

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**  
West Coast Community Economic Data Collection  
NOAA Fisheries - Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
**OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

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

NOAA Fisheries proposes to collect information, pertaining to the economic utilization of marine resources by coastal communities on the West Coast, that will improve fishery management; satisfy legal mandates under [Executive Order 12866](#) and [National Standard 8](#) of the [Magnuson Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#) (U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); and quantify achievement of the performances measures in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans. National Standard 8 of the MSFCMA states:

“Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities”.

Economic data for selected U.S. coastal communities will be collected for each of the following groups of operations: (1) locally operated businesses; (2) resident households; and (3) visitors. Data collected from each of these groups will focus on determining the impact of marine resources on community economies. In general, local businesses will be asked questions concerning their sources of revenue, location and levels of expenditures, ownership, dependence on the fisheries and other marine resources, and fishery employment. Households will be asked questions concerning their sources of income, the location of expenditures made, and their dependence on fishing and other marine resources. Visitors will be asked questions concerning region of residence, expenditures made while visiting, and reasons for visiting. The data collection efforts will be coordinated to reduce the additional burden for those who own multiple businesses. Participation in these data collections will be voluntary.

The data will be used to construct a regional economic simulation model to analyze the economic impacts of fishery management alternatives and to investigate the degree of economic dependence on marine resources in the respective communities. Regional economic impact modeling involves examining the linkages that a given industry has in the broader regional economy. For example, expansion of charter boat activity in a coastal community generates additional activity in businesses who sell tackle, fuel and other goods to charter boats and who, in turn, buy additional inputs and hire more labor in order to meet increased charter boat demand. If charter boat operations contract, the multiplier effect works in reverse. This survey seeks to collect data for a single year, which is sufficient for construction and testing of a regional economic simulation model.

**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.**

Data will be collected from a random sample of the owners and operators of businesses, households, and visitors to 8 small fishing engaged communities on the West Coast. This sample of 8 communities has been selected from the population of 41 small fishing engaged communities on the West Coast<sup>1</sup>, through the use of a stratified weighted random sampling method. Two communities have been selected from each of four strata (Washington, Oregon, Northern California, and Southern California).

Each community's probability of selection into the study will be weighted by the percentage of the total value of landings that are accounted for by the ports with populations fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. The probability of each port being selected with in each region is:

$$P_{nr}=l_n/L_r \quad (1)$$

where  $P$  is the probability of selection,  $l$  is the total landings in each port  $n$  within the given region  $r$ , and  $L$  is the total regional landings within region  $r$ . The total coast wide probability that any given port was selected for inclusion is:

$$P_n=(l_n/L_r)/k \quad (2)$$

where  $k$  is the number of strata (in this case 4). The communities will be randomly selected for inclusion in the study based on these probabilities.

Data collection will involve in-person interviews and/or mail questionnaires sent to selected members of each of the different survey groups. In many cases, individuals may receive the questionnaire in advance to allow them to prepare their responses but may be interviewed via telephone or in person to ensure the clarity of their responses. To the extent practicable, the data collected will be that which the respondents maintain for their own business purposes. Therefore, the collection burden will consist principally of transcribing data from their internal records to the survey instrument and participating in personal interviews. In addition, current data reporting requirements will be evaluated to determine if they can be modified to provide improved economic data at a lower cost to the Agency and with reduced burden on potential respondents.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Small communities are defined as having a population of less than 10,000 in 2006. Fishing engaged communities are defined as having a port which received commercial fish landings during 2006. Table 1 of section B1 lists all fishing engaged communities on the West Coast (both small and not small).

**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.**

Survey questionnaires for businesses and households will be available in both paper and electronic forms. The electronic forms will be available for download online and will be available in both a fillable PDF and a fillable and savable MS Word format.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.**

This program represents the only known effort to collect regional economic and visitor use data from coastal communities on the West Coast. Additionally, state and other federal agencies will be notified of this project to insure that no other agency is collecting similar data. No other process for obtaining statistically valid descriptions of community economic and visitor use data of coastal communities exists. No other previous research initiative has attempted to gather this level of community economic data. This project fills a critical void for NOAA Fisheries and its mandate to fulfill the requirements of National Standard 8. Data collected in this study will be combined with other publicly available data. No data will be collected that can be obtained from other publicly available sources.

**5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.**

The support and backing of the local city government will be a prerequisite to conducting this data collection in a specific coastal city. City Council and Chamber of Commerce officials have been consulted and their suggestions have been incorporated into the survey instrument as it was developed.

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

Availability of this data would substantially enhance the amount and quality of information available to fishery managers, fishery participants and the public. If this data is not collected, the ability of managers to fulfill the requirements of National Standard 8 of the MSFCMA with respect to the impacts of management actions on coastal communities would be greatly diminished and quite possibly eliminated.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.**

This collection is consistent with the guidelines.

**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.**

A Federal Register Notice published on March 21, 2007 (72 FR 13250-13251) solicited public comment on this proposed survey.

One public comment was received. The comment stated that data should be collected from a wide range of communities and that data should be as recent as possible.

Response: The data will be collected in 2008 and will be for records kept in 2007. Eight small to medium sized communities along the West Coast were chosen to be surveyed in this study. Budget constraints preclude surveying additional communities at this time. The eight communities chosen do represent a broad range of small to medium sized communities along the West Coast.

**9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

Visitors to these communities are potentially going to be intercepted while they are on vacation or while visiting an attraction. It is reasonable to assume that they will be reluctant to take time, even 15 minutes, out of their day to fill out a survey. To encourage responses, all people intercepted will be asked the 4 questions on page one of the visitor survey. These questions are expected to take less than a minute to respond to. Then, if the person is there from out of town for the purpose of recreation/vacation, they will be asked to complete a short, 3-page, 15 minute questionnaire about their visit. In return, they will be offered a NOAA Fisheries tee shirt. The tee shirt will be designed to be attractive and unique to provide a strong incentive to the respondents to take 15 minutes out of their visit to complete the survey. It is estimated that the shirts will cost between \$4 and \$5 dollars to produce. This value is consistent with other token gifts that have been offered to survey respondents.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

Personally identifiable data (business contact information) will be collected only on the businesses survey. No personally identifiable data will be collected on the household survey or the visitor survey. For the business survey, data that are deemed financial in nature will be held confidential under the provisions of Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act.

**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.**

No sensitive questions of this nature will be asked.

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* A total of 8 communities will be surveyed for a total of 1,378 household respondents, 864 business respondents, 1,813 visitors who complete only the initial 4-item questionnaire and 1,088 visitor respondents (of the 1,813) who complete the remainder of the questionnaire, after completing the first four questions. A total of 5,143 survey responses will be received from 4,055 survey respondents.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 30 minutes per survey of households, 45 minutes per survey of businesses, and 20 minutes per survey of individual recreational visitors (5 minutes for initial 4 questions and 15 minutes for follow-up questionnaire). Each respondent will only be surveyed once.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,760 (1,378 x 30 minutes) + (864 x 45 minutes) + (1,813 x 5 minutes) + (1,088 x 15 minutes).

**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).**

There are no expected costs to respondents to complete the postage-paid survey.

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

The response to this question covers the actual costs the agency will incur as a result of implementing the information collection. The estimate covers the entire life cycle of the collection and include costs, if applicable, for:

- Employee labor and materials for developing, printing, storing forms
- Employee labor and materials for developing computer systems, screens, or reports to support the collection
- Employee travel costs
- Cost of contractor services or other reimbursements to individuals or organizations assisting in the collection of information
- Employee labor and materials for collecting the information
- Employee labor and materials for analyzing, evaluating, summarizing, and/or reporting on the collected information

This research initiative is funded as a part of the NMFS economic data collection efforts. The total amount allocated to this project is \$120,000, or an annualized cost of \$40,000. These monies have already been requested and authorized.

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

This is a new collection.

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

Data from this survey will be used to estimate the economic dependence of selected communities on marine resources. The following data will be reported:

1. Total revenue of businesses aggregated by 2-digit NAICS code
2. Average revenue collected by businesses aggregated by 2-digit NAICS code
3. Total expenditures by category for businesses aggregated by 2-digit NAICS code
4. Average expenditures by category for businesses aggregated by 2-digit NAICS code
5. Average proportion of expenditures by category that were purchased out of the home city and proportion that were purchased out of home city.
6. Household use of marine resources
7. Location of household expenditures
8. Visitor utilization of marine resources
9. Visitor expenditure profiles

If there are enough observations (more than 3) for individual NAICS codes in an individual county and we get an adequate response rate, the data may be used to estimate the economic contributions of specific fishery related sectors in individual counties. However, data will never be reported where there are less than three observations or in other potential cases where individual respondents could be personally identifiable. In these cases, data will be aggregated at the industry code level and at a geographic level to protect respondent anonymity.

**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.**

Not applicable.

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

There are no exceptions.