

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Survey Instrument Assessing Ecosystem-Based Resource Management in the United States Gulf of Mexico**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 29, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at [PRAcomments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAcomments@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Kathleen Ernst ([kathleen.ernst@noaa.gov](mailto:kathleen.ernst@noaa.gov)) or Julien Lartigue ([julien.lartigue@noaa.gov](mailto:julien.lartigue@noaa.gov)), NOAA RESTORE Science Program, NOAA/NCEI 1021 Balch Blvd., Suite 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529, 240-429-5966.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

The NOAA RESTORE Science Program is committed to improving ecosystem-based management practices throughout the Gulf of Mexico by funding project teams that bring together scientists and resource managers to produce findings and products that (1) increase knowledge and understanding of the ecosystem as a whole, and (2) inform ecosystem-based management. To assess progress towards these outcomes, the Science Program established a long-term outcome metric for the program: The management of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and its resources is informed by a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic linkages between the components of the ecosystem and there is growing confidence in, and capacity for, taking an ecosystem-based approach

to management. A survey instrument has been developed that will assess the state of ecosystem based management practices across the Gulf of Mexico. This survey instrument will be electronically distributed to resource managers from not-for-profit institutions and local, state, tribal, and federal government agencies. Potential participants can print the survey, or receive the survey by mail if they so choose. Currently, no survey instrument assessing the state of ecosystem-based management practices in the Gulf of Mexico has been undertaken at the regional scale. This survey instrument is intended to create a baseline of understanding regarding ecosystem-based management practices and progress in the Gulf of Mexico region of the United States.

**II. Method of Collection**

Information will primarily be collected electronically using a survey instrument to record responses. The survey instrument will be available as a Google Form, and partial responses will be recorded if a participant submits the survey but does not complete all survey questions. An option to print the survey instrument and mail it to the NOAA RESTORE Science Program Offices is also available at this url: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScp7Iom8ZAeSctSGasyqM48xjx7jVQ\\_xGXttDR6XZuTfrXUGw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScp7Iom8ZAeSctSGasyqM48xjx7jVQ_xGXttDR6XZuTfrXUGw/viewform). In the event that a potential respondent requests that a survey be mailed to them, NOAA RESTORE Science Program staff will mail the survey to the potential respondent with a stamped return envelope addressed to the NOAA RESTORE Science Program.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-xxxx.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission, new information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individual natural resource management professionals working for not-for-profit institutions; state, local, or tribal government, or the Federal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 5.5 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$1,620.00.

**IV. Request for Comments**

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have

practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2019-11117 Filed 5-28-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-JS-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* West Coast Region Trawl Logbook Requirement.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular (New collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 21.

*Average Hours per Response:* 6 hours per logbook.

*Burden Hours:* 216 hours annually.

*Needs and Uses:* The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on the availability of fishery data. Currently, the states of Washington, Oregon, and California administer a trawl logbook on behalf of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The log used is a standard format developed by the Council to collect information necessary to effectively manage the fishery on a coast-wide basis. The trawl logbook collects haul-level effort data including tow time, tow location, depth of catch, net type, target strategy, and estimated

pounds of fish retained per tow. Each trawl log represents a single fishing trip.

The state of California repealed their requirement, effective July 1, 2019, therefore, NMFS must create a federal requirement in order to not lose logbook coverage from trawl vessels in California. This federal requirement duplicates the logbook structure and process that the state of California was using in order to minimize disruption or confusion for fishery participants. Under this rule, NMFS will contract with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to distribute and collect the same logbook these fishermen have been using previously. These data are used regularly by NMFS, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Office of Law Enforcement, and the Coast Guard for fisheries management and enforcement.

*Affected Public:* Business and other for-profit.

*Frequency:* Monthly.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

This information collection request may be viewed at [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Solicitation for Applications for Advisory Councils Established Pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and Executive Orders

**AGENCY:** Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that ONMS will solicit applications to fill seats on its 13 national marine sanctuary advisory councils and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory

Council (advisory councils), under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Executive Order, respectively. Vacant seats, including positions (*i.e.*, primary and alternate), for each of the advisory councils will be advertised differently at each site in accordance with the information provided in this notice. This notice contains web page links and contact information for each site, as well as additional resources on advisory council vacancies and the application process.

**DATES:** Please visit individual site web pages, or reach out to a site as identified in this notice's **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section on Contact Information for Each Site, regarding the timing and advertisement of vacant seats, including positions (*i.e.*, primary or alternate), for each of the advisory councils. Applications will only be accepted in response to current, open vacancies and in accordance with the deadlines and instructions included on each site's website.

**ADDRESSES:** Vacancies and applications are specific to each site's advisory council. As such, questions about a specific council or vacancy, including questions about advisory council applications, should be directed to a site. Contact Information for Each Site is contained in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on a particular advisory council or available seats, please contact the site as identified in this notice's **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section on Contact Information for Each Site, below. For general inquiries related to this notice or ONMS advisory councils established pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act or Executive Order 13178, contact Rebecca R. Holyoke, Ph.D., Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Deputy Director ([Rebecca.Holyoke@noaa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Holyoke@noaa.gov); 240-533-0685).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 315 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) (16 U.S.C. 1445A) allows the Secretary of Commerce to establish advisory councils to advise and make recommendations regarding the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries. Executive Order 13178 similarly established a Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Council pursuant to the NMSA for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. In this Supplementary Information section, NOAA provides

details regarding the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the role of advisory councils, and contact information for each site.

#### Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)

ONMS serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. National marine sanctuaries protect our nation's most vital coastal and marine natural and cultural resources, and through active research, management, and public engagement, sustain healthy environments that are the foundation for thriving communities and stable economies.

One of the many ways ONMS ensures public participation in the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries is through the formation of advisory councils. Advisory councils are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice and recommendations to ONMS on issues including management, science, service, and stewardship; and to serve as liaisons between their constituents in the community and the site. Pursuant to Section 315(a), advisory councils are exempt from the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Additional information on ONMS and its advisory councils can be found at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>.

#### Advisory Council Membership

Under Section 315 of the NMSA, advisory council members may be appointed from among: (1) Persons employed by federal or state agencies with expertise in management of natural resources; (2) members of relevant regional fishery management councils; and (3) representatives of local user groups, conservation and other public interest organizations, scientific organizations, educational organizations, or others interested in the protection and multiple use management of sanctuary resources. For the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council, Executive Order 13178 Section 5(f) specifically identifies member and representative categories.

The charter for each advisory council defines the number and type of seats and positions on the council; however, as a general matter, available seats could include: Conservation, education,