

FOR HIRE DIVE/SNORKEL OPERATIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION

1. Authorizations to Collect the Information

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431, et seq.) authorizes the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary to establish regulations to protect sanctuary resources or resolve user conflicts. This act also authorizes the Sanctuary to do research and collect information necessary for evaluating new regulations.

2. How the Information Will Be Used

The Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary has developed a public process to evaluate and revise its current management plan and regulations. Through this public process and in consultation with the Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary is evaluating several alternatives for expanding its boundaries to cover other banks in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico, establishing a research only area to test the impacts of fishing, and revise other regulations on use of dive flags by dive vessels, minimum distance and speeds for other vessels operating near dive vessels, and vessel discharges. All current and revised regulations would apply to boundary expansion areas. The Sanctuary Advisory Council or a Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Group, with members representing different user groups, will help evaluate and make recommendations to the FGBNMS on boundary expansion and research only area alternatives and revisions of other regulations.

The information collected here will be used by the Sanctuary Advisory Council or its working group and management of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary in evaluating alternative boundaries for boundary expansion and research only areas alternatives. The objective will be to minimize the socioeconomic impacts of boundary expansion and research only area alternatives. The information will also be used by NOAA in completing socioeconomic impact analyses of any regulations resulting from any proposed boundary expansion, research only area or other new regulations.

3. Statement of Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average about three hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden, to Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, Chief Economist, National Ocean Service, office of National marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC 4, 11th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

4. Your Participation and Protections of Proprietary Information

Your participation is voluntary. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Any information that identifies you or your business (name, name of business, address and telephone number) will not be given to anyone, including the government agencies sponsoring this information collection. The information that identifies you or your business will be destroyed by the contractor collecting the information at the end of the information collection. All other information will be available for distribution.

Date of Interview _____ OMB No. 0648-0000 Exp. Date:
Location of Interview: _____

Recreational For Hire Dive Operations in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico (Part 1)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

1. Which of the following includes your age?

18-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 over 60

2a. Are you Hispanic or Latino YES ___ NO ___

2b. What is your race? (Mark one or more)

___ White ___ Black or African American ___ American Indian or Alaska Native

___ Asian ___ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

3. How many family members do you support (including yourself)?

Myself only 2 3 4 5 6 7 Greater and 7

4. Are you a member of any of the following groups?

a. NAUI YES ___ NO ___

b. PADI YES ___ NO ___

c. SSI YES ___ NO ___

d. Chamber of Commerce YES ___ NO ___

e. An Environmental Group YES ___ NO ___

f. Other (specify) _____ YES ___ NO ___

5. What is your primary port/marina? _____

6. Do you have a secondary port/marina, from where you dive part of the year? YES ___ NO ___

- If YES, then which one? _____

7. How many years have you been a dive/snorkel operator? ___ (number of years)

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8. How many years have you been a dive/snorkel operator in the Gulf of Mexico? ____ (number of years)

9. Have you ever taken dive/snorkelers to the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? (Interviewer—Please show map) YES ___ NO ___

- If YES, how many years have you taken dive/snorkelers to the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary? ____ (number of years)

10. What approximate percentage of your total business income is derived from the dive/snorkel operation? ____%

11. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL personal income is derived from the dive/snorkel operation? ____ %

12. What approximate percentage of your TOTAL household income is derived from the dive/snorkel operation? ____ %

13. How would you describe your dive/snorkel operation? (Mark one or more)

___ Full-time dive/snorkel operation ___ Part-time dive/snorkel operation
___ Seasonal dive/snorkel operation If seasonal, what months

___ Full-time Combination dive/snorkel, fishing, and wildlife observation operation
___ Part-time Combination dive/snorkel, fishing, and wildlife observation
___ Seasonal Combination dive/snorkel, fishing, and wildlife observation If seasonal, what
Months for dive/snorkel _____
Months for fishing _____
Months for wildlife observation _____

ECONOMIC INFORMATION

14. Number of boats/vessels at the operation: ____ (number of vessels)

15. Capacity of dive/snorkelers per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ____ divers/ ____ snorkelers Vessel 2: ____ divers/ ____ snorkelers
Vessel 3: ____ divers/ ____ snorkelers Vessel 4: ____ divers/ ____ snorkelers

16. Capacity of fishers per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: ____ fishers Vessel 2: ____ fishers
Vessel 3: ____ fishers Vessel 4: ____ fishers

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17. Capacity of wildlife observes per vessel in operation:

Vessel 1: _____wildlife observers Vessel 2: _____wildlife observers
Vessel 3: _____wildlife observers Vessel 4: _____wildlife observers

18. Number of employees at the operation:

a. Full time _____ b. Part time _____ c. Seasonal _____

19. Please provide your best estimate of the replacement value of the following items that you used last year (fill in year _____).

a. Vessel(s) and electronic equipment: \$ _____
b. Diving and snorkeling gear: \$ _____
c. Compressors \$ _____
d. Rods/Reels \$ _____
e. Other gear (specify) _____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

20. Outstanding balance on loan amounts for vessels and equipment \$ _____

21. Please provide your best estimate for the following expenses last year:

Permits/Licenses: \$ _____
Docking fees: \$ _____
Interest payments on vessel(s): \$ _____
P&I insurance on vessel(s) \$ _____
Maintenance/repair on vessel/electronic equipment: \$ _____
Maintenance/repair on dive/snorkel gear: \$ _____
Maintenance on rods/reels: \$ _____
Maintenance/repair on compressors: \$ _____
Maintenance/repair on other equipment: \$ _____
Other Dive equipment costs: \$ _____
Advertising: \$ _____
Office rent/mortgage: \$ _____
Office utilities (electric, water, telephone, Internet): \$ _____
Depreciation of vessels and equipment: \$ _____
Business Taxes: \$ _____
Other: _____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

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22. Please provide your best estimate for the following trip related expenses last year:

Dive equipment costs:		\$ _____
Fuel/oil:		\$ _____
Ice:		\$ _____
Food/Supplies:		\$ _____
Bait:		\$ _____
Captain wages & salaries (if not owner-captain):		\$ _____
Crew wages & salaries	Number: _____	\$ _____
Other (specify) _____		\$ _____
_____		\$ _____
_____		\$ _____

23. Please provide your best estimate of your total business revenues last year:
 \$ _____

24. Please provide your best estimate of your total revenues and/or percent of total revenues (from Question 23) last year by each geographic area: (See map for definitions of each area)

Northwest Gulf of Mexico Study Area	\$ _____	% _____
Area 1	\$ _____	% _____
Area 2	\$ _____	% _____
Area 3	\$ _____	% _____
Area 4	\$ _____	% _____
Other Gulf of Mexico not included above	\$ _____	% _____

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PERSON DAYS AND TRIP COSTS

25. Please provide your best estimate of the number person days by type of activity for last year and the percentage of person days by activity and area. (Interviewer – show map of areas). A person day is one person for a whole day or any part of a day. 10 people on-board for an overnight trip would be 20 person days.

Activity	Total Person-days	NWGOM (%)	Area 1 (%)	Area 2 (%)	Area 3 (%)	Area 4 (%)
SCUBA diving						
Snorkelers						
Fishing						
Wildlife Observation						
All Activities						

26. Please provide your best estimate of last years’ number of person days by activity and bank for the three banks in the current Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Activity	East Flower Gardens	West Flower Gardens	Stetson
SCUBA diving			
Snorkelers			
Fishing			
Wildlife Observation			
All Activities			

27. Please provide your best estimate of the cost per day for a typical day of operation by activity.

Activity	Fuel/Oil	Ice	Bait	Food/Supplies	Other	Crew	Captain (if not owner)
SCUBA diving							
Snorkeling							
Fishing							
Wildlife Observation							

28. Please provide the percentage of your person days of operation across each 1-minute by 1-minute grid cell for each activity. This is a forward looking rather than just your past activity patterns. We want to know where you expect you will conduct your activities in the future. This will be used to assess the possible impacts of expanding the boundaries of the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary or assessing a possible research only area. All hook-an-line fishing will be allowed in boundary expansion areas as in the current FGBNMS. All activities will be eliminated from a research only area. (refer to detailed maps with grid overlays and nautical chart reference points).

Date of Interview_____

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Location of Interview:_____

Coding sheet attached.

For Hire Dive/Snorkel Operators in NWGOM Part 2.
SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND PERCEPTIONS

1. Please list the sources of information that you have received in the past on the FGBNMS and rank the sources in terms of their usefulness. In terms of ranking, please rank only those sources that you used, and where 1 is the most important source, 2 the second most important source, and so on.

SOURCE	Sources Used	RANK Sources
a. FGBNMS website	_____	_____
b. FGBNMS Staff	_____	_____
c. Sanctuary Advisory Council	_____	_____
d. FGBNMS brochures/literature	_____	_____
e. FGBNMS signage	_____	_____
f. Information in newspapers	_____	_____
g. Radio	_____	_____
h. TV	_____	_____
i. Word of mouth	_____	_____

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree**, 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

2. The process that NOAA has used to develop rules and regulations for the FGBNMS was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

3. The process has used by NOAA to develop boundaries and regulations for the FGBNMS zones was open and fair to all groups.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

4. It has not mattered whether the average person participated in the workshops and meeting on the FGBNMS because the average person could not influence the final decisions.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

5. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of other federal and state governments in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

6. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of individual citizens in developing rules and regulations for the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

7. Once that the FGBNMS regulations have been in effect, there has been no way that the average person to voice his/her opinion on the usefulness of the regulations.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

8. The procedures that NOAA has established to deal with violations of FGBNMS regulations have been fair and just.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

NOTES

ATTITUDES ABOUT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND REGULATION

In this section, we want to know what you think about current and proposed management strategies in the FGBNMS, the effects of those management strategies and regulations, and how you think the FGBNMS management has performed.

In management plan review public scoping and Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings, FGBNMS is thinking about expanding its current boundaries and creating a research only area. For boundary expansion, there are a number of alternatives, but all would extend the current regulations in FGBNMS to the boundary expansion areas. Hook-and-line fishing is currently allowed in the FGBNMS. For the research only area, all activities would be prohibited. See map of areas proposed for potential boundary expansion.

For the next set of questions, please provide your answer on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means **Strongly agree**, 2 means **Moderately agree**, 3 means **Neutral**, 4 means **Moderately disagree**, and 5 means **Strongly disagree**

9. I support the FGBNMS as it is currently established.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

10. I support the establishment of a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

11. A research only area in the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

12. There should be more than one bank set aside as a research only area in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

13. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 1.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

14. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 2.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

15. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 3.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

16. I support establishment of boundary expansion of FGBNMS for the banks in AREA 4.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

17. I support establishment of a research only area on Stetson bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

18. I support establishment of a research only area on East Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

19. I support establishment of a research only area on West Flower Garden Bank.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

20. Boundary expansion of the FGBNMS would have a positive impact on the marine environment.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

21. The Stetson, East & West Flower Garden Banks have benefited environmentally from management by the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

22. There has been a net economic benefit to the coastal Texas economy from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

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23. Dive Operators have benefited from the establishment of the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

24. FGBNMS regulations have had no effect on my business.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

25. I support the no anchoring regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

26. I support the current no discharge regulations in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

27. I support the current no harvest of bottom formations or taking of invertebrates inside the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

28. I support the hook-and-line only fishing regulation in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

29. I support the no taking of marine mammals and turtles in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

30. I support the requirement of using a mooring buoy instead of anchoring in the FGBNMS with the limit of vessel size for mooring use of 100 feet or less.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

31. I support stricter regulations on discharging of pollutants in the FGBNMS.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

32. I support regulations on minimum distance and speed from vessels flying a Blue and Alpha Dive Flag.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

33. I support the requirement that all Dive vessels fly a Blue and Alpha dive flag.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

34. How much do you estimate it will cost your business per year to comply with this Dive Flag regulation? \$ _____

35. Please rate the status/condition of the following resources at the East & West Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank by their status/condition since the implementation of the FGBNMS (1996 for East & West flower Garden Banks and 2001 for Stetson Bank), where 1 is much better and 5 is much worse.

RESOURCE	Better ←-----→ Worse					
a. Water quality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
b. Sea-based pollution/marine debris	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
c. Coral reefs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
d. Other bottom habitat	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
e. Fisheries	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
f. Mooring buoys	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
g. Fewer vessel groundings	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

36. The FGBNMS is mostly responsible for the status/condition of the resources that you rated in the previous question.

1 2 3 4 5 I don't know

37. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been most successful?

38. In which area(s) has the FGBNMS been least successful?
