

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
West Coast Region Pacific Tuna Fisheries Fisheries Logbook, Fish Aggregating
Device Form, and Observer Safety Reporting
OMB Control No. 0648-0148

A. JUSTIFICATION

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

This request is for a revision and extension of a currently approved collection of information. In addition, changing the title from *West Coast Region Pacific Tuna Fisheries Logbook and fish Aggregating Device Form* to *West Coast Region Pacific Tuna Fisheries Fisheries Logbook, Fish Aggregating Device Form, and Observer Safety Reporting*.

The United States' (U.S.) participation in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) results in certain record keeping requirements for U.S. vessel owners and operators who fish in the IATTC's area of management responsibility. Under Federal regulations ([50 CFR Part 300 Subpart C](#)), these vessel owners and operators must maintain a log of all operations conducted from the fishing vessel. This record keeping requirement may be met by using the bridge log, which is furnished and collected from vessel owners and operators by the IATTC. In addition, the IATTC revised its Resolution on fish aggregating devices (FADs) in July 2019 to reduce duplicative reporting from observers and captains and only require FAD reporting for purse seine vessel owners and operators without observers onboard. However, U.S. purse seine vessel operators are still required to provide the observer with the FAD identification code and the other information in the FAD interaction standard format provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Branch, as appropriate. Any U.S. vessel, without an observer onboard, must ensure that any interaction or activity with a FAD is reported using a FAD interaction standard format provided by the HMS Branch.

Only purse seine vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) without an observer onboard, which does not include large class size 6 vessels, are required to collect data specifically on FADs to meet international obligations under IATTC Resolution C-19-01 (*Amendment of Resolution C-18-05 on the Collection and Analyses of Data on Fish-Aggregating Devices*). Owners and operators of purse seine vessels that fish on a FAD would continue to be required to record this information on the standard form provided by NMFS. However, there are no small vessels (i.e., smaller than class 6 purse seine vessels) that fish on FADs.

The record keeping requirements provide information that is needed to assess the impacts of fishing on tuna stocks and non-target species, to better understand the number and type of FADs, and to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures. The authority to implement federal rules to meet U.S. responsibilities to the IATTC is set forth in the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950, as amended ([16 U.S.C. 951 et seq.](#)).

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.

The specific record keeping requirements are set forth in the regulations.

Bridge log:

Among the data entered daily are the date, noon position, the amount of fish on board by species, water temperature, specification of wells to keep fish, tracking device used to locate fish, and the time and location of catch. There is also a section for vessel owners or operators to enter in additional remarks. U.S. vessel owners and operators collect and record all the requested information on the IATTC form (included in this submission is the English example of the form and instructions, which are in both English and Spanish). These data are used with data from other fishing nations to monitor amounts and areas of catch by species and to annually assess the distribution and abundance of different tuna stocks. The information is also used to determine whether changes in management strategies can increase the yield from, or productivity of, the stocks (e.g., targeting larger fish to increase yield per trip). The time of gear deployment is important so that the impacts of alternate strategies (e.g., time/area closures or time of day fishing restrictions) on the fisheries can be assessed. The type of school is important in determining yield potentials as fishing on certain kinds of schools may result in greater mortality of juvenile fish or fish of certain species. The specification of wells in which fish are placed is important because landings are sampled, and catches by species and size or gender can then be allocated by area and season of fishing. This can assist in determining the key spawning areas or possibly areas in which fishing should be restricted in the future to increase yields and values from the fishery.

Current and former member nations continue to provide data to ensure that the time series of data is not broken. All nations recognize an ongoing interest in maintaining the ability to assess the status of stocks and conditions in the fisheries even in the absence of a regulatory program.

Purse seine vessels with a carrying capacity of 363 metric tons and below were required to use this bridge log to meet HMS Federal reporting regulations (50 CFR 660.708). Under the information collection 0648-0223, a new logbook was designed to as an alternative to the bridge log to meet this requirement.

FAD Form:

For each interaction with a FAD, the vessel's owner or operator without an observer onboard is required to record data in compliance with Annex I of IATTC Resolution C-19-01 that includes: (1) position; (2) date; (3) hour; (4) FAD identification; (5) FAD type (e.g., drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD); (6) FAD design characteristics (i.e., dimension and material of the floating part and underwater hanging structure); (7) activity type; (8) if the activity is a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and bycatch; and (9) characteristics of any attached buoy or positioning equipment (e.g., positioning system, whether equipped with sonar). For vessels with an observer onboard, the observer will collect the data, but the U.S. purse seine vessel operators are still required to provide the observer with the FAD identification code and the other information in the FAD interaction standard format provided by the HMS Branch, as appropriate.

The IATTC scientific staff will analyze the data collected on FAD activities and make management recommendations on the use of FADs in the EPO. The position, date, and hour information is

important so that the IATTC scientific staff can analyze the location and the time of FAD sets and develop FAD management options (e.g., time/area closures, time of day fishing restrictions). FAD identification ensures that the IATTC scientific staff would be able to distinguish a particular FAD when analyzing data and could track FAD activities through time. The FAD design characteristics allow the IATTC scientific staff to assess what types of FADs are typically used so that they can provide recommendations on different types of design and materials. The type of activity provides context for FAD interaction and also allows the IATTC to assess the number of FADs that might be lost or left in the ocean. The results of the set allow the IATTC to analyze the catch associated with the FAD, and the characteristics for the buoy or positioning system provides additional information on how the vessel is tracking the FAD.

Reporting for incidences related to purse seine observers and donated or surrendered silky shark (New):

The owner or operator of a purse seine fishing vessel of the United States is required to immediately report serious illness or injury that threatens the life and/or long-term health or safety the serious illness of an observer to the observer provider and a U.S. government contact. In addition, the owner or operator of a purse seine fishing vessel of the United States is required to immediately report an observer that has gone missing, an observer death or harassment of an observer to the IATTC observer provider. NMFS WCR will provide the phone numbers and email addresses for the owner or operator to contact in these events.

In addition, the owner or operator of a purse seine vessel of the United States is required to record, in the logbook, any silky shark that is not seen before entering the well and surrendered or donated when reaching a port. This can be recorded on the note section of the purse seine logbook.

Data collected by NMFS will be safeguarded from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. Data collected by the IATTC will be maintained in accordance with data confidentiality standards agreed to by IATTC nations under Resolution C-15-07. 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 collection of information does not involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques. The information being submitted is necessary to carry out U.S. obligations as a member of the IATTC and is collected in the least burdensome manner known. Logbooks and the FAD form may be submitted using a paper form.

Forms are sent out with new permits and may also be requested from the IATTC at 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037, or from NMFS, West Coast Region, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, or by emailing wcr.permits@noaa.gov.

Reporting incidents involving observers to both the IATTC observer provider and NMFS may be done by email or over the phone.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

NMFS has sole federal authority to obtain these data. NMFS has coordinated with the IATTC and the State of California to eliminate redundancy between the federally-mandated reports, and logbooks or landings reports required by the IATTC and the State, respectively. NMFS also coordinates with other private and public organizations that collect or compile information on catch and effort in the regulatory area to prevent duplication. This is necessary because a large portion of U.S. vessels' catches are landed in ports outside California. The logbooks are an important component of this coordinated data collection program; there are no other programs that would both result in the same information being available to the United States and the IATTC on the necessary schedule, and satisfy U.S. reporting requirements.

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

Entities subject to the action related to the bridge log, FAD form, and observers are considered small and large businesses. All practicable steps to minimize the burden on small entities have been taken. Record keeping requirements are directly proportional to each firm's level of activity. Thus, occasional, part-time, or local vessels harvesting small amounts of tuna spend less time collecting and reporting data than the larger firms.

All entities subject to the action related to the FAD data form are considered large and small businesses. No, disproportionate economic effect between small and large businesses are expected.

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

If this data were not collected, there would be a significant gap in the database needed by the IATTC and the U.S. to complete stock assessments, determine U.S. interests in the fishery, to develop appropriate management measures for FADs, and conduct evaluations of fishery management strategies to achieve the maximum economic yield from the fishery. The risk of erroneous stock assessments and inappropriate management would increase as a result. In addition, reporting incidences involving observer safety is intended to protect the lives of the observers at sea. The U.S. would be less able to protect or enhance U.S. benefits from fishing within the IATTC Convention Area, and would not meet its commitments as an IATTC member nation, under the Tuna Conventions Act.

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

This information collection will be conducted in a manner 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 record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

A proposed rule published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2020, (85 FR 4250) and will solicit public comment on proposed regulations.

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

No payments or gifts are made to any respondents.

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

As stated on the forms, individual firm data are submitted to the IATTC and are not released to the public; only aggregated data or data with vessel identifiers removed are releasable. These procedures are consistent with [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#) governing the management of confidential data. The data also are maintained as confidential by the IATTC as they reveal the business practices of individual firms, and release of the data could be harmful to the firm involved.

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 sensitive questions are asked.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information. (add rows as necessary)

For wage costs: use www.bls.gov/oes , then click on OES Data in the left-hand column, then National to find Occupational Employment Wage Rates for the current year. Find the appropriate Occupational Title of the Respondent completing the Information Collection and use the Mean hourly wage.

Information Collection	Type of Respondent (Occupational Title)	# of Respondents	Annual # of Responses / Respondent	Total # of Annual Responses	Burden Hrs / Response	Total Annual Burden Hrs	Mean Hourly Wage Rate (for Type of Respondent)	Total Annual Wage Burden Costs
Bridge Log & FAD Form	Fisherman	19	195	3,705	6 min	371hrs	\$14.49	\$5,368.55
Observer reporting	Biological Technician	38	1	1	5 min	0 hrs	\$23.10	\$0
Total				3,706		371 hrs		\$5,368.55

NOTE: Although there are 38 observers each year, no more than 1 report is expected each year.

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). (add rows as necessary)

Information Collection	# of Respondents	Annual # of Responses / Respondent	Total # of Annual Responses	Cost Burden / Respondent	Total Annual Cost Burden
Bridge Log & Fad Forms	19	195	3,705	\$0.55	\$2,037.75
Observer reporting	38	1	1	\$0.55	\$0.55
TOTAL			3,706		\$2,038.30

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. (add rows/information as necessary)

There is no annualized cost to the Federal government. Logbooks and FAD forms are provided by the IATTC and forms are processed by IATTC.

Cost Descriptions	Grade/Step	Loaded Salary /Cost	% of Effort	Fringe (if Applicable)	Total Cost to Government
Federal Oversight					
Positions					
Contractor Cost					
Travel					
Other Costs					
TOTAL					

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

The following tables show the changes and in the number of respondents, responses, time estimates, labor costs, and miscellaneous costs; and explains the reasons for these changes.

Information Collection	Respondents		Responses		Burden Hours		Reason for change or adjustment
	Current Renewal / Revision	Previous Renewal / Revision	Current Renewal / Revision	Previous Renewal / Revision	Current Renewal / Revision	Previous Renewal / Revision	
Bridge Log and FAD Form	19	21	3,705	3,105	371	893	Fleet size adjusted
Observer Form	38	0	1	0	0	0	New requirement
Total for Collection	57	21	3,706	3,105	371	893	
Differences	36		601		-522		

Information Collection	Labor Costs		Miscellaneous Costs		Reason for change or adjustment
	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	
Bridge Log and FAD Form	\$5,368.55	\$14,920.00	\$2,037.75	\$22.00	Fleet size adjustment
Observer Form	\$0	\$0	\$0.55	\$0	New Requirement
Total for Collection	\$5,368.55	\$14,920.00	\$2,038.30	\$22.00	
Differences	-\$9,551.45		\$2,016.30		

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

The data are used in the computation of stock assessments, analyses for FAD management, and fishery condition reports by NMFS and IATTC scientists. The results are compiled and analyzed for IATTC reports, typically in time for the IATTC annual meeting that usually takes place in June each year, but no time frame is set for other publications in scientific journals or government reports. For information reported to the observer provide or NMFS regarding the safety of observers, there is no plan to publish this information.

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.

We continue to request OMB approval not to display the expiration because there is no federal government form used, and therefore there is no form on which to display the expiration date. The OMB Control No. and expiration date are on a separate Paperwork Reduction Act Statement that goes with the form.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions for compliance with provisions in the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

The collection does not employ statistical methods.