

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE
MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS SURVEY
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0052

In the recent revision of this information collection, we proposed a dual-frame mail survey that samples anglers from a list of licensed saltwater anglers, as well as an address frame of residential households. Initially, we had thought that we would utilize the same questionnaire for each frame (containing both screening and fishing effort questionnaires). However, we've determined that it would be more efficient to first send a screener questionnaire to sample households that are selected from the address frame in an attempt to first identify anglers. Once anglers have been identified through screening, we would send a follow-up questionnaire to collect detailed trip information. The sample selected from the license lists, already known to be anglers, would receive only the detailed trip questionnaire. The rationale behind this decision is that a large majority (75-85%) of households sampled from the address frame will likely report that they do not fish. Mailing the detailed questionnaire is more costly than mailing the screener questionnaire, so utilizing the two-stage approach (screener + trip questionnaire) is considerably more cost efficient.

The purpose of the survey (follow-up questionnaire) is to characterize fishing trips that took place over the course of a two-month period (for example, November/December). The screener identifies a pool of likely anglers (anglers who fished during the previous year). The main questionnaire then attempts to collect detailed information for trips that occurred during the previous two months.

The angler diary that was part of the revision request will, as planned, be sent a few months after the fishing effort information has been received. It collects catch information, as opposed to fishing effort information.

Adding the screener questionnaire, but sending out fewer fishing effort (main) questionnaires, will result in 1,030 responses: 10,500 screener (4 minutes) and 7,100 main questionnaires (7 minutes), as opposed to 16,580 screener/main questionnaires (4 minutes), which will take 598 hours. However, deleting the screening plus fishing effort pretest questionnaire submitted with the revision will eliminate 50 responses and 25 hours. The net increase of responses, therefore, will be 970 and of hours, 573. There are no current recordkeeping/reporting costs, and none will be added.