

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE
ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES PERMIT FAMILY OF FORMS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0327

The burden and cost for renewal of Atlantic Tunas Longline Vessel Permits is no longer applicable and will be removed from this collection, to be effective on December 31, 2009, if the change has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This change has been made to reflect a shift in the administration of this permit from a contractor employed by the Highly Migratory Species Management Division (Aquilent) to the Southeast Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Southeast Region administers the shark and swordfish limited access permits as described in OMB Control No. 0648-0205, Southeast Region Permit Family of Forms. The Federal Permit Application for Vessels Fishing in the EEZ has been changed by the addition of a checkbox for those applicants desiring a tuna longline permit. This application has been modified under a separate change request, approved by OMB on 12/08/2009.

There are 236 responses annually for renewing the Atlantic Tunas Longline permit, at a burden of 6 minutes each, for a total burden of 23 hours and \$6,606. These responses, burden and cost will be removed from this information collection, but have not been added to OMB Control No. 0648-0205, because for the EEZ form, multiple permit requests can be made by completion of one form.

The permit application for Atlantic tunas vessel permits (other than longline) will have all information removed that relates to application for a longline vessel permits. The changes will be available in final form at the end of the calendar year when annual updates to the permit application are made.