL, 884 in MS, 2,320 in LA, and 4,871 in NC.

This survey will utilize the questionnaire, sampling and estimation methods that have previously been approved for CA, OR, WA, and the Gulf of Mexico region. The current methodology for collecting recreational fishing effort data (Coastal Household Telephone Survey or CHTS) relies on random household contacts to identify anglers (Random Digit Dialing or RDD approach). This technique is relatively inefficient, as a small percentage of contacted households actually participate in saltwater fishing. A much more efficient approach utilizes directories of licensed saltwater anglers as sampling frames. In 2007, we expanded this method to the Gulf of Mexico region. This pilot study utilizes directories of saltwater license holders in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana as sampling frames. We would like to extend this pilot study through 2008. In addition, the state of North Carolina recently implemented a saltwater fishing license, so we would like to expand the pilot study to include North Carolina. The pilot study (Gulf of Mexico region and NC) will overlap with the CHTS to allow for side-by-side comparisons and calibration of the new effort estimation approach with the traditional method.