

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
DATA COLLECTION ON MARINE PROTECTED AND MANAGED AREAS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0449**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

[Executive Order 13158](#) (EO 13158) directs the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to work with partners to strengthen the protection of U.S. ocean and coastal resources by developing a national system of marine protected areas. In order to develop that system, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and DOI have determined that it is necessary to first inventory those areas, in order to comply with EO 13158. The United States has different levels of protection and management regimes at many levels of government. State, local, territorial, and tribal governments have different ways in which they protect their marine environment through area-based management. Information about these areas has not been centralized or organized in a coherent way. Indeed, very little is known about the interaction between these management units and federal government programs. A comprehensive data collection is needed to provide the federal government, its partners and the American people with information about their marine resources and the conservation and management of those resources. This data collection has been in progress for the last six years and will continue for another three years in order to complete the data set. Participants also may provide updates or corrections to their data if it changes or as they see appropriate, including the establishment of new marine protected areas or revisions of existing areas. The number of federal programs, states, and territories submitting information is provided in table, below.

Number of Federal Agencies, States and Territories Reporting Through 12-07

Governmental Level	# of Respondents Through December 2007
Federal	2 federal agencies, 6 programs
# of States	29 coastal states
# of Territories	5 coastal territories
Partnerships	1 federal/state partnership program; state/local partnership programs in 7 states; territory/local partnership programs in 2 territories
Tribes	none
Local Governments	none

The web-based, fully automated 43-question collection tool described in the 2005 renewal, a combination of questions requiring “check the box” and narrative responses, is no longer in use. Experience has shown that responses to the narrative questions in particular, such as “provide a brief summary of primary restrictions and protections,” yielded unwieldy, subjective information that provided limited, if any, comparability across sites, states, and programs. As a result, the number of questions has been drastically reduced, to 15.

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.

The information will be used: 1) by federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal governments as well as non-governmental organizations, universities, and individuals for scientific research, management, and operational purposes; 2) by industry when seeking federal licenses or permits or preparing environmental impact statements required for various offshore activities; 3) to glean basic information about the United States' marine and coastal waters, such as the area that is explicitly managed or protected, what protections exist and where they are located, and how these management areas are related to each other; and 4) to improve management of these areas and allow for more efficient and effective communication and coordination between management entities. The data will be provided on the website, mpa.gov, where information from the federal programs areas and the several states and territories that have responded are available. Examples of how the data will be presented can be seen in the MPA Inventory section of mpa.gov at http://mpa.gov/helpful_resources/inventory.html.

Specifically, the data form collects: 1) general information about the site, such as name and year established; 2) general information about each site's conservation focus and regulatory scope; 3) information about the site's management capabilities as provided through the site's management plan; and 4) information about the availability of geographic information systems (GIS) shape files.

Collected information describes attributes of each MPA such as level of protection (e.g. ranging from whether it is a multiple-use area with limited protection to restriction of all uses); does the protection exist year-round and is it focused on protecting natural resources, cultural resources or both?; does the site have any restrictions on fishing and what kind?; and its planned management capabilities (e.g. does it have monitoring, research, education, permitting programs, etc.) When completed, the form provides information about each MPA for the database that is comparable across different programs (e.g. parks, refuges, sanctuaries) and levels of government (i.e., federal, state, territorial, partnership) and can be applied at local, state, regional, and national scales.

Metadata is being created to order to organize that data, make it more easily retrievable, and further ensure its quality.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA's Ocean Service 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 new 15-question collection tool included in this request is completed: 1) by a site's (respondent) staff and sent via e-mail to the National MPA Center or 2) through the respondent's telephone discussion with National MPA Center staff.

Reestablishment of an automated capability allowing the respondents to access the new 15 question data collection survey via a password-protected, secure Data Entry and Editing website is planned for the future. Resources are not available at this time to adapt the previous online capability for the 15 question collection tool. Once this capability is reestablished, respondents will then have the option of working directly with National MPA Center staff or submitting the data online and, with the database automatically updated in a SQL Server Database. The database is accessible over the Internet at <http://mpa.gov>.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Respondents for each site will be identified and asked to submit information. In some cases, regional coordination will be voluntarily provided by non-governmental organizations, such as the Coastal States Organization. Comprehensive data collection for most sites, the first such collection, was completed in FY2001 through FY2007. Library and Internet searches, as well as ongoing conversations with interested parties, has revealed that the information proposed for collection is both currently absent and needed for improved management and understanding of coastal and marine resources.

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

The data collection involves federal agencies, all coastal state and territorial governments, and could involve a few coastal tribal and local governments. The collection does not involve small businesses. Small local governments are provided assistance in filling out the form, when requested, either by the National MPA Center and/or the appropriate state or territorial partner.

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

Data will be collected once for each site; however, respondents are able to provide updates or edits to their data as appropriate. If data are not collected, the marine protected inventory process will not be able to proceed, the public will not receive complete, vital information about their coastal and ocean resources and the protection and management of those resources, and the Federal government cannot proceed with identifying which

existing marine protected areas should be a part of the National System of Marine Protected Areas established under EO 13158.

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

The collection will be conducted consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide information on 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 4, 2008 (73 FR 11619) solicited public comment on this collection. No comments were received.

Representatives from the Department of the Interior, other federal MPA programs, as well as members of regional fisheries offices have reviewed this form in the past. These representatives were encouraged to comment on the usability of the form.

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

Gifts or payments are not currently planned.

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

There will be no assurance of confidentiality. This will be clearly stated on the Paperwork Reduction Act information associated with the form.

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.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature included in the survey.

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

The data collection was not complete in the first six years. Therefore, an extension is necessary to complete the data collection for the remaining federal, state, commonwealth, and territorial governments, obtain information about new or modified sites, as well as to

initiate the tribal and local government data collection. The total estimated responses are 3,250 over the duration of the collection, including updates; about 2,500 responses were received in the first six years of collection.

During the extension, another 500 new site responses and 250 updates of existing information are estimated. The reduction of the number of questions from 43 to 15, resulting in the reduction of the potential annual hours per new site from 5 hours to 1 hour and 30 minutes, yields an overall estimated reduction of 1,750 burden hours for the 500 new sites, from a previously estimated 2,500 hours to 750. This estimate includes research time as well as time to fill out the form. An additional 30 minutes' work time each for an estimated 250 sites needing to update existing information will result in an additional 125 hours. There will be an estimated 875 burden hours during this three year extension request, annualized to 293. ($750 + 125 = 875/3 = 293$). The total responses over the three year period will be 750 (500 + 250), annualized to 250. *Note: although the actual hours come out to 292 "even", rounding-off in ROCIS of the respondents and burden for the form completion by new sites resulted in a total of 293 annualized burden hours.*

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection.

There will be no financial cost associated with completing the survey.

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

There is no specific programmatic cost to the government. This survey is part of a greater Inventory effort, and as such it will fall under regularly scheduled Inventory activities.

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

Program changes: 1) due to the revised instrument, average burden time per response has decreased from 5 hours to 1 hour and 30 minutes; 2) 125 responses averaging 30 minutes have been added to cover updates. There is thus a net decrease in total burden of 1,625 due to program changes.

Adjustment: previously, the burden was not annualized, but acknowledging that the responses may be spread over a three-year period, we are now annualizing the burden. Thus, the total 3-year burden is decreasing from 2,500 to 875 hours, but the annualized burden will be 293 hours. The decrease in annualized burden due to this adjustment is 582 hours.

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

Results from the first six years of data collection are tallied and compiled in a database currently housed at the NOAA Ocean Service's National MPA Center in Monterey, California. The information is currently available on the website, mpa.gov. New data collected during the extension will be added to this database and made available on the web.

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.

No approval will be sought to not display the expiration date.

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

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This data collection does not employ statistical methods.