SUPPORTING STATEMENT
GULF OF MEXICO ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0543

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The sampling universe is the permit holders in the Gulf commercial shrimp fishery. As of December 1, 2016, there were 1,441 valid and renewable federal Gulf Shrimp permits. Approximately 33 percent of these permit holders are randomly selected to carry and report through an ELB annually. It is expected that at most 1,441 vessels would be active and have an ELB on board at any one time, because the sampling percentage could potentially increase – in 2013 there was a census. Thus, 1,441 participants are assumed for this collection. Since the selected vessels are required to have the ELBs installed, the response rate is 100 percent.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

It is expected that at most 1,441 vessels would be active and have an ELB on board at any one time. Thus, 1,441 participants are used for this collection.

The ELB units are data recording devices that are simple time-stamped global positioning system units that record and hold a vessel's location at 10-minute time intervals. From these time-stamped locations, vessel speed between points can be estimated and then evaluated with mathematical algorithms (*i.e.*, stopped, towing fishing gear, moving between towing points). Thus, effort by location can be calculated for a given fishing trip. Shrimp catch data for the trip is then used to estimate catch-per-unit-effort for the trip at various fishing locations. Monthly shrimp effort estimates for various locations, time periods, or vessels are provided to NMFS each trimester (*i.e.*, 4-month time period). Vessels selected for the program must also provide the size and number of shrimp trawls deployed for each set and the type of bycatch reduction device and turtle excluder device used, as approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0345. The data will be transmitted to agency servers via a cellular phone connection activated when the vessel is within non-roaming cellular range.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

This information collection is mandatory and passive if the participant is selected; once the ELB is installed, there is no nonresponse.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

No additional tests will be conducted.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Dr. Rick Hart, NMFS Southeast Region Science Center, Galveston Lab, (409) 766-3404, will analyze the data and provides consultation on the statistical aspects of the design.

The data are collected by NMFS contract personnel, who change according to the re-solicitation for these services.