

**JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE  
NMFS OBSERVER PROGRAMS' INFORMATION THAT CAN BE GATHERED  
ONLY THROUGH QUESTIONS  
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0593**

The requirements, burden and cost for the following information collections were included in the recently approved Office of Management and Budget (OMB) CONTROL NO. 0648-0593:

- OMB Control No. 0648-0423, An Observer Program for Catcher Vessels in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery
- OMB Control No. 0648-0536, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Fishermen's Comment Card
- OMB Control No. 0648-0550, North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program Vessel/Plant Operator Comment Form.

Therefore, we are requesting a formal merger of the above three information collections into OMB Control No. 0648-0593. After this merger is approved, we will discontinue these three collections.