

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
WESTERN ALASKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA PROGRAM
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0269**

INTRODUCTION

The Community Development Quota (CDQ) program is implemented under the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act ([MSA](#)) as amended in 2006, the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, and regulations at [50 CFR part 679](#). The purpose of the CDQ Program is the allocation of the quotas for groundfish, halibut, crab, and prohibited species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) to Western Alaska communities so that these communities can start and support regionally based, commercial seafood or other fisheries-related businesses. The groundfish, halibut, and crab allocations are known as CDQ allocations and the allocations of prohibited species (salmon, Pacific halibut, and crab incidental catch in the groundfish fisheries) are known as prohibited species quota (PSQ) allocations. Under the CDQ program, 65 eligible Western Alaska communities have organized into six separate CDQ groups.

This collection-of-information is revised by removing two forms, the CDQ delivery report and the CDQ catch report. Implementing regulations may be found at 50 CFR part 679.

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

The Amendment 80 Quota Share Program (Program) would incorporate statutory mandates in the Magnuson-Stevens Act as amended by Section 416 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law No. 109-241; July 11, 2006), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (Public Law No. 109-479, January 12, 2007). These provisions modify the percentage of total allowable catch (TAC) for directed fisheries that are allocated to the CDQ Program, and the percentage of halibut, crab, and salmon Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) allocated to the CDQ Program as PSQ.

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.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would respond to the mandates by removing reporting requirements at § 679.5(n)(1) and (2) for the submission of the CDQ delivery report and the CDQ catch report. The CDQ delivery report was the primary source of information that the CDQ groups used to monitor the harvest of CDQ and PSQ allocations by catcher vessels and to prepare their CDQ catch report. NMFS used the CDQ delivery report to verify that each CDQ group was reporting catch accurately. The manager of a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor (SFP) taking deliveries of groundfish CDQ and accounting for PSQ species from catcher vessels submitted a CDQ delivery report to NMFS and to the appropriate CDQ group within 24 hours of completion of each catcher vessel delivery of groundfish CDQ or PSQ.

The CDQ representative submitted to NMFS a CDQ catch report for all groundfish catch landed by vessels groundfish CDQ fishing or for any groundfish harvested by vessels greater than or equal to 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA while halibut CDQ fishing. The CDQ catch report was submitted within 7 days of the date CDQ catch was delivered by a catcher vessel to a shoreside processor, SFP, or mothership or within 7 days of the date gear used to catch CDQ was retrieved by a catcher/processor.

The information that was collected since 1998 through the CDQ delivery report and the CDQ catch report is now available through observer data, weekly production reports, and especially the Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS); therefore NMFS does not need separate reports from the CDQ groups acknowledging catch that will accrue against their allocations. The IERS, and its data entry component eLandings, is described in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No.: 0648-0515.

a. CDQ delivery report [Removed]

b. CDQ catch report [Removed]

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 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (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.

All CDQ forms with instructions are available in a fillable format on the Alaska Regional Office or on the NMFS website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>. The public may download copies from this Internet web site, as well as aggregated CDQ catch information and lists of eligible vessels.

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. This action reduces the reporting burden on the CDQ groups, processors, and vessel owners.

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

Removal of the requirement to submit CDQ delivery reports and CDQ catch reports and to instead use IERS to submit these data reduces the reporting burden of participants and increases accuracy of the data and efficiency of the process. Not removing the forms and continuing with the current method of reporting would not meet the objectives of the Program.

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 proposed rule, RIN 0648-AU68, coincident with this submission, requesting comments from the public.

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 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It is also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216.100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

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.

Information collected for the CDQ Program does not include information of a private or sensitive nature.

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

Estimated total unique respondents: 93 (6 CDQ groups, 4 shoreside processors, and 83 observed vessels). Estimated total responses: 4,868, a reduction of 4,782. Estimated total burden: 2,233,

a reduction of 1,237 hr. Estimated total personnel cost: \$208,025, a reduction of \$ 30,925, based on the average wage equivalent to a GS-9 employee in Alaska, including Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), \$25 per hour.

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 total miscellaneous costs: \$585, a reduction of \$162.

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

Estimated total responses: 138, a reduction of 4,786. Estimated total burden: 569, a reduction of 1,578 hr. Estimated total personnel cost: \$14,225, a reduction of \$39,450, based on the average wage equivalent to a GS-9 employee in Alaska, including COLA, \$25 per hour. Estimated total miscellaneous cost: \$0.

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

This is a program change. Two forms, CDQ delivery report (55 hours and \$27) and the CDQ catch report (1,182 hours and \$135), are removed.

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

The information collected will be summarized in CDQ catch reports available in aggregated form to the public on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>; a list of eligible vessels for each CDQ group will also be publicly available.

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 will be shown on all information collection instruments.

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

No exceptions to the certification statement are proposed.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.