

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
SUBSISTENCE FISHERY FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT IN WATERS OFF ALASKA:
REGISTRATION AND MARKING OF GEAR
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0460

INTRODUCTION

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region manage fishing for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) through regulations established under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). The IPHC promulgates regulations governing the Pacific halibut fishery under the Convention between the United States and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, signed at Ottawa, Ontario, on March 2, 1953, as amended by a Protocol Amending the Convention (signed at Washington, DC, on March 29, 1979). The Halibut Act also authorizes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to develop halibut fishery regulations, including limited access regulations, in its geographic area of concern that would apply to nationals or vessels of the United States.

The Council may recommend additional regulations that are not in conflict with approved IPHC regulations, and the United States (U.S.) Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) must approve and implement the Council Action. It was under this general authority that the Council, in October 2000, voted to adopt a subsistence halibut policy. NMFS prepared regulations formalizing the Council's subsistence halibut policy, and these regulations were adopted by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2003 (68 FR 18145). Regulations implementing the Halibut Act in waters in and off Alaska appear at 50 CFR part 300.60 through 300.66.

This action is a revision of the collection-of-information describing the Pacific Halibut Subsistence Program (Program) in waters off Alaska.

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

Subsistence fishing and hunting in Alaska has historically been part of the customary and traditional practices of Alaska Natives and non-Natives, especially in rural areas with limited alternative food resources. Only persons who qualify pursuant to 50 CFR part 300.65(g) may conduct subsistence fishing for Pacific halibut in waters in and off Alaska. Persons eligible to fish must hold a subsistence halibut registration certificate (SHARC) to exercise the privilege. This Program is available to 117 rural communities and 123 Alaska Native tribes.

A person is eligible to harvest subsistence halibut if he or she is a rural resident of a community with customary and traditional uses of halibut. This action would extend rural eligibility requirements for Alaska residents, to include individuals who reside outside of currently eligible rural places. After regulations implemented the Program, members of the public requested that the Council revise the criteria for rural residents to participate in the Program because the current regulations have inadvertent, adverse implications for some rural residents. The Program currently prohibits individuals who live in a rural place that is not recognized by the U.S. Census

or live outside the boundaries of designated communities, but may live in close proximity to and/or have a mailing address in that community. A community in this Program is defined as a place that is recognized by the U.S. Census; thus, only municipalities and census designated places (CDP) are included.

The Program seeks to develop a wider geographic scope for eligibility to include individuals who reside in remote homesteads outside the boundaries of eligible communities within the subsistence use areas of Alaska. Those individuals or families practice the same patterns of use as residents of nearby communities that have customary and traditional uses, and, therefore, would be eligible to participate in subsistence fishing for halibut. Rural residents who reside within a designated ten statute mile band of land, adjacent to the waters of the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean, and other designated places would be eligible to participate in the Program (see Table 1). In addition, the current non-subsistence marine waters areas would be expanded to include the land areas of adjacent non-rural municipalities.

Table 1. List of Additional Eligible Places by Area

Place	General Description	Area	Population	Population by Area
Covenant Life CDP	Part of Haines Borough	2C	348	
Cube Cove CDP	Southeast Alaska	2C	0	
Excursion Inlet CDP	Part of Haines Borough	2C	12	
Game Creek CDP	Southeast Alaska	2C	19	
Hobart Bay CDP	Southeast Alaska	2C	1	
Kupreanof	Near Petersburg	2C	26	
Lutak CDP	Part of Haines Borough	2C	40	
Mosquito Lake CDP	Part of Haines Borough	2C	150	
Mud Bay CDP	Part of Haines Borough	2C	141	
Thoms Place CDP	Southeast Alaska	2C	7	
Whitestone Logging Camp CDP	Southeast Alaska	2C	NA*	744
Afognak	Kodiak Island Borough	3A	0	
Aleneva CDP	Kodiak Island Borough	3A	48	
Cape Yakataga	Near Yakutat	3A	NA	
Chiniak	Kodiak road system	3A	42	
Eyak	Part of Cordova	3A	137	
Kaguyak	Kodiak Island; abandoned	3A	0	
Kodiak Station CDP	Kodiak Island Borough road system	3A	1,817	
Portlock	Near Nanwalek; abandoned	3A	NA	
Seldovia Village CDP	Road connected to Seldovia city	3A	161	
Uganik	Kodiak Island	3A	NA	
Uyak	Kodiak Island	3A	NA	
Womens Bay	Kodiak road system	3A	830	
Woody Is.	Kodiak road system	3A	0	3,035
Ayakulik	Kodiak Island abandoned	3B	NA	
Belkofski	Near King Cove; abandoned	3B	0	
Pauloff Harbor	On Sanak Island near False pass; abandoned	3B	0	

Place	General Description	Area	Population	Population by Area
Sanak	Near False Pass; abandoned	3B	NA	
Squaw Harbor	Near Sand Point; abandoned	3B	NA	
Unga	Near Sand Point; abandoned	3B	NA	0
Attu	Aleutian islands abandoned	4	15	
Bill Moores	Yukon Delta	4	0	
Choolunawick	Yukon Delta	4	0	
Ekuk	Nushagak Bay; no one year round	4	0	
Fort Glenn	Aleutian islands	4	NA	
Hamilton	Yukon Delta	4	0	
King Island	Near Nome; abandoned	4	0	
Mary's Igloo	Near Nome	4	0	
Paimiut	Near Hooper Bay	4	2	
Port Clarence CDP	Near Nome	4	23	
Port Moller	Near Nelson Lagoon; few if any year-round	4	NA	
Shemya Station	Aleutians, a.k.a. Earekson Air Force Station	4	27	
Umkumiute	Nelson Island	4	NA	67
	Total		3,846	3,846

*NA/is not available

Source: Draft Regulatory Impact Review for Proposed Regulatory Amendment to the Subsistence Halibut Program to Revise the Definition of Rural Eligibility, June 18, 2008, NOAA Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska 99802

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.

This action changes the estimated number of participants in the Program due to the addition of new eligible rural areas and current number of participants.

In addition, this action removes the form to gather subsistence information from an individual and replaces it with two forms, one form for an individual rural resident and one form for an individual tribal member. The other form in this collection, for a tribe submitting multiple SHARC requests, remains unchanged. This form change will make the completion of each of the applications simpler and more efficient.

NMFS revised the SHARC application for a rural resident to indicate the basis upon which the applicant is eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. The eligibility basis for a person to harvest subsistence halibut is the description of one of the rural areas of Alaska described as follows:

- ◆ A rural community, as listed in 50 CFR part 300.65(g)(1).
- ◆ Southeast Alaska east of 141° W long., except for the non-rural areas of Juneau and Ketchikan specified at Figure 2 to subpart E of 50 CFR Part 300
- ◆ The Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Kodiak Island Archipelago, or the area south of the Bristol Bay Borough and south of 58° 39.2 N lat. (see Figures 3 and 6 to subpart E of 50 CFR Part 300).
- ◆ Nelson, Nunivak, and Saint Lawrence Islands.
- ◆ Any other area of Alaska within 10 statute miles of the marine coastline of the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean, south of Cape Espenberg, as measured from mean high water and that is not specified as non-rural areas as defined in 50 CFR Part 300.65(h)(3) (see Figure 6 to subpart E of 50 CFR Part 300).

Due to the rural nature of the participants, NMFS requests additional information on home address, such as listing a post office box number, describing the physical location of the domicile if there is no street address. For consistency, the address requirements for a SHARC application for an Alaska Native tribal member was also revised to more fully state what is needed for address or location information. One data element, community or area of residence, was added to both individual forms. The location of a SHARC holder's domicile is needed to verify that the reimbursement of a rural fisherman's actual expenses came from residents of the same community. These changes are not expected to increase or decrease the time to complete the forms.

Table 2 presents an array of 2006 SHARC information, including the estimated number of persons eligible for a rural SHARC; this number was used initially to determine number of PRA respondents for this Program. Table 2 also presents the known number of rural SHARC issued by NMFS at the end of 2006, and the known number of rural SHARC being used by fishermen or active SHARC. In addition, two percentages are shown. One percentage is a comparison of eligible rural persons versus active SHARC, and the other percentage is a comparison of obtained SHARC versus active SHARC.

Table 2. Number of Rural SHARC Permits Issued and Used, by IPHC Area in 2006.

AREA	ELIGIBLE PERSONS	SHARC ISSUED	ACTIVE SHARC	% ACTIVE/ ELIGIBLE	% ACTIVE/ SHARC HELD
2C	27,271	4,510	2,196	8.1	49
3A	18,878	2,245	1,192	6.3	53
3B	2,320	82	54	2.3	66
4	33,852	246	92	0.3	37
TOTAL	82,321	7,083	3,534	4.3	50

Source: Draft Regulatory Impact Review for Proposed Regulatory Amendment to the Subsistence Halibut Program to Revise the Definition of Rural Eligibility, June 18, 2008, NOAA Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska 99802

Table 3 presents 2007 SHARC summary data. At the end of 2007, NMFS reported 17,449 SHARC were issued; 9,958 rural, and 7,491 tribal. Estimating the active SHARC using the 50 percent from the 2006 data, results in 4,979 active rural SHARC and 3,746 active tribal SHARC. Because the estimated number of eligible persons is not known and is always changing due to birth and death of participants and participants moving out of the rural area, NMFS determines that a comparison of obtained SHARC versus active SHARC provides a better estimate for number of respondents.

Table 3. 2007 SHARC Summary Report

	RURAL	TRIBAL	TOTAL
TOTAL ISSUED TO DECEMBER 2007	9,958	7,491	17,449
TOTAL ACTIVE SHARC (estimated at 50%)	4,979	3,746	8,725

Source: NMFS Alaska Region website at: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/subsistence/07sharc_summary.pdf

Table 4 presents 2008 summary data on SHARC issued and active SHARC. At the end of 2008, NMFS reported 18,525 SHARC issued; 10,799 rural (an increase from 9,958 issued in 2007) and 7,726 tribal (an increase from 7,491 issued in 2007). The percentage of active SHARC for rural residents is shown at 62%, or 4,979 active rural SHARC. The percentage of active SHARC for tribal members is shown at 47%, or 3,746 active tribal SHARC. The summary shows

Table 4. 2008 SHARC Summary Report

	RURAL	TRIBAL	TOTAL
TOTAL ISSUED TO DECEMBER 2008	10,799	7,726	18,525
TOTAL ACTIVE SHARC	6,662	3,615	10,277
PERCENT ACTIVE	62%	47%	56%

Source: NMFS Alaska Region website at: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/subsistence/08sharc_summary.pdf

Table 5 summarizes NMFS' analysis of the additional rural residents who could be eligible for a SHARC after the revised regulations are in place. In the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) created for this Program, NMFS projected participation by eligible new Alaska rural residents by applying the percentage active obtained in 2006 (see Table 2 above). Using this method, 9,438 persons are eligible to obtain a SHARC and 606 active SHARC are predicted.

Table 5. Number of Additional Rural SHARC Expected to be Issued and Used, by IPHC Area

AREA	EXPECTED ELIGIBLE PERSONS	2006 % ACTIVE	% ACTIVE SHARC
2C	1,509	8.1	122
3A	7,659	6.3	483
3B	22	2.3	1
4	248	0.3	1
TOTAL	9,438	4.3	606

Source: Draft Regulatory Impact Review for Proposed Regulatory Amendment to the Subsistence Halibut Program to Revise the Definition of Rural Eligibility, June 18, 2008, NOAA Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska 99802

Table 6 presents the projected total number of respondents to submit a SHARC. Adding the 2008 numbers (6,662 active SHARC, 62% of those issued) and the expected new rural SHARC (606) results in a projected total of 7,268 rural SHARC. The projected total of tribal SHARC is 3,615 (based on 2008 numbers). To obtain the total number of respondents to use in this analysis, adding the tribal member and rural resident SHARC totals 10,883 (7,268 + 3,615) expected SHARC to be issued in 2009 and beyond. This total is 5,100 fewer respondents than reported in the last support statement (15,983 (based on eligibility) – 10,883 estimated to be active).

Table 6. Number of SHARC Respondents

	ACTIVE RURAL SHARC	EXPECTED ACTIVE RURAL SHARC	TOTAL ACTIVE RURAL SHARC
TOTAL ISSUED IN 2008	6,662	606	7,268

	ACTIVE TRIBAL SHARC	TOTAL ACTIVE TRIBAL SHARC
TOTAL ISSUED IN 2008	3,615	3,615

	TOTAL EXPECTED ACTIVE SHARC
RURAL RESIDENTS	7,268
TRIBAL MEMBERS	3,615
TOTAL	10,883

a. Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) Application

1. Subsistence halibut registration certificate (SHARC) application for a rural resident

Block A - Type of Subsistence Halibut Registration

Whether registration is new or a renewal

If a renewal, enter SHARC number

Indicate the basis for your eligibility to harvest subsistence halibut.

Block B - Alaska Rural Registrant Information

Name (First, Middle, Last) and birth date (mm/dd/yyyy) of fisherman

Daytime telephone number

Mailing address (P.O. box number or number and street, city, state, and zip code)

If no street address, describe physical location of your domicile.

Include street address even if you have a P.O. Box number.

If no street address, describe the physical location of your domicile, such as latitude and longitude, if known, or direction and distance from a landmark or from a milepost on a road.

Community or area of residence

Dates of residence in this community or area (month, day, year)

Block C – Certification Of Eligibility

Signature of rural applicant and date of signature

2. Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) For Individual Native Tribal Member

Block A - Type of Subsistence Halibut Registration

Whether registration is new or a renewal

If a renewal, enter SHARC number

Block B - Alaska Native Tribal Registrant Information

Name (First, Middle, Last) and birth date (mm/dd/yyyy) of fisherman
 Daytime telephone number, including area code
 Mailing address (P.O. box number or number and street, city, state, and zip code)
 Name of Alaska Native Tribe
 Community or area of residence
 Dates of residence in this community or area (month, day, year)

Block C – Certification Of Eligibility

Signature of tribal applicant and date of signature

3. Alaska Native Tribal Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) Application

Block A - Alaska Native Tribe (as defined at 50 CFR 300.65(g)(2))

Name of Alaska Native Tribe
 Business mailing Address: (street, city, state, zip code)
 Daytime Telephone Number
 E-mail address

Block B - Tribal Member(s) Information

Name (first, middle, last) and date of birth of tribal member
 Daytime telephone number
 Community of Residence
 Mailing address (P.O. number or street, city, state, zip code)
 Indicate whether applying for new SHARC or renewal
 If renewal, enter SHARC number

Block C - Certification of Tribal Official

Printed name, signature, and title of tribal official
 Date of signature

The total number of eligible persons to obtain a SHARC, 27,963 (18,525 + 9,438 new eligible rural residents), is the total number of respondents. The total annual response number is the number of active SHARC (10,883) divided by the effective length of the SHARC.

Subsistence halibut registration, Respondent	
Total estimated number of respondents	27,963
Total estimated annual responses	4,839
2 year, rural registrants 7,268/2 yr = 3,634	
4 year, Native registrants 3,615/3 yr = 1,205	
Total estimated burden hours (806.5)	807 hr
Time per response = 10 minutes	
Total estimated personnel cost (807 x \$25)	\$20,175
Total miscellaneous cost (average of \$2 to submit by mail, fax, email or on line x 4,839)	\$9,678

Subsistence halibut registration, Federal Government	
Total estimated annual responses	4,839
Total estimated burden hours (403.25)	403 hr
Time per response = 5 minutes	
Total estimated personnel cost (387 x \$25)	\$10,075
Total miscellaneous cost	0

b. Subsistence Gear Marking

The change in number of respondents is applied to marking of gear. Gear types authorized for use in the subsistence halibut fishery are setline, hand-held gear (*i.e.* handline, rod-and-reel),

spear, jig, and hand-troll gear. Of these five types of authorized gear, only setline gear must be marked with identification information. Setline gear means one or more stationary, buoyed, or anchored lines with hooks attached.

Each eligible subsistence halibut fisherman with a SHARC shall plainly and legibly inscribe his first initial and last name (followed by an “S” to indicate subsistence), and address on a keg or buoy attached to the setline gear; this requires approximately 15 minutes to paint each buoy. Materials needed to mark the buoys consist of paint and paintbrush, permanent ink applicator, or tape, costing at most \$5. Labor costs to mark the buoys are estimated at \$12.50 per hour, based on a range between \$10 and \$15 per hour.

The total number of respondents eligible for SHARC is, again, 27,963. The total annual responses number is the number of active SHARC (10,883) divided by the effective length of the SHARC, or 4,839.

Persons using setline gear will probably harvest subsistence halibut in small groups of two or three, fishing together for efficiency in a larger vessel. If three fishermen were fishing together in one vessel, each person’s 30-hook limit could be combined into one setline unit of 90 hooks marked with one pair of buoys. For three fishermen, the ratio of 1 pair (2 buoys) to 3 pair (6 buoys) is equal to one third or an estimated 1,597 pairs (or 3,194 separate buoys) that need to be marked, although not all of these buoys would need marking each year. An estimated 50 percent or 1,597 individual buoys would need marking, because the markings from the previous year are still legible, and the information is still correct.

Subsistence halibut gear marking, Respondent	
Total estimated respondents	27,963
Total estimated annual responses (4,839 active SHARC x 0.33 = 1597 pair of buoys or 3,194 buoys x 0.50)	1,597
Total estimated burden hours (399.25) Estimated time to paint each buoy = 15 minutes	399 hr
Total estimated personnel cost (4987.50) Cost per hour, in dollars = 12.50	\$4,988
Total miscellaneous cost Marking materials (\$5 materials x 1597)	\$7,985

Subsistence halibut gear marking, Federal Government	
Total estimated annual responses	0
Total estimated burden hours	0
Total estimated personnel cost	0
Total miscellaneous cost	0

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 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.

The individual rural resident or tribal member may submit a SHARC application online, as well as by fax, mail, or attachment to an e-mail. Applications are on line at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/applications.htm#subapp>.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

No duplication exists with other information collections at NMFS Alaska Region.

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, because this action regulates individuals and does not regulate small entities as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA). Small entities are defined as small businesses, small organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions in Section 601(3)-(5) of the RFA. This action applies to unique individuals, natural persons, who are not considered small entities within the meaning of the RFA.

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

If this revision to the collection is not made, some rural residents would continue to be excluded from opportunities for subsistence harvests, because they live outside of designated places listed in the regulations. Some applicants live in areas that are “too rural” to be defined as a ‘place’ under the U.S. Census, and thus are not eligible under current regulations. According to the Census Bureau’s Geographic Areas Reference Manual (1994), a ‘place’ either is legally incorporated under the laws of its respective State, or a statistical equivalent that the Census Bureau treats as a CDP.

Since before 1950, the minimum CDP size for Alaska has been 25 or more inhabitants. For Census 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau dropped this requirement, and a CDP anywhere in the United States can be any population size. The definition of a community, as established by the State of Alaska for purposes of revenue sharing agreements, is a group of not fewer than 25 people living in a geographic location as a social unit.

Basing eligibility on a set of legal boundaries (i.e., 10 statute miles), in addition to the current list of eligible places and proposed list of eligible places (e.g., Kodiak Island Archipelago), would minimize potential future discrepancies that may arise, as the boundaries for CDPs with low populations could change every 10 years, as a result of the decennial census. While the list of eligible communities would change, only if the Secretary of Commerce approved an amendment to the regulations, the public could become confused if the census designation (or the rural status) for their place of residence changed.

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

No special circumstances exist that would require information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent 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.

The NMFS Alaska Region will submit a proposed rule, RIN 0648-AX53, 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.

This Program does not provide payment or gift.

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

This information is used to verify the identity of the applicant(s) and to accurately retrieve confidential records related to Pacific halibut subsistence registrants. The birthdate is confidential under the Privacy Act. A Privacy Act System of Records Notice, published on April 17, 2008 (73 FR 20914) became effective on June 11, 2008 (73 FR 33065). The Paperwork Reduction Act Statement on each form gives assurance of confidentiality.

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.

Except for “date of birth”, this information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature. The date of birth is required to distinguish between same names:

- ◆ To ensure that benefits are awarded appropriately;
- ◆ To ensure that landings and other Program-related functions are credited and applied appropriately in a manner that maintains confidentiality;
- ◆ To avoid inappropriate release of confidential data to the wrong person;
- ◆ To ensure that the records go to the same person through the use of this personal ID; and

- ◆ To enable NMFS to assign a unique identifier to database records avoiding duplication and errors.

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

Total estimated annual respondents: 27,963, up from 15,983. Total estimated responses: 6,436, down from 9,442. Total estimated annual burden hours: 1,2065, down from 1,816 hr. Total estimated personnel cost: \$25,163, down from \$37,162.

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).

Total estimated miscellaneous costs: \$17,663, down from \$26,795.

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

Total estimated responses: 4,839, down from 6,805. Total estimated annual burden hours: 403, down from 544 hr. Total estimated personnel cost: \$10,075, down from \$13,600.

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

Program Change: This action changes the estimated number of eligible participants in the Program due to the addition of new, eligible, rural residents.

Adjustment: This analysis changes the method to estimate responses based on actual data rather than estimated total eligible persons. This information provides a percentage active based on the known number of participants issued a SHARC in a year, and the known number of active fishermen using a SHARC in a year.

Thus, although the respondent pool will increase, the actual responses, hours and costs will decrease.

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

Information obtained through registration to issue SHARC is posted on the NMFS Alaska Region at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/subsistence/halibut.htm#SHARC>. The information is posted in lists sorted by holder, by eligible tribe, and by eligible community. In addition, NMFS posts a summary by date of SHARC issued to rural and tribal applicants. NMFS does not plan any statistical sampling of the information.

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.

NA.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

NA.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.