

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0387**

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This request is for revision and extension of a current information collection. The Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean Operator Permit will be changed to add a space for operators to include an optional email address as an additional form of contact, and a space for an applicant's representative to print his/her name. Signatures are frequently illegible and require additional follow-up prior to permit issuance.

The purpose of this collection of information is to comply with the requirements of the [International Dolphin Conservation Program Act](#) (IDCPA), 16 U.S.C. 1414. The Act allows entry of yellowfin tuna into the United States, under specific conditions, from nations in the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) that would otherwise be under embargo. The Act also allows United States (U.S.) fishing vessels to participate in the yellowfin tuna fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) on terms equivalent with the vessels of other nations. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) collects information to allow tracking and verification of dolphin-safe and non-dolphin-safe tuna products from catch through the U.S. market.

This information collection pertains to U.S. tuna purse seine vessel and operator permit holders fishing under the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) and the tracking and verification program for tuna that is (1) harvested and processed by U.S. companies or (2) offered for sale in the U.S. Currently collected information under the IDCP with Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval includes:

- 1) Permits
 - a) vessel permit applications (including vessel photograph), and
 - b) operator permit applications
- 2) waiver requests to transit the ETP without an observer on board,
- 3) vessel departure notification five days prior to departure,
- 4) vessel arrival notification,
- 5) change in operator permit notification,
- 6) modified net notification,
- 7) experimental fishing gear waiver applications,
- 8) Dolphin Mortality Limit requests,
- 9) annual written notification to request a small tuna purse seine vessel be listed as active,
- 10) annual written notification to request a small tuna purse seine vessel be listed as inactive,
- 11) written notification of the intent to transfer a tuna purse seine vessel to foreign registry and flag,
- 12) request for a force majeure exemption: in the event of force majeure (vessels

disabled by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire, or explosion) rendering a purse seine vessel unable to proceed to sea outside of a closure period for at least 62 days (the prescribed closure period), the vessel owner may request an exemption from the closure period and if the request is accepted by the IATTC, the purse seine vessel owner may observe a reduced closure period of 30 consecutive days.

13) Domestic tracking and verification program:

- a) tuna tracking form submission,
- b) monthly tuna receiving reports,
- c) monthly tuna storage removal reports, and
- d) documentary evidence requests.

The proposed information collection is intended to better ensure dolphin-safe labels comply with the requirements of the [Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act](#) (DPCIA; 16 U.S.C. 1385) and to ensure the United States satisfies its obligation as a member of the World Trade Organization.

Vessel and operator permit holder requirements are in [50 CFR Part 216.24](#) and the tuna tracking and verification requirements are in [50 CFR Part 216.93](#).

The requirement for importers to provide information about the shipment of tuna and tuna products, except some fresh products, into the United States, using the Fisheries Certificate of Origin (NOAA Form 370) is approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number 0648-0335.

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.

A valid permit protects the fisherman and vessel owner from prosecution under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) (MMPA) for violation of the Moratorium on taking marine mammals. Information supplied by the applicant is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the general public to review the appropriateness of waiving the moratorium to authorize the incidental take of marine mammals by U.S. tuna purse seine vessels fishing in the ETP. Each year vessel owners and operators must apply for a permit under the MMPA and comply with the terms and conditions associated with its issuance. In addition, by signing the application for a vessel permit, the vessel owner agrees to release to NMFS all records made by Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) observers during fishing trips aboard the vessel and furnish the international observer program with all release forms required to authorize the observer data to be provided to NMFS [50 CFR 216.24(b)(8)(v)].

a) Permit applications

- i) ETP vessel permit applications must be submitted to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, by fax. The information needed for a vessel permit under [50 CFR 216.24(b)(4)] is as follows:

- (1) Identifying information for the vessel: Name and official number of fishing vessel to appear on permit [self-explanatory and required by 16 U.S.C. 1416 § 306(a)(1)(A)]. A photograph of the vessel with the registration number showing and legible [this information assists the agency with identification of vessels and enforcement]. The tonnage, carrying capacity, maximum vessel speed, processing equipment, and type and quantity of gear, including an inventory of special equipment required. [This information assists the agency with tracking processed and unprocessed tuna, monitoring compliance with gear requirements under the MMPA, and evaluating the ability of a vessel to capture tuna. A vessel's characteristics are important when determining the performance of a vessel which can be used to determine the fishing power of the vessel. This information is required by 16 U.S.C. 1416 § 306(a)(1)(B)];
 - (2) A statement whether the vessel intends to make sets involving the intentional taking of marine mammals. [This information is used to determine the type of permit that needs to be issued];
 - (3) The identity of Federal, State and local commercial fishing licenses, if applicable, under which vessel operations are conducted, and dates of expiration. [This information is collected to assess whether other permits may be combined in the future with the issuance of a vessel permit. In addition, this information may assist the agency with some of the tuna tracking requirements as well as determine whether a vessel is in compliance with other applicable federal regulations];
 - (4) The name(s) of the operator anticipated to be used. [This information is collected to assess whether the operator has a valid operator permit to fish for tuna in the ETP]; and
 - (5) The applicant's signature or the signature of the applicant's representative, if any, including the address, telephone and fax numbers, and if applicable, the name, address, telephone, and fax numbers of the agent or organization acting on behalf of the vessel. [Signature certifies the information is true and correct and authorizes observer data collected to be provided to NMFS and the International Review Panel. The contact information is required by 16 U.S.C. 1416 § 306(a)(1)(A).]
- ii) The information needed for an operator permit under [50 CFR 216.24(b)(5)] is as follows:
- (1) The name, address, optional E-mail address, telephone and fax numbers of the applicant [Self-explanatory];
 - (2) The type and identification number(s) of any Federal, State, and local fishing licenses held by the applicant. [This information is collected to assess whether other permits may be combined in the future with the issuance of an operator permit];
 - (3) The name of the vessel(s) on which the applicant anticipates serving as an operator. [The historical performance of an operator is as critical as the historical characteristics and fishing power of a vessel. The operator information may then be

linked to the vessel of record to establish an operator catch history for that fishery or gear].

- (4) The date, location, and provider of any training for the operator permit. Training includes a demonstration of familiarity with the techniques used to release entrapped dolphin(s) from a large purse seine net. Upon completion of training, a certificate of completion is issued [50 CFR 216.24(c)(5)]. Operator permits are issued annually. Additional training is not required unless regulations are modified substantially, the operator no longer demonstrates proficiency, or the operator does not obtain a previous calendar year permit. [Operator training is required to insure fishing captains understand the principles of dolphin safe fishing techniques and are kept informed of new technology, changing regulations, and new international agreements.]; and
 - (5) The applicant's printed name and signature or the printed name and signature of the applicant's representative, if any. [Signature certifies the information is true and correct.]
- b) The rules and regulations allow tuna purse seine vessels without a permit and more than two speedboats to transit the ETP without an observer on board if the vessel owner requests a waiver [50 CFR 216.24(a)(3)]. This provision allows vessel owners the ability to off-load, complete repairs, or transit the permit area in an emergency without delay and without having to obtain a vessel and operator permit and carry an authorized NMFS or IATTC observer. As part of the waiver, the vessel owner must notify the Administrator, Southwest Region, with the name of the vessel and the date the vessel exits or subsequently enters the permit area.
- i) To request a waiver, the following information must be provided to the Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, in writing and in advance of entering the ETP:
- (1) The name of the vessel and operator [Self-explanatory];
 - (2) The ports of departure and arrival;
 - (3) The number of expected days to complete the transit [Information needed to coordinate vessel transit with appropriate authorities, especially the IATTC];
 - (4) Reason for transiting the ETP;
 - (5) The measure(s) taken to ensure that the vessel is unable to fish while in travel through the ETP (e.g., no net aboard, reduced crew); and
 - (6) A statement that the vessel will not fish while in transit through the ETP [Self-explanatory].
- c) Vessel permit holders are required to notify the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, or the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission contact designated by the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, at least five days in advance of the

vessel's departure on a fishing voyage to allow for observer placement on every voyage [50 CFR 216.24(b)(8)(iv)]. The information may be provided either verbally or in writing and must include the following information:

- i) The name of the vessel and operator [Self-explanatory];
 - ii) Location of the vessel; and
 - iii) Date and time of departure. [Information needed to coordinate and facilitate observer travel with the vessel departure.]
- d) The Captain, managing owner, vessel permit holder, or vessel agent of a U.S. tuna purse seine vessel returning to port from a trip, any part of which included fishing in the ETP, is required to notify the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, or the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission contact designated by the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, at least 48 hours in advance of a vessel's arrival in port at the conclusion of a fishing voyage [50 CFR 216.93(c)(3)] to allow enough time for a NMFS representative to meet the vessel at the unloading location to monitor the handling of "dolphin safe" and "non-dolphin safe" tuna. Fish may be unloaded directly to a cannery facility or transshipped to another location by a freezer ship. The information may be provided either verbally or in writing and must include the following information:
- i) The name of the vessel and operator [Self-explanatory];
 - ii) Port of arrival where fish will be unloaded;
 - iii) Date and time of unloading; and
 - iv) Schedule of unloading [Information needed to coordinate and facilitate NMFS representative travel to meet the arriving vessel.]
- e) Vessel permit holders must notify the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, at least 48 hours prior to departing on a trip if there is a change of the vessel operator or within 72 hours after a change of the vessel operator if the change was made because of an emergency [50 CFR 216.24(b)(8)(iv)(B)]. This information is used to facilitate observer placements and make arrangements to conduct an observer placement meeting with the captain, managing owner, and program personnel prior to departure. Also, at this time the agency may notify the vessel owner if the operator must attend a skipper workshop. If necessary, arrangements may be made to schedule a workshop. This information may be provided verbally or in writing and must include:
- i) Vessel name; and
 - ii) New operator permit holder name.
- f) Vessel Permit holders intending to make intentional sets on marine mammals must notify the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, of any net modification at least 5 days prior to departure of the vessel in order to determine whether a reinspection or trial set (net

alignment) is required [50 CFR 216.24(c)(4)(ii)]. If no net modifications are made during a calendar year, inspections shall be conducted by the authorized NMFS inspector (observer). This information may be provided verbally or in writing, and must include the following information:

- i) Vessel name; and
 - ii) Type of gear modification completed.
- g) The Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, may authorize experimental fishing operations, consistent with the provisions of the International Dolphin Conservation Program for the purpose of testing proposed improvements in fishing techniques and equipment that may reduce or eliminate dolphin mortality or serious injury, or do not require the encirclement of dolphins in the course of fishing operations [16 USC 1413 Section 303(A)(2)(B)(x)]. Vessel Permit holders may apply for an experimental fishing operation waiver by submitting the following information to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, no less than 90 days before the intended date the proposed operation is intended to begin [50 CFR 216.24(c)(7)]. This information is necessary to assess the potential benefit of the experimental gear and the merits of the experimental design. If the experimental fishing permit is authorized, the applicant will need to submit a report at the conclusion of the experiment as part of the terms and conditions of the permit.
- i) The name(s) of the vessel(s) and the vessel permit holder(s) to participate [Self explanatory];
 - ii) A statement of the specific vessel gear and equipment or procedural requirement to be exempted and why such an exemption is necessary to conduct the experiment;
 - iii) A description of how the proposed modification to the gear and equipment or procedures is expected to reduce incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mammals;
 - iv) A description of the applicability of this modification to other purse seine vessels;
 - v) The planned design, time, duration, and general area of the experimental operation;
 - vi) The name(s) of the permitted operator(s) of the vessel(s) during the experiment;
 - vii) A statement of the qualifications of the individual or company doing the analysis of the research;
 - viii) The signature of the permitted operator or of the operator's representative; and
 - ix) A report summarizing the results of the experiment.
- h) A vessel permit holder desiring to encircle dolphins in an effort to capture tuna must obtain a dolphin mortality limit (DML) under the International Agreement prior to conducting fishing operations [16 USC 1413 Section 303(A)(2)(B)(ix)]. Under the IDCPA, vessel permit holders may apply for either a six month DML (July through December), a one year DML

(January through December), or a per-trip DML depending on vessel eligibility. Vessel permit holders may request a DML either by April 1 or by September 1, depending on whether the vessel permit holder is requesting a six month or one year DML allocation. Vessel permit holders may apply for a per-trip DML at any time, allowing at least 60 days for processing. To assess the eligibility of the vessel, six month and one year DML requests must be made in writing to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, allowing at least 60 days for processing, and must include the following information [50 CFR 216.24(c)(9)]:

- i) The name of the purse seine vessel(s) of carrying capacity greater than 400 short tons that the owner intends to use to intentionally deploy purse seine fishing nets in the ETP [Self-explanatory]; and
- ii) The name of the vessel permit holder.

In addition, a vessel possessing a valid vessel permit, but that does not normally fish for tuna in the ETP and desires to participate in the fishery on a limited basis, may apply for a per-trip DML from the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region. To assess the eligibility of the vessel, per-trip DML requests must be in writing, allowing 60 days for processing, and state:

- iii) The number of anticipated trips involving sets on dolphin; and
 - iv) The anticipated dates of the trip(s).
- i) Vessel owners or managing owners must submit written notification to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, to request that a vessel of 400 short tons (st) carrying capacity or less be categorized as active or inactive on the IATTC Vessel Register (Vessel Register), the list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ETP. Active or inactive status on the IATTC Vessel Register expires on December 31 of each year. Vessel owners or managing owners of vessels greater than 400 st carrying capacity are required to submit permit applications and fees each year to be listed on the Vessel Register, whereas vessel owners or managing owners of vessels of 400 st carrying capacity or less are not. Annual written notification would ensure that: 1) the request for active or inactive status is processed; 2) the vessel's capacity is accounted for in the total fleet capacity; and 3) the required information for the Vessel Register is collected. The notification must be submitted by November 30 of the year prior to the year for which inclusion on the register is requested.

To request a tuna purse seine vessel of 400 st carrying capacity or less be listed as active on the Vessel Register, the vessel owner or managing owner must submit by fax the following information in writing:

- i) Name and official number of fishing vessel [Self-explanatory]. A photograph of the vessel with the registration number showing and legible [This information assists the agency with identification of vessels and enforcement]. The port of registry; previous name(s) and flag; International Radio Call Sign; where and when built; length, beam, and molded depth; tonnage, fish hold capacity, and carrying capacity; type of fishing method(s);

engine horsepower; and the name and address of the vessel owner(s) and managingowner(s). [This information assists the agency with tracking processed and unprocessed tuna and evaluating the ability of a vessel to capture tuna. A vessel's characteristics are important when determining the performance of a vessel which can be used to determine the fishing power of the vessel. This information is required by the IATTC.];

- ii) The vessel owner or managing owner's signature and business telephone and fax numbers. [Signature certifies the information is true and correct. The contact information is required by the IATTC.]
- j) To request a tuna purse seine vessel of 400 st carrying capacity or less be listed as inactive on the Vessel Register, the vessel owner or managing owner must submit by mail the following information in writing:
 - i) Name and official number of fishing vessel [Self-explanatory];
 - ii) The vessel owner or managing owner's name, signature, business address, and business telephone and fax numbers. [Self-explanatory. Signature certifies the information is true and correct.]
- k) The vessel owner or managing owner of a tuna purse seine vessel listed on the Vessel Register must notify the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, of the intent to transfer the vessel to foreign registry and flag. Written notification must be received at least 10 business days prior to the submission of an application for transfer of the vessel to foreign registry and flag. The notification requirement would not apply to owners or managing owners of vessels that have received approval from the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) for transfer of the vessel to foreign registry and flag, because MARAD already provides notification to NMFS prior to the transfer of these vessels. The notification will be used to manage the tuna purse seine portion of the Vessel Register. Vessels that have their documentation removed and are transferred to foreign registry and flag would no longer be authorized by the U.S. to purse seine for tuna in the ETP. Vessel owners or managing owners must submit by mail the following information in writing:
 - i) Name and official number of fishing vessel [Self-explanatory and required by 16 U.S.C. 1416 § 306(a)(1)(A)];
 - ii) The expected date the application will be submitted for transfer of the vessel to foreign registry and flag; and
 - iii) The vessel owner or managing owner's name and signature. [Signature certifies the information is true and correct.]
- l) In some years, the tuna conservation Resolution adopted by the IATTC may provide for two (or more) possible closure periods. The U.S. Government may determine which closure period will be observed by all members of the tuna purse seine fleet and inform vessel owners of the closure date. Alternately, vessel owners may be allowed to choose between the options. If the vessel owner does not respond by a specified date (July 1) for each

applicable year, they are required to adhere to the later closure period by default. Under this circumstance, vessel owners or managing owners must submit in writing (via fax) the following information:

- i. Name and official number of fishing vessel;
 - ii. The closure period the vessel will adhere to that year; and
 - iii. The vessel owner or managing owner's name and signature [Self-explanatory].
- m) Force majeure exemption: Per Final Rule 0648-BD52, in the event of force majeure (vessels disabled by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire, or explosion) rendering a purse seine vessel unable to proceed to sea outside of a closure period for at least 62 days (the prescribed closure period), the vessel owner may request an exemption from the closure period and if the request is accepted by the IATTC, the purse seine vessel owner may observe a reduced closure period of 30 consecutive days.

The addition of the force majeure provision: purse seine vessel owners or managers interested in requesting a force majeure exemption will be required to submit the information listed below to NMFS via fax or e-mail, such that their request can be considered for approval by IATTC Members:

- i. The name and official number of the vessel,
- ii. Vessel owner or manager's name and signature, and
- iii. Evidence to support the request, which may include but is not limited to photographs, repair bills, certificates of departure from port, United States Coast Guard form CG-2692A (Ref. 46 CFR 4.05-10).

n) Domestic tracking and verification program

The DPCIA requires the Secretary of Commerce to establish and conduct a domestic tracking and verification program to effectively track and document the movement of all tuna products in the U.S. market channels from its capture to final sale. The Secretary has delegated the authority to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region. The tracking program documents the dolphin-safe or non-dolphin-safe condition of tuna through catch and processing for use in verifying the dolphin-safe or non-dolphin-safe condition of tuna products entering the U.S. market.

The U.S. canned tuna industry produces nearly \$1 billion worth of canned tuna every year, and canned tuna is the second most popular fish product marketed and consumed in this country. Because of this, the statistics which describe the tuna fishery, its products, and its markets have been of interest to NMFS for some time.

The tracking program includes procedures and reports for use when importing tuna into the U.S. and during domestic fishing, processing, and marketing in the U.S. Verification of tracking system operations is attained through the establishment of audit and document review requirements which include the following information collections:

- 1) Tuna tracking form submission: The tuna tracking forms record the amounts and location of “dolphin safe” and “non-dolphin safe” tuna as it is loaded into fish wells aboard the vessel. The forms are completed and initialed by the observer and the captain or engineer after each set. During the duration of the vessel assignment, the observer retains the tuna tracking forms until the vessel arrives in port. Upon arrival in a U.S. port, the captain signs the tuna tracking forms and the observer submits the completed tuna tracking forms to the NMFS representative in person. In the event the observer does not submit the tuna tracking forms to the NMFS representative, the captain submits the forms in person or by mail to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, within 5 working days at the end of the trip. The tuna tracking forms include the following information:
 - i) Well numbers containing “dolphin safe” and “non-dolphin safe” tuna [Self-explanatory. Information needed to monitor and track “dolphin safe” and “non-dolphin safe” tuna from time of capture];
 - ii) Weights by species composition and estimated tons loaded into each fish well [Self-explanatory. Information used to track weights of tuna at time of capture];
 - iii) Set number and date of loading [Information used to track weights and location of tuna at time of capture. Set numbers are important since more than one set may be completed in a single day];
 - iv) Trip number and Trip dates [Information used to correlate the fish to observer and vessel records to verify whether marine mammals were encircled, killed, or seriously injured during fishing operations];
 - v) Observer name and signature [Information used to certify and verify the report is accurate and correct]; and
 - vi) Captain name and signature and vessel name. [Information used to correlate the fish to observer and vessel records to verify whether marine mammals were encircled, killed, or seriously injured during fishing operations.]
- 2) Monthly tuna receiving reports: Canned tuna processors must submit a report to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region of all tuna received at their processing facilities in each calendar month whether or not the tuna is actually canned or stored during that month. Monthly tuna receiving reports are already compiled by the cannery to monitor and track tuna received at the facility. These reports may be submitted by fax, email or mail before the last day of the month following the month being reported. The information is used to monitor and track dolphin-safe and non-dolphin-safe tuna processed at the cannery. Monthly reports must contain information for both domestic and imported tuna receipts. In addition, imported tuna receipts must have a Fisheries Certificate of Origin (NOAA Form 370) approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number 0648-0335. The following information must be provided in the report:
 - i) Species [Self-explanatory. Information used to determine the type of tuna species processed since yellowfin tuna may be subject to an embargo];

- ii) Tuna condition (round, loin, dressed, gilled and gutted, other) [Self-explanatory. Information used to track tuna products throughout the processing];
 - iii) Dolphin-safe status of tuna;
 - iv) Weight in short tons to the fourth decimal, as specified in 50 CFR 216.93(d)(2)(i). [Self-explanatory. Information used to track the quantity of tuna being processed];
 - v) Ocean area of capture (eastern tropical Pacific, western Pacific, Indian, eastern and western Atlantic, other) [This information is used to determine whether the tuna may be subject to an embargo since yellowfin tuna caught using a purse seine in the ETP or tuna caught using a high seas drift net may be subject to an embargo];
 - vi) Catcher vessel [Information used to track tuna back to the vessel of capture];
 - vii) Trip dates [Information used to correlate tuna fish to observer and vessel records];
 - viii) Carrier name [Information used to monitor and track origin of tuna];
 - ix) Unloading dates [Correlates tuna to unloading records to facilitate monitoring and tracking of tuna];
 - x) Location of unloading [Correlates tuna to unloading records to facilitate monitoring and tracking of tuna.]; and
 - xi) Fisheries Certificate of Origin for each imported receipt of tuna [Required to track and monitor imported tuna.].
- 3) Monthly tuna storage removal reports: Canned tuna processors must provide on a monthly basis a report of the amounts of ETP-caught tuna that is removed from cold storage to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region. These reports may be submitted by fax, email or mail before the last day of the month following the month being reported. The information provided in the reports is already generated by the canneries to internally track tuna throughout the entire canning process. This information is used to monitor and track dolphin-safe tuna and non-dolphin-safe tuna. The following information must be provided in the report:
- i) Date of removal [Information used to track and monitor tuna];
 - ii) Storage container numbers [Information needed by cannery to track tuna throughout the process];
 - iii) “Dolphin safe” or “non-dolphin safe” designation [Information needed to track the classification of tuna being processed]; and
 - iv) Disposition of fish (canning, sale, rejection, etc) [Information needed to track the disposition of tuna. Records already kept by cannery to account for tuna disposition].

- 4) Any exporter, transshipper, importer, processor, or wholesaler/distributor of any tuna or tuna products labeled as “dolphin safe” must produce documentary evidence concerning the origin of the tuna or products within 30 days of receiving a written request from the Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region. Documentary evidence may include, but is not limited to, such documents as invoices, packing lists, cannery production logs, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection forms filed at the time of importation.

NOAA is unaware of any domestic tuna processor, other than canning operators, that labels tuna product as dolphin-safe. Therefore, no monthly tuna receiving reports or monthly tuna storage reports are expected to be submitted by tuna processors, other than tuna canners.

There is no standardized form for the submission of the above reports. Respondents usually submit the information in an electronic spreadsheet format.

The information collected will not be disseminated to the public since the individual reports contain no information useful to anyone outside of the Federal Government. The main purpose of the reports is to satisfy the legal mandates of Congress.

NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper use, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to 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 monthly tuna reporting requirements are authorized to be submitted electronically via email, fax or hard copy mail. Respondents are encouraged to provide electronic copies to NMFS via email. Currently, about 50% of the responses are received electronically via email.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There is no duplication within federal or state fisheries. Permittees under the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act, 16 USC 45501 et seq., complete the same logbook as those for this information collection, and one completion is sufficient for both programs.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Approximately 140 of the 144 respondents, or 97%, are estimated to qualify as small business, assuming vessel operators have that status even as an employee of a larger company. The owners of small purse seine vessels all qualify, and most of the canned tuna processors and other exporters and transshippers qualify as well. Not all of the information collections apply to all

respondents, so the average burden per respondent is lower than 1/144 x 179 (1.25 hours). The two permit application forms in this collection are included in the National Permit System, so that fishermen may submit applications online, thus reducing some of the burden on those respondents.

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

The Secretary of Commerce would not be able to meet the mandates of the applicable laws if the information collection was not conducted. Litigation against the Federal Government would likely ensue. U.S. tuna purse seine vessels and operators would not be able to fish for tuna and tuna like species within the ETP, causing an economic hardship to the industry. Annual vessel and operator permits are necessary, because NMFS must certify to the International Review Panel that vessels requesting a DML are eligible to receive a DML and have all of the required dolphin safety gear. In addition, annual permits and notifications provide an accurate estimate of the number of vessels and operators actively participating in the IDCP and fishing for tuna within the ETP. This information is necessary for maintaining the U.S. tuna purse seine fleet within the capacity limits.

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

This information collection is consistent with OMB guidelines (5 CFR 1320.6).

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.

A Federal Register Notice published on 1/23/2015 (80 FR 3556) solicited public comment. Two public comments pertaining to this information collection were received, one from the Humane Society International and one from the Marine Mammal Commission. Both of the public comments were supportive of this data collection and have been uploaded in the Comments section of ROCIS.

We received two comments from respondents.

From an ETP vessel manager: I have reviewed the time and cost estimates detailed in Collection #0648-0387. In my capacity as vessel representative for F/V Daniela, F/V Isabella and F/V Andrea, the time and cost estimates pertaining to purse seine vessels are reasonable.

From a tuna canner:

- time to compile the Monthly tuna storage removal reports = 10 minutes per month:-
Reasonable.

- time to compile the Monthly tuna receiving report = 1 hour per month- **min 2 hrs/month.**
- cost in recordkeeping & sending the Monthly tuna storage removal reports = about \$2.01 per month (this estimate does not include the cost of staff time to prepare the report) - **Can you please let us know formula you used to get to this amount.**
- cost in recordkeeping & sending the Monthly tuna receiving report = about \$2.91 per month (again, do not include the estimate of the cost in staff time to prepare the report). :- **Can you please let us know formula you used to get to this amount.**

Response to tuna canner: We will consider revising the burden for the monthly tuna receiving report in another iteration. Also, the applicable staff will send the cost formulas within two weeks; he is on leave at present.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are provided.

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

Information collected under the DPCIA is considered confidential and is treated as such in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 as stated in [50 CFR 216 subpart H](#). Information collected is handled in compliance with agency filing and retention policy.

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.

No questions of a sensitive nature are included in this information collection.

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

The total number of respondents is 144, the total number of annual responses is 317, and the recordkeeping and reporting burden to the general public for the vessel and operator permit requirements, Vessel Register requirements, and the tuna tracking and verification program is estimated to be 179 hours per year.

Respondents

Owners/managers of large purse seine vessels (applicants for ETP vessel permits):	18
Vessel operators (individuals; applicants for operator permits):	44
Owners/managing owners of purse seine vessels requesting a transit waiver (that do not have an ETP vessel permit):	2
Owners/managing owners of small purse seine vessels (requesting active status):	18

Owners/managing owners of small purse seine vessels (requesting inactive status):	1
Owners/managing owners of large purse seine vessels (requesting inactive status):	1
Canned tuna processors (includes those that submit monthly tuna storage removal reports and monthly tuna receiving reports):	20
Exporters, transshippers, importers, processors, and wholesaler/distributors (who must submit documentary evidence at the request of the NMFS Assistant Administrator; may or may not include any of the 20 processors who submit monthly reports):	40
TOTAL	144

(There is a small amount of duplication of respondents: the one small purse seine vessel requesting inactive status, and any overlap among the last two categories, which cannot be determined.)

The number of burden hours on the general public is directly proportional to the number of applicants for vessel and operator permits.

- (a) Vessel permit application, 18 responses Total annual hours: **10 Hours, 30 Minutes (11)**
(18 applications X 35 minutes/application X 1 year period of validity)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (b) Operator permit application, 44 responses Total annual hours: **7 Hours, 20 Minutes (7)**
(44 applications X 10 minutes/application X 1 year period of validity)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (c) Waiver request to transit ETP without permit including reporting requirements, 2 responses
Total burden hours: **1 Hour (1)**
(2 requests X 30 minutes/request X 1 request per year)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (d) Vessel departure notification, 28 responses Total annual hours: **4 Hours 40 Minutes (5)**
(7 vessels X 10 minutes/notification X 4 notifications per vessel/year)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (e) Change in permit operator notification, 1 response Total annual hours: **10 Minutes (0)**
(1 notification/year X 10 minutes/notification)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (f) Modified net notification, 1 response Total annual hours: **10 Minutes (0)**
(1 notification/year X 10 minutes/notification)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (g) Experimental fishing permit application, 2 responses Total annual hours: **20 Hours (20)**
(1 application X 10 hours/application)
(1 report X 10 hours/report)

(h) Dolphin Mortality Limit request, 2 responses Total annual hours: **30 Minutes (1)**
Six month and annual Dolphin Mortality Limit Requests
(1 vessel X 15 minutes/request X 1 request per vessel/year)
(60 minutes/hour)

Per-trip Dolphin Mortality Limit Requests
(1 vessel X 15 minutes/request X 1 request per vessel/year)
(60 minutes/hour)

(i) Vessel register annual notification, 20 responses
Total annual hours: **10 Hours, 40 Minutes (11)**

Active Status Request
(18 vessels X 35 minutes/notification X 1 notification per year/ vessel)
(60 minutes/hour)

Inactive Status Request
(2 vessel X 5 minutes/notification X 1 notification per year/ vessel)
(60 minutes/hour)

(j) Notification prior to transfer of vessel to foreign registry and flag, 1 response
Total annual hours: **5 Minutes (0)**
(1 notification/year X 5 minutes/notification)
(60 minutes/hour)

(k) Choice of closure period, 10 responses Total annual hours: **1 Hour, 40 minutes (2)**
(10 notifications X 10 minutes/notification)
60 minutes/hour)

(l) Force majeure exemption, 1 response Total annual hours: **1 Hour.**
(1 response X 60 minutes/response)

Total responses for this set of requirements, (a) through l): 130
(18+44+2+28+1+1+2+2+20+1+10+1).

Total hours for this set of requirements = 59 (11 hours + 7 hours + 1 hour + 5 hours + 20 hours + 1 hour + 11 hours + 2 hours = 1 hour).

The burden hours for the tracking of verification of “non-dolphin safe” and “dolphin safe” tuna are related to the number of active tuna purse seine vessels in the ETP, U.S. processors, exporters, transshippers, importers, distributors and sellers.

(a) Arrival notification, 28 responses Total Annual Burden = **4 Hours 40 Minutes (5)**
7 vessels X 4 notifications per vessel/year X 10 minutes/notification
60 minutes/hour

(b) Tuna tracking form submission, 12 responses Total Annual Burden = **12 Hours (12)**

3 vessels X 4 tuna tracking forms per vessel/year X 60 minutes/tuna tracking form
60 minutes/hour

(c) Monthly tuna storage removal reports, 36 responses Total Annual Burden = **6 Hours (6)**
3 processors X 12 reports per processor/year X 10 minutes/report
60 minutes/hour

(d) Monthly tuna receiving reports, 72 responses Total Annual Burden = **78 Hours (78)**
72 responses /year X 65 minutes/report*
60 minutes/hour

(e) Documentary evidence requests by Administrator, 40 responses
Total Annual Burden = **20 Hours (20)**
40 requests/year X 30 minutes/request
60 minutes/hour

Total responses for this set of requirements: 188 (28+12+36+72+40).

Total hours for this set of requirements = 121 Hours (5 Hours + 12 Hours + 6 Hours + 78 Hours + 20 Hours).

For the entire collection:

The total responses are **318 (130 + 188)**.

The total hours are **180 (59 + 121)**.

The total labor costs are **\$4,500 (\$25 x 180)**.

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).

The estimated annual recordkeeping/reporting cost to the public for items (a) through l) is \$3,836. There are no capital or start-up costs associated with this information collection.

(a) Vessel permit application: **\$3,659.40 (\$3,659)**
(18 applications X \$3.00 per application for faxing) = \$54.00
(18 photographs X \$0.30 per photograph) = \$5.40
(18 applications X \$200 fee) = \$3,600

(b) Operator permit application: (44 applications X \$0.44 postage) = **\$19.36 (\$19)**

* The burden estimate is based on an estimated 2 or more hours per response for 4 major cannerys and 15 minutes each for 16 "micro-cannerys".

- (c) Waiver request to transit ETP without permit including reporting requirements:
(2 requests X \$0.44 postage) = \$0.88 **(\$1)**
- (d) Vessel departure notification.
(28 notifications X 10 minutes/notification X \$0.20/minute telephone charge)
= **\$56.00**
- (e) Change in permit operator notification.
(1 notification X 10 minutes/notification X \$0.20/minute telephone charge) = **\$2.00**
- (f) Modified net notification.
(1 notification X 10 minutes/notification X \$0.20/minute telephone charge) = **\$2.00**
- (g) Experimental fishing permit application: **\$3.42 (\$3)**
(1 application X \$1.71 postage) = \$ 1.71
(1 report submission X \$1.71 postage) = \$ 1.71
- (h) Dolphin Mortality Limit (DML) request: **\$0.88 (\$1)**
Six month and annual Dolphin Mortality Limit Requests
(1 annual or six month DML request X \$0.44 postage) = \$0.44

Per-trip Dolphin Mortality Limit Requests

(1 per trip DML requests X \$0.44 postage) = \$ 0.44

- (i) Vessel register annual notification: **\$60.28 (\$60)**

Active Status Request: \$39.60

(18 notifications X \$3.00 per application for faxing) = \$54.00

(18 photographs X \$0.30 per photograph) = \$5.40

Inactive Status Request: \$0.44

(2 notification X \$0.44 postage) = \$0.88

- (j) Notification prior to transfer of vessel to foreign registry and flag: **\$0.44 (\$1)**

(1 notification X \$0.44 postage) = \$ 0.44

- (k) Notification of closure period: (10 notifications X \$3 for faxing) = **\$30.00**

- (l) Force majeure exemption (1 response X \$3 for faxing) = \$3.00

The estimated annual recordkeeping/reporting cost to the public for tuna tracking and verification is \$736. There are no capital or start-up costs associated with this information collection.

- (a) Arrival notification: **\$350.00**
(28 notifications X 10 minutes/notification X \$1.25 /minute satellite telephone charge) = \$350.00

- (b) Tuna tracking form: **\$24.12 (\$24)**
 (12 tuna tracking forms X \$0.30/copy) = \$3.60
 (12 tuna tracking forms X \$1.71 postage/form) = \$20.52
- (c) Tuna storage removal reports: **\$72.36 (\$72)**
 (36 removal reports X \$0.30 /copy) = \$10.80
 (36 removal reports X \$1.71 postage/report) = \$61.56
- (d) Monthly tuna processor reports: **\$209.52 (\$210)**
 (72 processor reports X \$1.20/copy) = \$86.40
 (72 reports X \$1.71 postage/report) = \$123.12
- (e) Documentary evidence requested by Administrator: **\$80.40 (\$80)**
 (40 reports X 0.30/copy) = \$12.00
 (40 reports X 1.71 postage/report) = \$68.40

The total estimated annual cost to the general public is **\$4,572 (\$3,836 + \$736)**.

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

The estimated annual costs for processing vessel and operator permit applications as well as responding to the notification and reporting requirements to the Federal government is determined by calculating the total time necessary for staff to complete the response and multiplying the amount by \$35 per hour. The total annual estimated cost is **\$2,060**.

- (a) Vessel permit application. **Total cost: \$367.05 (\$367)**
 (18 applications X 35 minutes/application X \$35/hour)
 (60 minutes/hour)
- (b) Operator permit application. **Total cost: \$898.33 (\$898)**
 (44 applications X 35 minutes/application X \$35/hour)
 (60 minutes/hour)
- (c) Waiver request to transit ETP without permit. **Total cost: \$23.33 (\$23)**
 (2 requests X 20 minutes/request X \$35/hour)
 (60 minutes/hour)
- (d) Vessel departure notification. **Total cost: \$163.33 (\$163)**
 (7 vessels X 10 minutes/notification X 4 notifications per vessel X \$35/hour)
 (60 minutes/hour)
- (e) Change in permit operator notification. **Total cost: \$5.83 (\$6)**
 (1 notification X 10 minutes/notification X \$35/hour)
 (60 minutes/hour)
- (f) Modified net notification. **Total cost: \$5.83 (\$6)**

(1 notification X 10 minutes/notification X \$35/hour)
(60 minutes/hour)

- (g) Experimental fishing permit application. **Total cost: \$140**
(1 application X 4 hours/application and report X \$35/hour)
- (h) Dolphin Mortality Limit request. **Total cost: \$11.67 (\$12)**
Six month and annual Dolphin Mortality Limit Requests
(1 vessel X 10 minutes/request X 1 request/vessel X \$35/hour)
(60 minutes/hour)
- Per-trip Dolphin Mortality Limit Requests
(1 vessel X 10 minutes/request X 1 request/vessel X \$35/hour)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (i) Vessel Register annual notification. **Total cost: \$373.33 (\$373)**
Active Status Request
(18 notifications X 35 minutes/notification X \$35/hour)
(60 minutes/hour)
- Inactive Status Request
(2 notification X 5 minutes/notification X \$35/hour)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (j) Notification prior to transfer of vessel to foreign registry and flag **Total cost: \$2.92 (\$3)**
(1 notification X 5 minutes/notification X \$35/hour)
(60 minutes/hour)
- (k) Notification of closure period – verification **Total cost: \$33.56 (\$34)**
(10 notifications X 5 minutes X \$35/hour)
(10 notification X \$0.44 mailing)
- (l) Force majeure exemption request **Total cost: \$35**
(1 request x 1 hour X \$35/hour)

Total government costs = **\$2,060.**

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

This collection of information includes no new collections or reporting requirements.

New: 144 respondents, 318 responses, 180 hours, \$4,572.

Previous: 139 respondents, 312 responses, 177 hours, \$3,781.

Adjustments:

An increase of 5 respondents, 6 responses, an increase of 3 hours, and an increase of \$791.

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

Not Applicable.

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.

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

Not Applicable.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.