SUPPORTING STATEMENT
ALASKA CRAB REPORT FORMS
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-xxxx

INTRODUCTION

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* authorizes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to prepare and amend fishery management plans for any fishery in waters under its jurisdiction. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the crab fisheries, in the waters off the coast of Alaska under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab. Regulations implementing the FMP appear at 50 CFR parts 679 and 680.

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This action creates a new collection of forms. Two of these forms (catcher/processor offload report and eligible crab community organization annual report) were formerly found in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No.: 0648-0515 collection, which authorized participants to record information in the eLandings system for crab species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Management Area. The forms were removed from OMB Control No.: 0648-0515 to allow that collection to exclusively describe the data entry component, eLandings, of the Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS), both of which are now used for data entry of groundfish (including rockfish), Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) halibut, Community Development Quota (CDQ) halibut, and IFQ sablefish in addition to Crab Rationalization (CR) Program crab. These forms are incorporated without change.

A new form is added, the CR crab buyer report. Participants would submit this report annually near the end of the fishing year instead of reporting the price at time of landing, through the eLandings landing report (see OMB Control No.: 0648-0515). This is necessary because the price is not accurate at the time of landing. An accurate price per pound is important for assessing fees for the CR crab fisheries.

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.

a. Catcher/processor offload report

The owner or operator of a catcher/processor that harvested CR crab must complete a catcher/processor offload report at the time of offload of CR crab and attach a scale printout showing gross product offload weight. The Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) must submit electronically or by fax the catcher/processor offload report and a copy of the scale printout within 2 hours of completion of offload. Crab weights must be audited at the point of offload.

This report would allow audit comparisons of catch accounting information between the vessel's reported weight of crab with the observer's data.

Catcher/processor offload report

Catcher/processor name, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) processor code, and Federal crab vessel permit number
Fishing start date and time
Fishing stop date and time
Product code from Table 3b to part 680
Total gross weight of product offload, including glaze and packaging (specify lb. or kg.)
Estimated glaze percentage
Case count and average box weight (lb. or kg.)
Net weight of crab product (lb. or kg.)
Completion date and time of catcher/processor offload
Location (port) of catcher/processor offload (see Tables 14a and 14b to part 679)
ADF&G fish ticket number

Catcher/processor offload report, Respondent	
Number of respondents	**30**
Total annual responses	**2,400**
Frequency of response = 80	
Total burden hours	**792 hr**
Time per response (20/60 = 0.33)	
Total personnel cost (25 x 792)	**$19,800**
Total miscellaneous costs	**$7260**
email attachment 0.05 x 1200=60)	
fax $6 x 1200=7200	

Catcher/processor offload report, Federal Government	
Number of responses	**2,400**
Total burden hours	**1,200 hr**
Time per response = 0.5 hr	
Total personnel cost ($25 x 1200)	**$30,000**
Total miscellaneous cost	**0**

b. Eligible Crab Community Organization Annual Report

Any non-CDQ community in which 3 percent or more of any crab fishery was processed may form a non-profit entity called an Eligible Crab Community Organization (ECCO). The ECCO must submit an annual report for the ECC to NMFS by June 30 of the crab fishing year. The annual report would ensure that the ECCO maintains the intent of the ECC Quota Share (QS) purchase provisions that the QS and individual fishing quota (IFQ) benefit residents of eligible communities. The annual report would detail the use of the QS and IFQ in that municipality and the borough must agree to designate the same non-profit organization to serve as the ECCO. In addition, NMFS would request a description of efforts the ECCO has made to ensure that IFQ lessees employ crew members who are eligible community residents of the ECC aboard vessels on which IFQ derived from QS held by an ECCO is being fished. No form exists for this information.

ECCO annual report

Name, ADF&G vessel registration number, United States Coast Guard (USCG) documentation number, and Federal crab vessel permit of each vessel from which the crab IFQ was harvested
Name and business addresses of individuals employed as crew members when fishing the crab IFQ
Criteria used by the ECCO to distribute IFQ leases among eligible community residents
Description of efforts made to ensure that IFQ lessees employ crew members who are eligible community residents of the ECC aboard vessels on which IFQ derived from QS held by an ECCO is being fished
Description of the process used to solicit lease applications from eligible community residents of the ECC on whose behalf the ECCO is holding QS
Names and business addresses and amount of IFQ requested by each individual applying to receive IFQ from the ECCO
Any changes in the bylaws of the ECCO, board of directors, or other key management personnel
Copies of minutes, bylaw changes, motions, and other relevant decision making documents from ECCO Board meetings

ECCO annual report, Respondent	
Number of respondents	**8**
Total annual responses	**8**
Frequency of response = 1	
Total burden hours	**320 hr**
Time per response = 40 hr	
Total personnel cost ($25 x 320)	**$8,000**
Total miscellaneous costs	**$6**
Postage (0.39 x 2 x 8 = 48)	

ECCO annual report for an ECC, Federal Government	
Number of responses	**8**
Total burden hours	**16 hr**
Time requirement = 2 hr	
Total personnel cost (16 x 25)	**$400**
Total miscellaneous cost	**$0**

c. CR crab buyer report

The purpose of this form is to collect information from CR Program Crab RCRs so that NMFS, Restricted Access Management (RAM) can establish a “standard” ex-vessel price for CR Crab. The standard price will be used to estimate the cost recovery fees due from processors and harvesters.

An RCR that also operates as a shoreside processor or stationary floating crab processor and receives and purchases landings of CR crab must submit annually to NMFS a complete CR crab buyer report, for each reporting period in which the RCR receives CR crab. The reporting period of the CR crab buyer report shall extend from August 15 through April 30 of the following year, inclusive. The RCR must submit this report annually near the end of the fishing year instead of reporting the price at time of landing, through the eLandings landing report (see OMB Control No.: 0648-0515). This is necessary because the price is not accurate at the time of landing. An accurate price per pound is important for assessing fees for the CR crab fisheries.

The RCR must complete the CR crab buyer report and submit by mail or fax to: Administrator, NMFS Alaska Region; Attn: RAM Program; P.O. Box 21668; Juneau, AK 99802-1668; fax number (907) 586-7354; or submit electronically to NMFS via forms available at http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram. A complete CR crab buyer report must be received by the Regional Administrator not later than May 15 of the reporting period in which the RCR received the CR crab.

CR crab buyer report

Block A -- RCR identification

Name and NMS person ID number
RCR permit number
Social security number or tax identification number*

*The Debt Collection Improvement Act, in Section 7701 of title 31, United States Code requires collection of this information from each person doing business with a federal agency. This information is used for purposes of collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the government.

Business address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if any)
Facility or vessel location (port location)

Block B – CR Crab pounds purchased and ex-vessel value

The monthly total weights, represented in pounds by CR crab species and fishery that were landed at the landing port location and purchased by the RCR
The monthly total gross ex-vessel value, in U.S. dollars, of CR crab pounds, by CR crab species and fishery, that were landed at the landing port location and purchased by the RCR
The monthly total U.S. dollar amount of any CR crab retro-payments (correlated by CR crab species and fishery, landing month(s), and month of payment) made in the current year to CR crab permit holders for landings made during the previous calendar year

Certification

Signature or electronic PIN of the individual authorized by the RCR to submit the CR crab buyer report
Date of signature or date of electronic submittal

CR crab buyer report, Respondent	
Number of respondents	**30**
Total annual responses	**30**
Frequency of response = 1	
Total burden hours	**30 hr**
Time per response = 1 hr	
Total personnel cost ($25/hr) x 30	**$750**
Total miscellaneous cost	**$75**
Photocopy = 0.05 x 1 x 30 = 1.50	
Postage = 0.39 x 10 = 3.90	
Fax = $6 x 10 = 60	
Email = $1 x 10 = 10	

CR crab buyer report, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	**30**
Total burden hours	**8 hr**
Time per response (15/60 = 0.25)	
Total personnel cost ($25/hr)	**$200**
Total miscellaneous cost	**0**

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. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Fisheries will 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 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.

The catcher/processor offload report is "fillable" on the computer screen at the NMFS Alaska Region Home Page at http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/default.htm. After completion on the screen, the participant may submit the form to NMFS by printing and faxing the form or by attaching to an email. The crab buyer report will be available as both a fillable form and as an electronic data entry.

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.

This collection of information does not impose a significant impact on small entities.

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

The intent of this action is to monitor crab landings in the BSAI crab fisheries. Without the specified reporting scheme described in this Supporting Statement, the program would be jeopardized. The consequences of not collecting this information would be that NMFS could not fulfill the intent of the law created under Public Law No. 108-199 and would be unable to provide data to the Council and the State of Alaska to evaluate the CR Program for each of the required review periods. Public Law No. 108-199 also requires that each component of the crab program enacted by Congress must be implemented or the whole program must be withdrawn. Thus, disapproval of this data collection program would threaten all components of Public Law No. 108-199.

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 published a proposed rule, RIN 0648-AT91, on June 29, 2007. No comments were received.

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 303(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq*.); and also under NOAA Administrative Order (AO) 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

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.

This information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature.

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

Total estimated unique respondents: 38. Total estimated responses: 2,438. Total estimated burden: 1,142. Total estimated personnel cost: $28,550.

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).

Total estimated miscellaneous costs: $7,341.

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

Total estimated annual burden: 1,224. Total estimated personnel cost: $30,600.

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

This action contains an adjustment by moving two existing forms to create a new collection. This action also contains a program change, creation of a new form, the CR crab buyer report. RCRs submit this report annually near the end of the fishing year instead of reporting the price at time of landing through the eLandings landing report (see OMB Control No.: 0648-0515).

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

The information collected will not be published.

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 are shown on the forms.

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

No exceptions to the certification statement are requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.