

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

SOCIOECONOMICS OF WHALE WATCHING IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS REGION: SURVEY OF WHALE WATCHING PASSENGERS

OMB CONTROL No. 0648-xxxx

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This request is for a new information collection to benefit natural resource managers in the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS). The National Ocean Service (NOS) proposes to collect information from whale watching passengers to ascertain the non-market value of whales in the Channel Islands region.

Up-to-date socioeconomic data is needed to support the conservation and management goals of the CINMS to strengthen and improve conservation of marine mammals within the jurisdiction of the sanctuary and to satisfy legal mandates under the [National Marine Sanctuaries Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq), [Endangered Species Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq), [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (42 U.S.C. 4321), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other pertinent statutes.

CINMS and the CINMS Marine Shipping Working Group (MSWG) are currently in the process of developing new options to reduce the number of whale strikes occurring as a result of collisions of the marine mammals with marine shipping traffic in the Santa Barbara Channel region. Collaborating with affected parties, the CINMS MSWG will explore options for reducing negative encounters between whale and vessels, while minimizing the economic impact on shipping and other industry. Options may include rerouting vessels from current traffic patterns or seeking to reduce the speed of vessels in areas where whales are present or known to occur. Such options may be explored for implementation on a voluntary basis or for future regulatory action by CINMS. The CINMS optioning process will identify alternatives that offer the most logical approach for protecting whales, while fostering robust, sustainable maritime commerce in the region.

While data are readily available to assess the impact of potential alternatives on the marine shipping industry, information is not available on the non-market value of additional conservation of whales to the whale watching public. The present collection will gather data on the incremental non-consumptive, non-market value of additional conservation of whales (e.g., fewer dead whales, improved conservation status of wildlife).

Collection of this data will provide estimates of the potential economic benefits of reduced lethal whale strikes that would potentially accrue from alternative shipping scenarios that may be implemented as a result of the optioning process. To obtain cooperation from local industry, we have also added the capability to address the economic impacts of whale watching and wildlife observation on the local area economy in terms of spending by users and the associated impacts on output/sales, value-added, income and employment, including multiplier impacts.

Additionally, should the CINMS choose to move forward with a regulatory approach to reduce fatal encounters between whales and maritime vessels, the information and tools developed from this data collection would be required before conducting a socioeconomic impact analyses under the [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#), [Executive Order 12866 \(Regulatory Impact Review\)](#) and an Initial and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analyses (impacts on small businesses).

This application is for: 1) approval to conduct a pre-test of the on-site survey and, after submission and clearance of a non-substantive change request for the on-site survey, 2) approval to implement the mail back survey and the final on-site survey. Key objectives of the pre-test are to: 1) design bid amounts in choice questions for the non-market economic valuation, 2) test expected response rate of on-site survey, 3) estimate how many completed surveys can be obtained at each survey session at the docks after boat trips, and 4) estimate average time per response.

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.

General Overview

The purpose of this information collection is to obtain the information necessary to calculate estimates and build tools that can be used by natural resource managers at the CINMS to evaluate the value of conserving whales within the sanctuary, as well as estimating potential impacts of alternative management options on the local tourism industry. The information collection will include surveys of whale watching tour passengers in the Channel Islands region. CINMS and NOAA may also use the results in benefit-cost analyses of investments in whale protection and restoration, and possibly in damage assessments.

Approval for this collection is requested based on two phases: first, a pre-test is required to assist in designing the final on-site survey. The pretest consists of a subset of willingness to pay scenarios, with four scenarios (the final test will include 12). Next, implementation of the full final survey package, including both the on-site survey as well as the mail back survey, will commence. We are submitting both the pre-test version and the draft final version of the onsite survey, and the mail back survey, along with sample designs for each survey component. We seek approval for a pre-test of the on-site survey at this time, as well as the

mail back survey. For the on-site survey, a pre-test will be conducted to improve design of the bid choice set amounts in the non-market economic valuation of environmental attributes for whale watching. The mailback survey will be pre-tested for evaluating the expected net response rate and item non-response.

After the pre-testing, full implementation of both the on-site and mail back survey will provide information on economic spending and the associated impacts on sales/output, value-added, income and employment associated with the spending, including multiplier impacts; non-market economic use values and how those values change with changes in environmental attributes; and importance-satisfaction ratings for 17 natural resource attributes, facilities and services.

Who will use this information?

Data gathered during this collection will be used by CINMS and, more generally, the Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries. The pre-test survey will be conducted by consultants, who are also graduate students at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California at Santa Barbara under the direction of faculty advisor, Dean Steven Gaines. The data will also be used by these graduate students to write a group Master's thesis document to meet university requirements for the completion of a Master of Science degree. The full collection will be implemented by the National Ocean Service.

How frequently will this information be used?

This one-time collection will last a total 10-12 months. The pre-test collection will last for a 3-month period, while the full collection will be executed during two time periods, one period lasting 4-6 months for the Grey Whales and the other 3 months for the Big Whales. It is anticipated that the data gathered from this collection will be used on an as-needed basis. Some of the elements of this submission may be replicated to support socioeconomic monitoring in future years.

For what purpose will the information be used?

The survey results are representative of whale watchers and the whale watching industry in general, and will not be extrapolated to a general population.

Data gathered during this collection will be used by CINMS and, more generally, the Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries, to support the optioning process to reduce lethal encounters between whales and marine vessels in jurisdictional waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Completing this information collection will give CINMS stakeholders fair representation in the design of management strategies by providing information to support the assessment of socioeconomic impacts of management alternatives. The data may potentially be used for conduct of socioeconomic impact analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA), Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Impact Review) and an Initial and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analyses (impacts on small businesses). Finally, the information collected also has potential to be used by resource managers for outreach and education purposes.

Summary of Survey Questions

On-Site Survey

The on-site survey is comprised of a survey instrument and three sets of information cards to be handed to the respondent. These surveys will be administered to whale watching tour passengers after disembarking from their tour.

Information Cards

Three laminated information cards (Yellow, Green, and White) will be provided to the respondents to aid in answering the questions on the questionnaire. In addition, 48 laminated cards have been developed for each choice set in the non-market economic valuation.

- 1) The “Respondent Yellow Card” is printed on yellow paper. Each section of the Yellow Card provides the categorical answers to corresponding questions on the questionnaire.

Respondent Yellow Card Section	Corresponding Questionnaire Question
1	1
2	2
3	4a
4	4b
5	11,16,21
6	22
7	23
8	24
9	25
10	26
11	27
12	28
13	29
14	30
15	31

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- 2) The “Map of the Channel Islands Region” is a map of the study region used as a visual aid for question 4 of the questionnaire.
- 3) The “Respondent Green Card” is printed on green paper. Section 1 provides the list of statements and corresponding categorical responses for question 32 of the questionnaire. Section 2 provides the categorical responses for question 33 of the questionnaire.
- 4) “Respondent White Cards” are printed on white paper and provide the background information required for the economic valuation questions. (Part B of survey).
- 5) Choice Cards for the non-market economic valuation. There are 24 cards covering 48 alternatives/options plus the Status Quo. Each respondent will be presented three choices, so to cover 48 alternatives/options requires 16 versions of the survey.

On-Site Survey Instrument

The survey instrument proposed for this collection has evolved over many applications at thousands of sites since the 1972 and 1977 Federal Estate Surveys, the Public Area Recreation Visitor Surveys (PARVS—1982 to 1991) and the most recent versions of CUSTOMER used by the U.S. Forest Service and NOAA since the early 1990s. This particular short form was used in the Florida Keys in 1995-96 and in 2007-08 and has been adapted to the Channel Islands region.

A tally sheet will be used to first screen passengers for participation in the survey. Interviewers first introduce themselves.

“Hello, I am from _____ and we are doing a survey for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on whale watching and other wildlife viewing activities.”

Passengers are then screened for being 18 years of age or older. The interviewer doesn’t have to ask this question if the passenger is obviously 18 years of age or older).

“Are you 18 years of age or older?” If “Yes” go to next question. If “No”, Interviewer thanks the passenger and places a tic mark in column 4 of the Tally Sheet (Not Eligible Less than 18).

Passengers are then asked *“Would you please participate in a survey on whale watching and other wildlife watching activities? The survey will take 15 – 20 minutes.”* If “Yes”, interviewer places a tic mark in column 7 of the Tally Sheet and proceeds to the questionnaire. If “No”, interviewer thanks the passenger then places a tic mark in column 5 of the Tally Sheet (Refused). If the person cannot speak English, then the interviewer places a tic mark in column 6 (Language barrier).

For those who do agree to participate, we will ask a question to gauge their ability to understand our questions. “How fluent are you in English? __ very __ somewhat __ not very

At the top of the form the interviewer assigns a unique interviewer identification number. This number is extremely important because it provides a way of linking information across databases with different information from the same sample of respondents (e.g., on-site form data with mail back data). The following questions are then asked:

PART A

- 1) *Looking at Section 1 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes your country of residence? If USA, what is our zip code?*

This information is important for assessing the sources of market demand for whale watching tours.

- 2) *Looking at Section 2 of the yellow card, tell me the letters that best describe the sources where you get information about whales.*

This information is important for assessing which information outlets are most important for disseminating information to the public.

- 3) *Are there any species of whales in particular that you were interested in viewing today? If yes, which species?*

This information will help determine both awareness of different whale species and which species are most popular.

- 4) *Is this your first time whale watching or observing wildlife in the coastal and ocean areas of the Channel Islands region? If not, 4a. Referring to Section 3 of the Yellow Card, how long have you been whale watching or observing wildlife in the area? 4b. Referring to Section 4 of the Yellow Card Which seasons have you been whale watching or observing wildlife in the area?*

Number of years spent whale watching will help us determine if past experience or familiarity affects how individuals value whales. Seasons spent whale watching will let us know if there are differences in whale watching tour passengers across seasons, which is important for extrapolating results.

- 5) *How many days have you spent whale watching or observing wildlife in the area in the last 12 months? 5a. How many of these days did you spend on for hire operations/guide operations?*

Number of days spent whale watching will help us determine the total amount of whale watching activities as well as provide a baseline use for our valuation. Question 5a allows us to assess

economic impact of passengers on the for hire operations/guide operations. This question was requested by the for hire/guide operations.

- 6) *Are you aware of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary? If yes, how did you hear about CINMS?*

This information will help us determine how well known or important the Sanctuary is to whale watching tour passengers as well as the most useful outlets for disseminating information about the Sanctuary.

PART B

The introduction to this section provides some definitions and scientific facts about whales and other marine animals in the Channel Islands region (Respondent White Card).

- 7) *14) and 19) Which option do you prefer?*

The respondent is presented with three choice sets. For each choice set, the respondents are asked to choose among three options (alternatives). The Status Quo means no change in management or the environment and the respondent is told choosing this option will cost their household nothing (\$0), but will result in the poorest or lowest environmental conditions.

Each of the options (alternatives) is a different mix (bundle) of condition levels across all the environmental attributes. Each bundle of attribute conditions will be offered at a given price. Prices are varied across respondents for a given bundle (randomly assigned). There are 16 versions of the survey each containing the three choice sets. In total there are 48 alternatives/options required to achieve an orthogonal (attributes are uncorrelated) design. This is a requirement to be able to interpret coefficients on estimating equations as yielding marginal values of attributes (see Supporting Statement Part B).

- 8) *15) and 20) How many days would you have gone on whale watching or other wildlife watching trips in the Channel Islands region in the last year under the conditions for the option you preferred?*
- 9) *16) and 21) How many of these days would you have gone whale watching or other wildlife watching trips in the Channel Islands region in the last year on for hire operations/guide operations under the conditions of the option you preferred?*

Following each choice, the respondent is asked how many days per year they would have gone whale watching under the conditions for the option they chose. This will allow us to connect expenditures (normalized per person per day) to the use under each choice to estimate the economic impact on the local economy under different scenarios of environmental attributes. The second set of questions focus on the potential impacts on the for hire operations/guide operations, a requirement for cooperation by the industry.

10) 17) and 22) *Please provide a brief comment that helps us understand why you chose the option you most preferred.*

After each choice, respondents are also asked to provide a brief comment to help understand why they chose the option as their most preferred. Here we provide an open ended response. Later, under, Question 24, we use itemized response categories to find out if there are real economic reasons (prices too high, more than they are willing and able to pay) or if they are rejecting the scenario (i.e. don't believe management could achieve what we say they can achieve, just anti-government, not enough information, don't believe the information provided, etc.).

11) Is a question that OMB requested for the pre-test to test whether knowledge of the baseline conditions of whales abundance or if they were endangered affected their choice.

When you think about the number of whales killed per year among the three options, would your preferred choice change if the whales killed were from an abundant or endangered species? __Yes __No

12) Question 12 was also requested by OMB in the pre-test for only the first choice. It is a reminder about the respondent's income constraint and a similar statement is made on the White Card.

Did you remember that when making your choices on how much you are willing to pay that you only have so much income and if you pay to improve conditions you will have less to spend on other goods, services, and social issues that are important to you? __ Yes __ No

13) 13, 18 and 23 *Referring to Section 5 of the Yellow Card, How sure are you of the choice you just made? Please read to me the letter that best corresponds to your answer.*

We also ask about the certainty with which they made each choice. This will aid in assessing the quality of the response.

24) *Referring to Section 6 of the Yellow Card, Please state your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements: Please read me the number that best corresponds to the answer for each statement.*

- a) *Costs should not be a factor when protecting the environment.*
- b) *I found it difficult to select my most preferred choice.*
- c) *There was not enough information for me to make informed decisions about doing more to protect and restore natural resources or expand and improve facilities and services.*

- d) *I was concerned the federal, state and local governments cannot effectively manage the natural resources and facilities or provide the services.*
- e) *I should not have to pay more for maintaining or improving conditions.*
- f) *The public views as expressed in this survey should be important to government when it chooses how to manage these resources and facilities and the services they provide.*
- g) *I do not believe the scenarios accurately represent the current or potential states of the environment.*

This final set of seven statements above is presented and respondents are asked to score these using a five-point Likert scale for agreement with the statements. This adds more information to assess choice responses.

The prices or bid amounts are one of the main objects of the pre-test. The pre-test will include four extreme bundles of attributes to help design the range of prices (bid amounts) for the final survey. The four versions of the choices each have four sets of prices or options plus the Status Quo. The final survey bundles will be based on statistical design using a fractional factorial design since the possible combinations of attributes (bundles) is much larger than can be presented in a survey (See Part B for a more detailed discussion).

- 25) *Looking at Section 7 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes the group recreating with you on the boat today?*
- 26) *Looking at Section 8 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes your household.*
- 27) *Looking at Section 9 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes your annual household income before taxes.*
- 28) *Looking at Section 10 of the yellow card, please tell me the letters that best describe the modes of transportation you used to get to (insert current city) today.*

Questions 23 through 26 include questions to obtain information about the group the respondent is traveling with as well as information about the respondent's household. . This information will be useful for characterizing the population of whale watching tour passengers.

PART C

- 29) *Looking at Section 11 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes your age.*
- 30) *Looking at Section 12 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes your sex.*
- 31) *Looking at Section 13 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes your ethnicity.*

32) *Looking at Section 14 of the yellow card, please tell me the letters that best describe your race.*

33) *Looking at Section 15 of the yellow card, please tell me the letter that best describes your current employment status.*

Questions 27 through 31 include questions to obtain demographic information about the respondent. This information will be useful for characterizing the population of whale watching tour passengers as well as help derive sample weights.

PART D

34) *For this final set of questions, I will present you with a list of marine animals found in the Channel Islands region. For each animal please indicate the number that best represents your opinion.*

This information will provide us with a ranking of the marine animals mentioned in the economic valuation scenarios as well as marine animals that are important to the sanctuary.

PART E

35) Will you complete the mail back questionnaire?

Here we ask respondents if they would complete a mail back on expenditures and importance/satisfaction items. We also ask for the respondent's email address. To increase response rate, after two weeks, if mail backs have not been returned, an email reminder is sent. If the mail backs have still not been received after four weeks, then the mail back is sent electronically.

Mail Back Survey

The mail back surveys are comprised of an expenditure section and importance-satisfaction section.

Importance-Satisfaction Ratings

Seventeen (17) natural resource attributes, facilities and services are rated on importance and satisfaction using five-point Likert scales.

This information will be important for managers to better allocate their resources. For the CINMS, it will also serve as Human Dimensions non-economic indicators for assessing the condition of recreation ecosystem services in the sanctuary in the CINMS Condition Report.

Expenditures

This section addresses trip expenditures. Information is obtained on the number of people the expenditures cover so we can normalize expenditures to expenditures per person per trip so they can be extrapolated from sample to population estimates. We ask that the person who made the expenditures answer these questions.

This information will be used to estimate on economic spending and the associated impacts on sales/output, value-added, income and employment associated with the spending, including multiplier impacts.

Compliance with Information Quality Guidelines

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. NOAA National Ocean Service, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, 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](#). All analyses and reports developed in this project will be peer reviewed before release to the public.

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 collection of information does not use automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The research team consulted with resource managers at the CINMS to determine what types of socioeconomic data collection activities were planned or presently ongoing in the region related to whale watching industries. To avoid survey fatigue and inconveniencing business owners with

data collections, the team consulted with researchers who have projects underway or planned, to determine if there was overlap of target population. We identified no projects that included our target population of whale watching passengers for collections. The literature review did not reveal recent efforts completed or underway to collect similar information. Additionally, two representatives of the whale watching industry were consulted to inquire about whether whale watching passengers were currently or recently involved in the same or similar type research. The response from both individuals was negative.

Researchers conducted a literature review to determine if and to what extent existing information might meet the needs of CINMS. While a socioeconomic impact analysis of the proposed marine reserves in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) was completed in 2005, this information did not address the non-market value of whales.¹ This project does not duplicate past or ongoing efforts.

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

The target population for this collection is whale watching passengers. However, this data collection involves whale watching operations in so far as researchers are requesting and must secure permission from whale tour operators to conduct surveys of passengers at the site of the operator's business. Researchers will work with whale tour operators to schedule on-site interview activities. At the request of whale tour operators consulted, to minimize inconvenience to passengers, potentially impacting passenger experience with operators, staff will intercept passengers after the whale watching trip as opposed to during the trip. Surveys will be conducted only at whale watching operations where the owner has consented to providing access to passengers. In no fashion will whale watch operators be burdened during the course of this collection.

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

NOAA and the managers of the CINMS, with the advice and consent from the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council, have agreed to collect the information necessary to assess the socioeconomic impacts of the management alternatives forthcoming from the MSWG optioning process. Without this collection, a critical data gap will remain, thereby hampering the optioning process and reducing the ability of resource managers to conduct a thorough social impact assessment in the event of a regulatory action. Additionally, this collection will serve as the foundational research for at least three graduate students at the University of California at Santa Barbara. If this collection does not go forward, this federal government – academic collaborative effort will be compromised to the detriment of participating students.

¹ Leeworthy, V., Wiley, P., Stone, E. (2005). Socioeconomic impact analysis of marine reserve alternatives for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Report to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Silver Spring, MD.

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

This collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

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 March 5, 2015 (80 FR 11977) solicited public comment on this collection. None was received.

Consultation with persons outside of the agency was undertaken via members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC is composed of stakeholders to the CINMS, including local and state agency representatives, other federal agencies, non-government organizations and private industry. CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council, which has recently convened a working group to study options for reducing the risk of vessel collisions with whales. The working group is composed, in part, of SAC membership. The working group requested the information that will be gathered through this survey to help them assess management options. This group provided their views on the type of data to be collected, the research questions to be addressed, etc. The research team also consulted with two captains of whale watching operations in the Santa Barbara, California area. These operators provided suggestions and information needed to develop surveys targeted at whale watching passengers.

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

Interviewers will provide respondents with a small gift having a value of less than \$0.48 per unit, such as a bumper sticker, for participation in the on-site survey. This token is intended to thank respondents for participation in the research. Additionally, it is hoped that offering a token gift will increase the likelihood of respondents agreeing to participate in the study and completing the interview. The gift will provide some form of educational or information message of importance to the whale watching public.

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

No assurance of confidentiality based on statute or regulation will be provided to the respondents. It will be explained to respondents in what ways their identity will be protected.

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.

We will not ask questions of a sensitive nature.

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

Total participants 1,560: 360 pre-test and 1,200 full survey. Total responses 2,266 (522 pretest and 1,744 full survey) for an estimated total burden hours of 695 (161 pre-test and 534 full survey).

See the burden table on the following page.

Calculation of Burden Hours for Pre-test and Full Survey		
Pre-test		
On-site Survey		
a. Number of Completes	360	
b. Time per complete	20 minutes	
c. Burden hours	120 hours	
Mailbacks		
a. Number of completes	162	
b. Time per complete	15 minutes	
c. Burden hours	41 hours	
Full Survey		
Grey Whale Season		
On-site Survey		
a. Number of Completes	600	
b. Time per complete	20 minutes	
c. Burden hours	200 hours	
Mail backs		
a. Number of Completes	270	
b. Time per complete	15 minutes	
c. Burden hours	67 hours	
Big Whale Season		
On-site Survey		
a. Number of Completes	600	
b. Time per complete	20 minutes	
c. Burden hours	200 hours	
Mail backs		
a. Number of Completes	270	
b. Time per complete	15 minutes	
c. Burden hours	67 hours	
Total All Survey Components		
a. Number of Completes	2,262	
b. Burden hours	695	

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).

There will be no cost to respondents or record keepers.

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

The cost to the Federal government for contract services, supplies, equipment, travel, etcetera, is approximately \$10,000 for FY2015. Anticipated cost for FY2016 for contract services, supplies, equipment, travel, etcetera, is approximately \$30,000. The total annual cost for Federal labor on the project is approximately \$10,000 for FY2015 and \$42,000 for FY2016. The total cost for FY2015 (\$10,000 + \$10,000 = \$20,000) and FY2016 (\$30,000 + \$42,000=\$72,000) would be \$92,000. Averaging the totals of \$20,000 and \$72,000, the annualized total is \$46,000.

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

This is a new information collection request.

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

All reports will be peer reviewed per NOAA standards under the Information Quality Act and posted on the ONMS Socioeconomic Web site:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic>.

A new page(s) will be set up on this Web site to provide the project report to the general public. All data and documentation will be put on CD-ROM and will be made available to the general public, subject to any masking of the data required to protect privacy.

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.

NA.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

NA.