

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
ALASKA REGION BSAI CRAB PERMITS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0514**

INTRODUCTION

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (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 for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (FMP). Regulations implementing the FMP appear at 50 CFR part 680. Regulations at 50 CFR part 679 and subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 also pertain.

This collection-of-information is revised by incorporating online transfers of quota for individuals, processors, and cooperatives, specifically: 1) transfer of IFQ between cooperatives, 2) transfer of IFQ and 3) transfer of IPQ. In addition, the Application for Transfer of Crab Quota Share/Individual Fishing Quota (QS/IFQ) or Processor Quota Shares/Individual Processing Quota (PQS/IPQ) is removed and replaced by three separate applications, because each of the quota type transfers is submitted differently and contains different information.

The Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program) allocates Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) crab resources among harvesters, processors, and coastal communities. The Program is a limited access system that balances the interests of several groups who depend on these fisheries. The CR Program addresses conservation and management issues associated with the previous derby fishery, reduces bycatch and associated discard mortality, and increases the safety of crab fishermen by ending the race for fish.

Share allocations to harvesters and processors, together with incentives to participate in fishery cooperatives, increases efficiencies, provides economic stability, and facilitates compensated reduction of excess capacities in the harvesting and processing sectors. Community interests are protected by Western Alaska Community Development Quota allocations and regional landing and processing requirements, as well as by several community protection measures.

The CR Program components include quota share (QS) allocation, processor quota share (PQS) allocation, individual fishing quota (IFQ) and individual processing quota (IPQ) issuance, quota transfers, use caps, crab harvesting cooperatives, protections for Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, arbitration system, monitoring, economic data collection, and cost recovery fee collection.

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

NMFS provides cooperatives and processors with an option to accomplish quota transfers through automated, online submittals. NMFS removes the requirement for notarized signatures for all crab leases of IFQ and IPQ. Permanent transfers of QS and PQS still require the signed notarized copies.

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.

Transfer of Crab QS, PQS, IFQ and IPQ.

Quota Share (QS) represents a long-term privilege to harvest a percentage of the crab fishery that was initially issued in 2005 to eligible applicants. QS may now be obtained only by transfer from a QS holder. Each year QS yields IFQ.

Processor Quota Share (PQS) is a long-term privilege for crab processors to receive a percentage of the crab harvest. PQS was initially issued in 2005 to qualified applicants. PQS annually yields IPQ. PQS may now be received only by transfer from another PQS holder.

Individual fishing quota (IFQ) is the number of pounds of crab that QS yields each year. IFQ is determined by number of QS units held and the annual crab total allowable catch amount. The QS holder or a hired master can fish IFQ, and IFQ may be assigned to a cooperative or may be leased.

Individual processing quota (IPQ) is the number of pounds of crab that PQS yields each year. IPQ is needed to receive any amount of crab harvested under a Class A IFQ permit.

An application is required to transfer any amount of QS, PQS, IFQ, or IPQ. The Regional Administrator provides applications on the Internet at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>. A transfer application will not be approved until the necessary eligibility application has been submitted and approved by NMFS.

a. Application for Transfer of IFQ between Crab Harvesting Cooperatives.

A crab harvesting cooperative is formed for the purpose of applying for and fishing under a crab harvesting cooperative IFQ permit. A crab harvesting cooperative is permitted to transfer its IFQ only to another crab harvesting cooperative. In order for an inter-cooperative transfer to be approved, both parties must be already established and recognized by NMFS as a crab harvesting cooperative prior to the transfer. NMFS will notify the transferor and transferee once the application has been received and approved. An IFQ transfer is not effective until approved by NMFS.

Once a cooperative has been issued an IFQ permit, the members of that cooperative cannot transfer away IFQ, because they hold no IFQ of their own. When a QS holder joins a cooperative, all of his or her QS are converted to cooperative IFQ that is held in common by the cooperative. Only the cooperative may transfer cooperative IFQ.

A cooperative that was issued cooperative IFQ is not allowed to hold QS directly, even though as a legal business entity, a cooperative would otherwise be eligible to acquire and hold QS. This prohibition on cooperatives holding QS is necessary to maintain the regulatory distinctions between individually-held IFQ and cooperative IFQ, and to simplify the administration of the CR Program.

A cooperative receives an annual IFQ permit in lieu of the members who assigned their pounds to the cooperative. Therefore, a cooperative is counted as one person holding IFQ; members who assigned IFQ to cooperatives are not counted as IFQ permit holders.

Because cooperatives are required to apply annually for each year's cooperative IFQ permit, any changes in cooperative membership that occur between fishing seasons should be reflected in the following year's cooperative IFQ permit application. The same process may be used by a cooperative to accommodate the rights of a successor-in-interest in the event that a member dies (in the case of an individual), or dissolves (in the case of a business entity).

A crab harvesting cooperative may transfer all or part of its IFQ to another crab harvesting cooperative. A transfer request may be submitted to NMFS using any one of the following methods:

Electronic: <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov>

Mail: Alaska Regional Administrator, NMFS
Restricted Access Management Program
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Fax: 907-586-7354; or

Hand delivery or courier:
NMFS
Room 713
709 West 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

The requirement for notarized signature is removed from the certification sections of this application.

Application For Transfer Of IFQ Between Crab Harvesting Cooperatives.

Identification of Transferor Cooperative

Non-Electronic Submittal.

Transferor cooperative's name, NMFS Person ID, date of incorporation, name of transferor cooperative's authorized representative, permanent business mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, business e-mail address (if available) and a temporary mailing address (if applicable).

Electronic Submittal

Transferor cooperative's name; NMFS Person ID, and Transfer Key.

Identification of Transferee Cooperative

Non-Electronic Submittal

Transferee cooperative's name, NMFS Person ID, date of incorporation, name of transferee cooperative's authorized representative, permanent business mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, business e-mail address (if available) and a temporary mailing address (if applicable).

Electronic Submittal

Transferee cooperative's name, NMFS Person ID, and Transfer Key.

Crab Harvesting Cooperative IFQ to be Transferred

Type of crab harvesting cooperative IFQ being transferred

Crab harvesting cooperative permit number, fishery, sector, region, IFQ class (A, B, R, or U) and IFQ pounds.

Identification of Crab Harvesting Receiving Cooperative Members

Name and NMFS Person ID of the transferee’s qualifying member(s) to whose use cap the cooperative IFQ pounds will be applied.

Enter the amount of IFQ pounds to be applied to each cooperative member.

Certification of Transferor

Non-Electronic Submittal.

Transferor cooperative’s authorized representative must sign and date the application certifying that all information is true, correct, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief. Enter the printed name of the cooperative transferor’s representative or his or her designee. If the application is completed by a designee, proof of authorization to act on behalf of the transferor must accompany the application.

Electronic Submittal

Transferor cooperative’s authorized representative or his or her designee must submit the application as indicated on the computer screen. By using the transferor cooperative’s NMFS ID, password and Transfer Key and submitting the application, the authorized representative and his/her designee certify that all information is true, correct, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

Certification of Transferee

Non-Electronic Submittal.

Transferee cooperative’s representative must sign and date the application certifying that all information is true, correct, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief. Enter the printed name of the cooperative transferee’s representative or his/her designee. If application completed by a designee, attach authorization.

Electronic Submittal

Transferee cooperative’s authorized representative or his or her designee must submit the application as indicated on the computer screen. By using the transferee cooperative’s NMFS ID, password and Transfer Key and submitting the application, the authorized representative and his/her designee certify that all information is true, correct, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

In 2007/08, 161 inter-coop transfer permits were issued (as of November 30, 2007). The number of crab harvesting cooperatives permitted in 2007 was 19.

Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer, Respondent	
Number of respondents	19
Total annual responses	161
Frequency of response = 8.5	
Total burden hours	169 hr
Time per response, non-electronic = 2 hr x 8 = 16	
Time per response, electronic = 1 hr x 153	
Total personnel costs (\$25 x 169)	\$4,225
Total miscellaneous costs (51.53)	\$52
Mail (0.42 x 4 = 1.68)	
Fax (2.50 x 4 = 10.00)	
Online (0.05 x 153 = 7.65)	
Photocopy (2 x 0.10 x 161 = 32.20)	

Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer, Federal Government	
Number of responses	8
Total burden hours	2
Time per response = 0.25	
Total personnel costs (\$25 x 3)	\$75
Total miscellaneous costs	0

b. Application For Transfer Of Crab IFQ

A crab IFQ permit holder may transfer all or part of his or her IFQ to another crab IFQ permit holder. The application for this permit requires attachments and is not conducive to online submittal. An application for IFQ transfer may be submitted to NMFS using any one of the following methods:

Mail: Alaska Regional Administrator, NMFS
Restricted Access Management Program
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Fax: 907-586-7354; or

Hand delivery or courier:
NMFS
Room 713
709 West 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Application For Transfer Of Crab IFQ

Type of Transfer

If this is a catcher vessel crew (CVC) or catcher/processor crew (CPC) IFQ transfer,

Attach proof of at least one delivery of a crab species in any CR crab fishery in the 365 days prior to submission to NMFS of the Application for Transfer of IFQ. Proof of this landing is:

Signature of the applicant on an ADF&G Fish Ticket; or

An affidavit from the vessel owner attesting to that individual's participation as a member of a fish harvesting crew on board a vessel during a landing of a crab QS species within the 365 days prior to submission of an Application for transfer of crab IFQ.

If this is a CVC or CPC IFQ transfer,

Indicate whether this transfer is only due to a hardship (see § 680.41(e)(3))

If YES, indicate one of the following types of hardship and provide required documentation supporting the need for such transfer.

Medical condition of QS holder (see § 680.41(e)(3)(A)).

Medical condition involving an individual who requires a QS holder's care
(see § 680.41(e)(3)(B)).

Total or constructive physical loss of a vessel (see § 680.41(e)(3)(C)).

Transferor Information

Transferor's name and NMFS Person ID, transferor's permanent business mailing address, and any temporary mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address (if available).

Indicate whether transferor submitted an Economic Data Report (EDR), if required to do so under § 680.6.

Indicate whether transferor has paid all fees, as required by § 680.44.

Transferee Information

Transferee's name and NMFS Person ID, transferee's permanent business mailing address and any temporary mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address (if available).

Indicate whether transferee submitted an EDR, if required to do so under § 680.6.

Indicate whether transferee has paid all fees, as required by § 680.44.

Identification of IFQ to be Transferred.

IFQ permit number, crab fishery, sector of QS, region, IFQ Class (A, B, R, or U), and number of IFQ pounds.

Certification of transferor.

Printed name and signature of transferor or authorized representative and date signed. If completed by an authorized representative, attach proof of authorization

Certification of Transferee

Printed name and signature of transferee or authorized representative and date signed. If completed by an authorized representative, attach proof of authorization.

The number of IFQ transfers in 2007 was 373. Because the records do not show frequency of transfer per individual permit, the frequency of 1 will be used.

Application for Transfer of Crab IPQ, Respondent	
Number of respondents	373
Total annual responses	373
Frequency of response = 1	
Total burden hours	746
Time per response = 2 hr	
Total personnel costs (\$25 x 746)	\$18,650
Total miscellaneous costs (1605.26)	\$1,605
Fax (\$5 x 300 = 1500)	
Mail (0.42 x 73 = 30.66)	
Photocopy (2 x 0.10 x 373 = 74.60)	

Application for Transfer of Crab IPQ, Federal Government	
Number of responses	373
Total burden hours (93.25)	93
Time per response = 0.25	
Total personnel costs (\$25 x 93)	2,325
Total miscellaneous costs	0

c. Application For Transfer Of Crab IPQ

A crab IPQ permit holder may transfer all or part of its IPQ to another crab IPQ permit holder. An application for IPQ transfer may be submitted to NMFS using any one of the following methods:

Electronic: <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov>

Mail: Alaska Regional Administrator, NMFS
 Restricted Access Management Program
 P.O. Box 21668
 Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Fax: 907-586-7354; or

Hand delivery or courier:
 NMFS, Room 713
 709 West 9th Street
 Juneau, AK 99801

Application for Transfer Of Crab IPQ

Type of Transfer

Indicate whether this transfer of IPQ is to be used within the Eligible Crab Community (ECC) with which the IPQ is currently associated (see § 680.41(l)).

If YES, provide the name of the current ECC that has the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) on the IPQ.

Indicate whether this transfer of IPQ is to be used outside an ECC that has authorized an entity to represent it in exercise of ROFR under § 680.41(l)(3), with which the IPQ is currently associated.

Transferor Information

Identification of transferor

Non-electronic submittal

Enter the transferor's name, NMFS Person ID, date of incorporation, name of transferor's authorized representative, permanent business mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address (if available) of the transferor, and any temporary mailing address.

Electronic submittal - Enter the transferor's name; NMFS Person ID, and Transfer Key.

EDR Submittal - Indicate whether transferor submitted an EDR, if required to do so under § 680.6.
 Fee Payment - Indicate whether transferor has paid all fees, as required by § 680.44.

Transferee Information

Identification of transferee

Non-electronic submittal

Enter the transferee's name, NMFS Person ID, date of incorporation, name of transferee's authorized representative, permanent business mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address (if available) of the transferee, and any temporary mailing address

Electronic submittal - Enter the transferee's name; NMFS Person ID, and Transfer Key.

EDR Submittal - Indicate whether transferee submitted an EDR, if required to do so under § 680.6.

Fee Payment - Indicate whether transferee has paid all fees, as required by § 680.44.

Identification of IPQ to be Transferred

IPQ permit number, crab fishery, sector of QS, region, IFQ Class (A, B, R, or U), and number of IPQ pounds.

Certification of Transferor

Non-Electronic submittal

Printed name and signature of transferor or authorized representative and date signed. If completed by an authorized representative, attach proof of authorization

Electronic Submittal

The transferor must submit the application as indicated on the computer screen. By using the transferor's NMFS ID, password, and Transfer Key and submitting the application, the transferor or his/her authorized representative certify that all information is true, correct, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

Certification of Transferee

Non-Electronic Submittal

Printed name and signature of transferee or authorized representative and date signed. If completed by an authorized representative, attach proof of authorization

Electronic Submittal

The transferee must submit the application as indicated on the computer screen. By using the transferee's NMFS ID, password, and Transfer Key and submitting the application, the transferee or his/her authorized representative certify that all information is true, correct, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

The number of IPQ permit holders issued in 2007 is 24. There were approximately 32 IPQ transfers in the 2007-2008 crab fishing year.

Application to Transfer Crab IPQ, Respondent	
Estimated number of respondents	24
Total annual responses	32
Number of responses per year = 1.35	
Total Time burden	48
Time per response, non-electronic = 2 hr x 16 = 32	
Time per response, electronic = 1 hr x 16 = 16	
Total personnel cost	\$1,200
Cost per hour = \$25	
Total miscellaneous cost (47.36)	\$47
Postage (0.42 x 8 = 3.36)	
Fax (\$5 x 8 = 40)	
Online (\$0.05 x 16 = 0.8)	
Photocopy (0.05 x 2 x 32 = 3.20)	

Application to Transfer Crab IPQ, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	16
Total Time burden	8
Time per response (30 min/60 min = 0.5)	
Total personnel cost	\$200
Cost per hour = \$25	
Total miscellaneous cost	0

d. Application to Transfer Crab QS and PQS

Processor quota share (PQS) or quota share (QS) may be transferred, with approval of the Regional Administrator, to persons qualified to receive PQS or QS by transfer.

A crab QS or PQS permit holder may transfer all or part of his or her QS or PQS to another crab QS or PQS permit holder. An application for transfer of QS or PQS may be submitted to NMFS using only mail or courier because the application requires an original signature and notary:

Mail: Alaska Regional Administrator, NMFS
 Restricted Access Management Program
 P.O. Box 21668
 Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Hand delivery or courier:
 NMFS
 Room 713
 709 West 9th Street
 Juneau, AK 99801

Application to Transfer Crab QS and PQS

Type of Transfer

Indicate the type(s) of Quota Share or Processor Quota Share for which a transfer is being sought.

If CVC or CPC QS transfer,

Submit proof of at least one delivery of a crab species in any CR crab fishery in the 365 days prior to submission to NMFS of the Application for Transfer of IFQ or IPQ. Proof of this landing is:

Signature of the applicant on an ADF&G Fish Ticket; or

An affidavit from the vessel owner attesting to that individual's participation as a member of a fish harvesting crew on board a vessel during a landing of a crab QS species within the 365 days prior to submission of an Application for transfer of crab QS or PQS.

If PQS transfer,

Indicate whether the PQS will be used within the Eligible Crab Community (ECC) with which the PQS is currently associated

If YES, indicate the name of the current ECC that has the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) and attach an affidavit stating that the ECC wishes to permanently waive ROFR for the PQS or that the proposed recipient of the PQS has completed a ROFR contract with the ECCE for the PQS that includes the terms enacted under section 313(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and referenced under § 680.40(f)(3).

Indicate whether the PQS will be used outside the ECC with which the PQS is currently associated.

Identification of Transferor

Name and NMFS Person ID of transferor

Date of Incorporation

Permanent business mailing address and any temporary business mailing address

Business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address (if available)

Indicate whether transferor has submitted an EDR, if required to do so under § 680.6.

Indicate whether transferor has paid all fees, as required by § 680.44.

Identification of Transferee

Name and NMFS Person ID of transferee

Date of Incorporation

Permanent business mailing address and any temporary business mailing address (if applicable)

Business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address (if available)

Indicate whether transferee has submitted an EDR, if required to do so under § 680.6.

Indicate whether transferee has paid all fees, as required by § 680.44.

Eligibility of Transferee (Does not pertain to those seeking to receive Processing Quota Share)

Indicate whether transferee is applying to receive Catcher Vessel Owner (CVO) or Catcher/Processor Owner (CPO) QS (with or without IFQ).

If YES, indicate whether the transferee is an eligible recipient of QS or IFQ

Indicate whether the transferee is applying to receive Catcher Vessel Crew (CVC) or Catcher/Processor Crew (CPC) QS (with or without IFQ).

If YES, indicate whether the transferee is an eligible recipient of QS or IFQ.

If NO, a completed Application for BSAI Crab Eligibility to Receive QS/PQS or IFQ/IPQ by Transfer must be completed, submitted, and approved before this Application for Transfer of QS or PQS can be approved.

Identification and Cost of Quota to be Transferred

Fishery, sector, region, beginning serial number, ending serial number, number of QS units

Indicate whether any current year IFQ/IPQ Pounds are to transfer with the QS/PQS

If YES, enter IFQ or IPQ permit number, IFQ Class (A, B, R, or U), and pounds

If transferring CPO quota, indicate how the CPO QS is to be designated after the transfer

If transferring CPO quota to be designated as CVO QS and PQS, indicate the one region for the resulting QS and PQS

Enter the total price of the QS or PQS, including all fees and other transaction costs

Enter the price per unit of QS or PQS

Enter the price per pound of any IFQ or IPQ crab transferred with the QS or PQS

Indicate whether a permit broker is being used to facilitate this transfer

If YES, enter amount paid in broker fees or percentage of total price of QS or PQS

Certification of Transferor

Enter printed name and signature of transferor and date signed. If completed by an authorized representative, attach authorization.

Signature of notary public, date commission expires, and notary seal or stamp.

Certification of Transferee

Enter printed name and signature of transferee and date signed of transferee. If completed by an authorized representative, attach authorization.

Signature of notary public, date commission expires, and notary seal or stamp.

NMFS received 278 total transfer applications from 2005 through 2007 (NMFS does not keep track of these by year). Dividing by 3 years provides the number 93 transfers per year, which is used as the number of respondents, with a response frequency of one.

Application to Transfer Crab QS and PQS, Respondent	
Estimated number of respondents	93
Total annual responses	93
Number of responses per year = 1	
Total Time burden	186
Time per response = 2 hr	
Total personnel cost	\$4,650
Cost per hour = \$25	
Total miscellaneous cost (48.36)	\$48
Postage (0.42 x 93 = 39.06)	
Photocopy (0.05 x 2 x 93 = 9.30)	

Application to Transfer Crab QS and PQS, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	93
Total Time burden	47
Time per response (30 min/60 min = 0.5)	
Total personnel cost	\$1,175
Cost per hour = \$25	
Total miscellaneous cost	0

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 to Question 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.

NMFS developed new data collection methods that facilitate fishing operations by providing self-help, real-time quota transfer opportunities. Industry requested the option to submit transfer requests electronically in order to react quickly to changing conditions and to realize harvesting efficiencies. The on-line transfers are accomplished at <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov> through a NMFS ID, password, and key – all of which are provided at the time the participant becomes a quota holder. This specific information then can be used to identify participants during online transfer.

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. This action reduces the reporting burden on crab cooperatives, processors, and individuals.

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

Providing the CR crab participants with an online opportunity for transfers reduces the burden of participants and increases accuracy of the data and efficiency of the process. Not providing this submittal method and continuing the current method of reporting would not meet the objectives of the CR 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 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.

The NMFS Alaska Region will submit a proposed rule, RIN 0648-AW56, Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program, Rockfish Program, the Amendment 80 Program, and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program, 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 the CR Program.

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

Respondents are informed that 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.

The information collected is part of the Privacy Act System of Records, COMMERCE/NOAA-19, Permits and Registrations for United States Federally Regulated Fisheries, published in the Federal Register on April 17, 2008 (73 FR 20914), and effective on June 11, 2008 (73 FR 33065).

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 CR 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: 1,920 (390 vessels, 110 processors, 1300 hired masters, 100 registered crab receivers, 1 Eligible Crab Community Organization (ECCO), 19 cooperatives), an increase from 1,800. Estimated total responses: 2,899 increased from 2,799. Estimated total burden: 4,450, increased from 4,419.

Estimated total personnel cost: \$112,250, increased from \$111,725, 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 Question 12 above).

Estimated total miscellaneous costs: \$12,374, decreased from \$17,011.

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

Estimated total responses: 2,670, decreased from 2,739. Estimated total burden: 775 hr, increased from 765 hr. Estimated total personnel cost: \$21,364, increased from \$21,089, based on the average wage equivalent to a GS-9 employee in Alaska, including COLA, \$25 per hour.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

Program changes: 1) provide the option to submit quota transfers online for Crab IFQ, IPQ and inter-cooperative transfer of IFQ; 2) remove the Application for transfer of Crab QS/IFQ or PQS/IPQ and separate it into three applications, because each of the quota type transfers is submitted differently and contains different information; 3) remove the notarization requirement for transfers of Crab IFQ and Crab IPQ.

There is an overall increase of 31 hours. A net increase of 180 hours is due to the removal of the transfer of Crab QS/IFQ or PQS/IPQ form and replacement by the three following it below, but the shorter average response time for transfer of Crab IPQ saves 16 hours; that is, simply adding these three forms, with no online transfer option for Crab IPQ transfer, would have added 196 hours. A decrease of 149 hours is due to the addition of online submission for the inter-cooperative transfer of IFQ.

Removing the notarization requirement for Crab IFQ and IPQ decreases miscellaneous costs by \$2,920. Allowing online transfer for the inter-cooperative transfer of IFQ decreases miscellaneous costs by \$1,765. Adding \$48 for the Crab QS/PQS transfer results in a net decrease of \$4,637.

Details of Program Changes:

Application for Transfer of Crab QS/IFQ or PQS/IPQ; this form is removed.

- a decrease of 400 respondents and responses, 0 instead of 400
- a decrease of 800 hr burden, 0 hr instead of 800 hr
- a decrease of \$20,000 personnel costs, \$0 instead of \$20,000
- a decrease of \$4,572 miscellaneous costs, \$0 instead of \$4,572

Application for Transfer of Crab QS or PQS; this form is added. This form must be notarized and may be submitted only by mail or courier.

- an increase of 93 respondents and responses, 93 instead of 0
- an increase of 186 hr burden, 186 hr instead of 0 hr

an increase of \$4,650 personnel costs, \$4,650 instead of \$0
an increase of \$48 miscellaneous costs, \$48 instead of \$0

Application for Transfer of Crab IFQ; this form is added. This form may be submitted by mail, fax, or courier.

an increase of 373 respondents and responses, 373 instead of 0
an increase of 746 hr burden, 746 hr instead of 0 hr
an increase of \$18,650 personnel costs, \$18,650 instead of \$0
an increase of \$1,605 miscellaneous costs, \$1,605 instead of \$0

Application for Transfer of Crab IPQ; this form is added. This form may now be submitted online, as well as by fax, by mail, or by courier.

an increase of 24 respondents, 24 instead of 0
an increase of 32 responses, 32 instead of 0
an increase of 48 hr burden, 48 hr instead of 0 hr
an increase of \$1,200 personnel costs, \$1,200 instead of \$0
an increase of \$47 miscellaneous costs, \$47 instead of \$0

Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of IFQ. This form may now be submitted online, as well as by fax, by mail, or by courier.

a decrease of 140 respondents, 19 instead of 159 (this is a correction based on permit counts)
an increase of 2 responses, 161 instead of 159
a decrease of 149 hr burden, 169 hr instead of 318 hr
a decrease of \$3,725 personnel costs, \$4,225 instead of \$7,950
a decrease of \$1,765 miscellaneous costs, \$52 instead of \$1,817.

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

The information collected will be summarized and available in aggregated form to the public on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>.

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 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements, 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.